

Sir

Willsbarrre Jan^y 19th 1804

When John M. Taylor Esq. gave me notice
of your desire that the Westminster Records should
be removed with the Com^{rs} papers, I informed him
that as an Individual I should not object but
that I could not consent, without being guilty of
a breach of trust, unless the people, who were
interested in them would consent — I called on
Judge Hollenback, Mr. Hop, Esq. and many others
they all give it as their Opinion that these
Records ought ~~not~~ to be removed, I therefore wrote
a letter to Mr. Taylor stating my reasons why I could
not with propriety consent. and if Mr. Taylor had
conveyed to you my letter I believe you would
not ^{have} accused me of wilfully detaining them —

Judge Tell has shown me your letter to him
wherein you are pleased to place the Responsibility
on my shoulder, and say that, they cannot be detained
for any fair purposes — I ~~will~~ ^{consider} myself Responsible

the people of this County who have intrusted them with
me, but to no other Tribunals on earth, and how you
can form an Opinion, that they are kept for unfair
purposes is unaccountable to me, they are surely not
Dangerous Weapons to remain in our hands, because

When we dispose we cannot make use of them to the
Injury of the State or any Individuals, ~~as the Justice to~~
your Candor will ^{acknowledge}, that I have at
all times during your stay here furnished you with
every Document and information in my power to
facilitate the Business of your Commission, you
will not therefore I presume construe this act into
a Disposition to thwart the proceedings of the Com^{rs}
and I am sorry to find that ~~it is~~ a Circumstance
should be laid hold of to furnish an excuse ~~to suspend~~
^{for the} the Execution of the Law. — you ~~can~~ suggest that
I ~~am~~ about to Spoil the Ship for a few m^{ts} worth
of tar, if I were intrusted with a ^{ship} before I would
be guilty of a Breach of trust, and surrender her
contrary to her owners direction, I would stay on board
until the rats come upon Deck and then go down
with her —

I am with due respect
your Most Obedt Serv^t

Lord Muller

Copy letter
to Thos Cooper Esq
Jan. 18. 1804