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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from Roger B. Taney to Richard Coxe

**Date:** January 25, 1830

**Location:** I-BonisteelR-1954-2

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Supreme Ct  
1836-37

Baltimore July 25. 1836

My Dear Sir

Our friend Mr. Smith called on me this evening to enquire whether I could attend the Supreme Court for the case of Gwt. Bowers, upon receiving notice a day or two before hand from you - I had made my arrangements to obey your summons whenever the case could be brought on but an unexpected circumstance has placed me in much embarrassment. - A petition has been presented to the Legislature of this State for a divorce upon grounds which implicate the character of a Lady, who is closely allied to many of the most respectable members of the Society of this place, & in whose defence it has become my duty to appear not merely as counsel but as a friend. Under such circumstances and in such a case, may I ask for ~~the~~ indulgence until the latter end of February by which time this petition must be disposed of? you

will at once feel that it is impossible for me to  
desert a case like the one I speak of, whatever may  
be the sacrifice. And I hope I believe that you  
and Genl. Barnum will think me justified in con-  
sidering it my first duty to appear in behalf of  
an injured woman, placed in this painful si-  
tuation by a brutal husband and his associates  
in iniquity. - But if my absence should be in any  
degree injurious to Genl. Barnum, I shall truly regret  
it - and must beg you to deal with the case with-  
out reference to me, if delay is likely to be in-  
convenient. - I take pleasure in saying that  
after fully considering the questions involved in it  
I have come to the conclusion that the decision  
must be according to his wishes -

I am Sir with great respect

I remain Yr. most obt. Sr.

A. B. Taney

f - as  
cut

Richard J. Coxe Esquire

Mr. Smith }

Washington

