

Boston April 15. 1804

9th

& It is with extream reluctance that I intrude upon you, when I know that every moment of your time is importantly employ'd. -

Yesterday after you left town, my partner Mr Symmes, & myself were serv'd with a precept - to attend the Court at Northampton next week. - it will be extreamly inconvenient for both Mr Symmes, & myself to leave town next week, - and I really, of my own knowledge know very little of the bussiness on which we are summon'd. - - Mr Symmes himself attended the man who purchas'd the Pistols, and observ'd him closely, - while I was at too considerable distance to render it probable I sh^d know him again, - and derive nearly all my knowledge in the case, from what was told me after the man left my store. - Altho' I would sacrifice

almost every private concern to bring a villain to
justice, - yet I never could have been call'd from home
at a moment more inconvenient, my family being
visited with sickness. -

Permit me then to request you, and
thru you the honorable Court, that I may be excus'd
from attending the Court at Northampton next week,
- and should another witness besides Mr Symmes be
necessary, - Mr Charles Clarke, a young man belonging
to my town, between 19 & 20 years of age, was standing
by Mr Symmes at the time, - and knows much more
of the business than I do, will attend the orders of the
Court. -

Being the favor of an immediate reply,

I am, with very great respect, -

Yr. Obedt, & most humd Serv^t.

Samuel Torrey.

Hon^{ble} James Sullivan Esq.

Atty Gen^l. -