

Col. John Tilghman

Annapolis February 21. 1836

Dear Sir - your kind favour of the 15th Inst. has been recd. through which I was glad to hear from you, as also to hear from my family - there is but little of interest here - the house has been occupied since Tuesday last, on the reform question, and I expect will be the greater part of the present week, as there are several gentlemen yet to speak upon the subject - The bill establishing Magistrate Courts in the several Counties in this state has passed the house of delegates by a very large majority - and I understand it will pass the Senate, with sundry amendments - reducing the number of Magistrates to those composing the district Courts, giving them a salary and restricting their jurisdiction to \$50 - which amendment I do not suppose will be accepted by the house of delegates - As you are well acquainted with my real sentiments upon this subject I dare say, you will be surprised to hear that I voted for the passage of the bill - but as I was in the office, together with other circumstances I thought it best to do so - knowing as I did that a different vote would not have produced a contrary result, while it would have had its effect in another way - I am confident however that you will justify the vote, and that the course I pursued, however strange it may seem at first will meet with your approbation, I should exceedingly regret to believe otherwise - Mr. Berry is constantly