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Medford May 18 1857

Dear Sir:

I send a petition for the appointment of a special Term of Court and Terminals of the District, in Civil Court, under the Act of 1857, ch. 1. The petition will explain the nature of the application. I would not add, that Reed has been employed by the County authorities of Essex, to assist in the investigation, and from acquaintance with the facts and circumstances, on which the State relies. They make a strong case, by the murder of an Englishman, a citizen of our country. Reed, the prisoner, is a young man about 21 or 22 years, athletic, and active. His reaction of character was an anti-sympathy of the said individual. The witness, a man who had witnessed Reed, a few days before the indictment (which was drawn by the State's Atty. in fact, a young man by some means unacquainted in such things) was made to see. The object of Reed was to get the State's evidence. A new bill of indictment was recently found here and upon the application of removal to Essex, I resisted it on several grounds, and suggested a removal to Green Arm's Court (not to say) and among others that the case was one of great importance to the State, depending upon a course of circumstantial evidence, and is a single witness case that by death or removal, the indictment could not be returned. Judge Sampson was not for him. Mr. Evans and Mr. Fox, counsel in fact for Reed, suggested a special Term of Court by Judge of Essex and Mr. J. J. Fox, and stated that a similar case had been heard in Middlesex County. At the same time and not the place was a matter most important to the State, I would not interpose any objection to that Court. There are two witnesses for the State, who are essential to a conviction. One of them, having no property, or but little, and the most natural thing conceivable going to the West to reside - should not do so, the probability is that he may not return. His habits are also becoming a little irregular, and he presents somewhat the appearance of a human being. He is the only witness who saw the terrible blow inflicted, by an unknown man at the time, but which circumstances strongly indicate, was given Reed. The number of escapes from the Jail in former years, makes it under the peculiar circumstances of this case a matter of some apprehension, whether Reed can be obtained until after next.

I have procured only a few names to the petition just at hand, to bring the subject to the notice of your Excellency. Almost any number could be procured, if the call was made.

I have consulted John H. Price, (of Danvers, Warrington County) upon the subject of the time, that would suit him to attend should your Excellency call the Court. His letter I enclose.

I think if your Excellency would fix Tuesday the 16th June, (which is only one day later than Judge Price suggests,) it would amount and prevent witnesses and others at a distance from travelling on Sunday to reach Ellston on the 3rd Monday. Some of the witnesses from Green Arm's & Kent Hill have to travel from 40 to 55 miles to reach Ellston. The State Atty. for Kent is not in his office to-day, or I would procure his name to the petition.

I should be pleased to hear from your Excellency by an early day - so many witnesses will have to be summoned and looked after and money provided for some for their conveyance to Ellston.