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Title: Letter from J. M. Thompson to James Hamilton

Date: April 6, 1808

Location: I-ValeM-1947-65

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Dear Sir,

Lancaster, April 6th 1808.

Your esteemed favor of the 25th ult. I received, on the evening of the 4th instant — On perusing your letter, I took it for granted the same reason existed for not having forwarded a commission to the Governor elect of Cumberland county, that has, properly, caused their being withheld in the case of several other counties, to wit: the want of an offer of sureties, which the law makes a pre-requisite to the issuing of the commission; It was therefore with surprise & chagrin that, on enquiry, I found Mr. Barb, the candidate highest in vote, had some time since forwarded a bond & recognizance accompanied by the Judges certificate approbatory of the sureties — all of which papers were in the Secys office, in the possession of the Deputy Secretary, Mr. Trimble; — Whether I had ever before seen those ~~papers~~, I cannot now say — if I did the matter had entirely escaped my recollection: It is the duty & has been the practice of the Secy of the Comth to lay before the returns of Sheriffs & Coroners elect (after the legal offer of sureties) before the Governor for his decision; but in the present case, I am persuaded this was

was not done, for the reason already mentioned. I have been thus particular in order to shew that the Governor must have been ignorant of the election of Stender for a Justice by Mr. Steel, & of course, that he is not chargeable with the consequences of your having wanted a coroner, and also for the purpose of rescuing myself from the imputation of intentional misconduct. I have, moreover, deemed this explanation due, as an apology to Mr. Steel, against whose appointment I have never heard an objection from any quarter, & to whom, I am certain, the Governor would have directed a commission, at once, to issue, had the business been made known to him: I am pleased with having received your letter on the subject. The same mail that carries this, will convey to Mr. Steel his commission; Will you have the goodness to mention to him, ~~the~~ why it was not sooner forwarded?

The Governor received the notes of the testimony on the trial of Hanon - I believe his opinion, in the case, corresponds with that of the court.

If your recollection serves you, it will be seen that my suspicions, as to the author of the petition in Starretts case, may have been well founded. It appears to me, that whilst that mans complaint to the Legislature cannot at least, injure you abroad, it must have a beneficial effect within your district; in as much as it

it afforded the opportunity of a public disproof of ill natured
the, some of them at least, silly charges, that had, for some time,
been secretly circulating & which, eventually, might have been of
public mischief, but for this occasion of publicly rebutting
them.

Since you were in this place, I have had an attack
of the pleurisy, which disqualified me for business, for three
weeks - Indeed I have scarcely yet wholly recovered my health.

I have the honor to be, with much respect,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient servant -

J. M. Thompson.

Judge Hamilton 3



Paid On public Service 10

The Honble

James Hamilton Esq.

Barbadoe



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J. M. & Co.

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