

Chambers, and I have no knowledge of any one so accused except
certain no. during my term of office.

With the exception of a Negro girl now awaiting her recovery
from sickness to be removed to the Maryland Penitentiary, and a crazy Ne-
gro woman I have but three prisoners viz. George Farrell (Negro) Charles
Sibbit (White man) and Albert Reed (Negro). Farrell is noted to the
glow as I have been described - Sibbit has done nothing since his con-
finement calculated to make me look upon him as a desperate character,
and Reed who has been brought here from Kent County - where he was
confined, for some eight months I am informed, gave information while
they of a plan of escape concerted by the other prisoners and frustrated
in design although not might have escaped with them - if either of
these two is the desperate character alluded to in the letter of the 30th
of State, or if any other persons bearing that character are to be committed
to my charge, I shall be glad the knowledge of it, so that I may take
sufficiently precautions to secure them - I will add that in addition to
the working of prisoners, an employee of mine keeps in their cell every
night.

Very respectfully,
Yours Obedt Servt
John J. R. Cook, Sheriff

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis May 21st 1837

Mr. Grand Juror
New York

Absence from Annapolis has prevented me from re-
plying earlier to your letter of the 4th inst. asking a Special Court of Oyer
and Terminer for the trial of the prisoner Reed indicted for murder in
Kent and against you trial to be held there.

Spurred from the question as to the Constitutional power of the Gov-
nor under the present Constitution to issue such a Commission about which
there exists much doubt, the facts of this case as presented by your letter
and the Memorial which accompanied it, do not in my judgment make
out a sufficient case to justify executive interpretation.

Application is made for a Special term of Court to try one
prisoner in advance of the regular term of Court in October, because
in the opinion of the Memorandists, on account of the insecurity of the
jail the prisoner may escape and also because important testimony
may be lost before said regular term. If there be sufficient reasons
to justify special term of the Court, there is scarcely a County in the
State that could not at some period in the year present a case equally
strong.

The Act of 1783 ch. 1. evidently contemplates a contingency, when
in consequence of the large number of prisoners their desperate char-
acters, popular sympathy, or excitement, the insufficiency of the jail
and other causes combined might seriously endanger their safe keeping
to the regular term.

In reply to a letter addressed by my direction to
the jail at Ellicott, he reports the jail in good condition and has no