Sir,

George Town April 6th 1801.

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Being in the Country, it was not in my power to give an earlier answer to your favor of the 18th of March —

I am very much obliged by the President of the United States for the appointment he has honored me with — But as much private business demands my attention, & will also compel me to be frequently ~~from~~ in the Country, it would be improper to ~~accept~~ accept an Office the duties of which ~~that~~ will be much be ~~the~~ executed by another — I therefore beg leave to decline acting as "one of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Washington in the District of Columbia", & request that you will consider this in my resignation of that appointment —

With sentiments of respect & esteem I am Sir,
Yr. Mo. Obedt. Servt.
Thos. Law

MdHS 1974 [1099-303]