

Confidential

Executive Department
January 7th 1830

Sir,

In pursuance of the within advice of Council, I now do myself the honor of transmitting herewith, the accompanying pamphlet, with an original letter from a coloured man, who signs himself, "David Walker," addressed to "Mr. Thomas Lewis," another free coloured man late of this city.

These papers were presented to me on Friday morning last by Josph Mayo Esq., the Commonwealths Attorney for the Hustings Court of this city, accompanied with the following information__That the coloured man Lewis to whom the letter was addressed, died some short time before the letter reached this place. That in consequence of that unexpected event, the bearer, another free coloured man, both of the letter and of thirty pamphlets corresponding with the one now forwarded found himself at a loss, as to the disposition he should make of them__He finally however presented them to a gentleman of the City for advice in that respect__The gentleman recommended him to put the pamphlets in circulation without having read them, and, as he says, presuming them to be of the class of fanatical tracts upon the subject of religion, now profusely scattered through the country__That the whole of the thirty pamphlets were accordingly put into immediate circulation__That the Mayor of the city, having been informed of these facts, and

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and of the mischievous tendencies of the contents of the pamphlets, immediately attempted to prevent their further circulation; and had so far succeeded, as to possess himself of twenty of the thirty copies forwarded to this city__On the same morning, I submitted the accompanying pamphlet and original letter to the consideration of the Executive Council, and was informally requested by its members to have another interview with Mr. Mayo for the purpose of obtaining more particular information upon the subject__In pursuance thereof, I requested the attendance of Mr. Mayo at my chamber on Monday last, where he did attend; and confirming his general statement before made, stated further; that the bearer of the letter and pamphlets when first charged with bringing them into Richmond, and putting them into circulation promptly denied having any concern in the transaction, or any knowledge thereof__ but in the course of his examination acknowledged the whole of the charges; and gave a more particular account of the circumstances attending the transaction__for which, I beg leave to refer the General Assembly to the Mayor and Attorney for the city of Richmond__I have many reasons for believing; that during the last year; and up to the present time, there has been an increasing activity in circulating amongst the people of colour insurrectionary pamphlets and speeches, to an extent, which in my judgement requires the best attention of the General Assembly;

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Assembly; and I therefore, and with the enclosed advice of the Executive Council, most respectfully present the extremely delicate and interesting subject to its consideration.

I have deemed it proper to make this communication confidential, for the purpose of leaving it to the option of the General Assembly, to examine it with open, or closed doors, according to its own discretion, after being apprised of the character of its contents.

With great respect
and esteem
Yr. Ob. Serv.
William B. Giles

The Honorable
Linn Banks
Speaker
of the
House of Delegates

In Council 5 January 1830

The Governor called the attention of the Council to a pamphlet purported to be printed in the City of Boston and which has been put into circulation amongst the ~~people of colour~~ Blacks in the City of Richmond, the character and tendencies of which are to excite insurrection amongst the people of colour.

On consideration of the above mentioned pamphlet the Council advise that the Governor shall transmit the same to the Legislature and shall at the same time call their attention to the propriety of providing more explicitly by Law for preventing the introduction and circulation of papers or writings or publications and for the prohibition of practices designed or having a tendency to produce insurrection or insubordination amongst the people of colour.

a copy Wm H Richardson cc

Boston Dec. 8th 1829

Esteemed Sir: _

Having written an Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World it is now ready to be submitted for inspection, of which, I herewith send you 30 which Sir your Hon. will be please to sell, among the coloured people. The price of these Books is Twelve cents per Book – to those who can pay for them, – and if there are any who, cannot pay for a Book give them Books for nothing – If your Hon. should want any more of these Books please to direct your communication to me at No. 42 Brattle St.

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where all letters or advices emanating from your Hon. will meet with a hearty and grateful Reception – I assume the Liberty Esteemed Sir, to subscribe myself Yours Very Affectionately –

David Walker
At No. 42 Brattle St