

Baltimore January 9<sup>th</sup> 1859

His Excy. The Governor

Sir

You are I suppose aware of the

pendency of a case in the Supreme Court U. S. involving the  
Constitutionality of a "Personal Liberty Bill" of the Legislature of  
Pennsylvania passed in 1847 and in which Emanuel Meyer of  
Frederick County was indicted and convicted of the crime of kidnapping  
at the Quarter Sessions of Cumberland County in 1859

The cause being on the trial Calendar of the present  
term of the Supreme Court, I took the liberty to suggest in a note  
to your predecessor of the 7<sup>th</sup> Decr last, that in view of the present political  
relations of Maryland with Pennsylvania and the northern states it would  
in my opinion be prudent and politic to avoid a judicial controversy  
at this juncture upon so delicate a subject and that if he coincided with  
me, it would be well to propose to the Governor of Pennsylvania a  
continuance of the case, which I have no doubt our court would readily  
consent to and suggesting also that Meyer being at large under his own  
recognizance, would therefore be exposed to no personal inconvenience by  
delay.

To this note I received an answer on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December,  
informing me that the Governor acquiesced in the propriety of my  
suggestions and would at once communicate with the Governor of  
Pennsylvania on the subject. As I have not yet been advised of his  
answer and the cause may be reached on the Calendar at an early day  
I pray leave to ask you for information and instructions.

The trial at Carlisle produced a great deal of excitement  
on both sides the Border, which perhaps in the present crisis it would  
not be wise to revive. Should however the proposal for continuance be  
declined, the importance of the question which the case involves and the  
probability that the State of Pennsylvania, will be represented by at  
least two of the eminent counsel who conducted the prosecution at the  
Quarter Sessions, induced me to request the assistance of an associate by  
your appointment, with whom I should be glad to confer as early as  
practicable

I am with great respect

Your Excy. obt. Servt.  
J. Meredith