

Council Chamber Annapolis. April 16 1807

Gentlemen

Your letter of 20th march ultima with the Record in the case of Negro Hitty, I received, and on consideration of the case, have declined interfering, first, because I know of no Law that makes an attempt to burn a dwelling house except by a slave, a Felony, and that by an act of assembly - In this case the person is not indicted as a slave, nor does the Indictment conclude against the form of the act of assembly, so that in my opinion, the Court are well warranted to arrest the Judgment on this Indictment stating the offence to be a Felony, or secondly - if this Indictment stating the offence to be a Felony is not therefore defective as an indictment for a misdemeanor or if the offender shall be indicted for a misdemeanor in either event the Court have the case in their power, and may impose a fine, Imprisonment or corporeal punishment with such moderation as they may think proper, for these reasons I have declined complying with your humane request the case being entirely in your power and my interference consequently unnecessary

The Honourable
Walter Darcy and others
Judges of the Court of General Sessions
Baltimore County

I have the Honor to be
with great respect
Yours Obedient
Robert Wright