Sir

The murder of Elijah Wallon on the last of May 1824 you have seen in the publick prints & have no doubt heard much said of it — The names of the accused are as follows — Benjamin Berry — Saml Giler — (An Irishman) Arthur Brand — James Laird — Simon and Saml Calvin Sugg — Clay and Gilbert Christian — These men have all had their trials ~~except Calvin~~ and have been cleared except Calvin Sugg who was capitally convicted at the last March term Henderson Cty and is under sentence of death — but the day of execution to me is not known — Sugg is peculiarly and unhappily situated — The escape of all the others has brought down the vengeance of the unthinking multitude on his devoted head — The part that he performed in the shocking act is a secret to all but the perpetrators — Giler put a period to his existence on the first morning of the last March term term at Maddisonville — He left a written paper truly in the wild Irish style but not a word of the murder — silence it is probable was imposed by knowing that Berry and him were the ringleaders of the knot — Suggs age I do not know though I have known him from a boy but suppose he is under thirty — perhaps not more than twenty five

That his conduct has been preposterous in the extreme from a boy is known to all that ever saw him for ten minutes

I am now eighty years of age and I can call on Heaven to witness that I have never seen out of the madhouses at N York and Philadelphia so perfect a compound of the fool and madman — when intoxicated the lunatick preponderates — when sober Idiotism takes the lead — The plastick hand of nature formed him to execute the purposes of such men as Berry and Giler — he was so much at the command of those men (Berry & Giler) that with a bottle of whiskey they could have prevailed on him to attempt to set fire to Frankfort in open day and withal so great a coward that a boy of twelve years could make him cry with fear — Berry lay in ambuscade till his men secured Wallon knocking him down with a club the second time when he (Berry) appeared with the halloo — conducting him (Wallon) to the place of rendezvous — primed his men with a cag of whiskey

whiskey

D12-88

and set them to work and slunk off under cover of the night
— Yesterday I was told that a petition would be sent on to morrow
to your excellency hoping for a reprieve as the last hope and
refuge of the wretched man and his very unhappy relations
— You are now sir clothed with the supreme power of the state and
you will do imperishable honour to your self and set a glorious ex=
=ample to succeeding Governors by preserving him, by your preav=
=gative of mercy — Let not the voice of your petitioners in his
favour plead in vain — The voice of a very respectable part of
community deserves to be heard when it only asks for mercy
— Two of the prisoners uncles live in this Co^ty and are
highly respectable, and I believe as deeply distressed as if their own
death warrants were signed — A half uncle also whose name
is on your records and is a Henderson Co^ty Magistrate — with
this Gentleman I am something better acquainted — he is well known as a
man of science and of untainted reputation — each of those
Gentleman have large families to feel the disgrace of execution
in their cousin — Should you suspect me of being a design=
=ing and interested man you may know something of me by
Charles Wilkins Esq — Doctor Frederick Ridgely and James
B January Esq — John J Crittenden and Daniel Mayes Esquire
know me — Solomon D Sharp was my friend — Colo James
Morrison has done me a thousand kind offices — The Honble
Geo. M Bibb I think may say that the deepest blot in my
escutcheon is poverty — Brought to poverty by the Wickliffe
with the assistance of Boyle Owsley D mills — men who
laugh at perjury — men who ridicule rivalid
religion — at the moment I am writing the post=
rider has stepped in on his return and tells me that there
is a petition preparing at Maddisonville to be sent to your
excellency to prevent your granting a reprieve — Let me
humbly hope that a petition of so ferocious a nature will
be rejected — I beg leave to say to your excellency clo=
thed as you are with the supreme power of the state that
if you do not preserve the unhappy man — he will go un=
=prepared to that Tribunal which Governors and the governed
must finally stand together — very respectfully your
excellency's humble servant

Robert Gilchrist
Union Co^ty near Mifield
9th April 1826

To his Excellency Joseph Desha

Frankfort Ky

1826 April 11. Davies County Ky

Whereas It is represented that petitions are in Circulation to procure a pardon or reprieve from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in favour of Calvin Sugg who was condemned by the last Henderson Circuit Court for the wilful murder of Elizah Walton

Beleeving that the sentence and verdict of the jury of his Country has sentenced him to the just punishment which should await all murderers & viewing the manner place & Circumstances attending this murder as the most cruel and shocking to human nature & eminently meriting the Severest punishment of the Law. We the subscribers have felt it our priviledge & duty to declare that we are decidedly of opinion it would be a most dangerous examplace under the horrible circumstances attending this Case for the governor to arrest the just punishment which is about to be awarded to the Culprit

Joseph M Potts Esqr

Doses Pruitt
David Glenn
Benj Heston
Benjamin Layton

James Lynn
Enoch Randolph
J. M. Priest
Samuel Wall
Jas B. Wright

D12-90

Thomas Potts
William McCrindley
John Jackson
John Wright
William Bennett
John Gallaway
Thos. Frell
Burl Bassett
Isaac Spray
Jas Hyatt
Lunon Roland
Robt Mondreld
John Gaither
Jonathan Minton
Jeremiah D King
Wm Field
B. Harris
Jno S McFarland
Saul Sanner
Elisha Adams
Hyman Hand
John Bozouth
Wm Tapscott

Jas Romine
Duke Glenn
Elisha S. Marks
Peter Long
Jas Roland
George Medcalf
Nathan Atterberry
John W Rice
Wm Wornal
Moses Bates
John Boulware
John Davis
John H Davis
Willis Field
Jas Glenn
Saml Hendricks
Francis McComack
Wm Galloway Jr
Benj. Newton
Wm Wright
James Myers
Jacob Myers
Nimrod Gregsby

Wm B. Smith
J. G. Livers
Robt L. Young
Isaac Young
Levi Myers
~~John Tiele~~
Sam Howard
Anderson Fields
William Glenn
Benj Bell

D12-91

Petition To
Governor Ky

Saml Thomason

Cornelius Darnaby 70
Berymen Timmons
John Robetson
Rollen Harris
Allen O'Bryan
Eli Bishop 75
James Davis
W P Davis
John W Goodlee
Richard Littlefage
Saml B Mitchell 80
D Hall
William P. Hamton
Thos Young
B Wheatfield
Ledwell L Blanton 88
H Oldham
J Woods
Daniel Fox
M Fisk
Enoch Hunt 90
[illegible]
William Lovins
Jas Wisbet Jr

James Foley Jr
Robert Rhea
Henry Yates 95
James Nisbet
Will Jones
G B Maupin
Benjamin Prichett
Christopher Jack, 100
Frederick Gary
Cary L Reid
Lemuel Hewlett
Stephen Murphey
Thomas Miller
Thomas Adams
Richard D. Baker

D12-92