

Calais Oct. 9th 1834

Dear Sir
Your letter dated Oct 4th post marked out to
was received last evening, requesting an expression
of my opinion upon the subject of filling the vacancy
about accruing on the Bench of Sup. Jud. Ct.

My situation in its local character, as well as
political, prevents my having the full ~~political~~
information of the arrangements of party. My
professional duties prevent my mingling very
deeply in any political questions. I therefore
should have great distrust of my own opinion ^{upon}
such subjects.

I however have always hoped
that the first vacancy on the Sup. bench would be
filled by Mr. Shepley. I have always felt the importance
of being jealous of the powers of that department in
Governments, whose incumbents have no limitations to
their tenure of office, & who have no immediate
responsibility to the State or people only on impeachment
which rarely affords relief except in extreme cases.

While the Judiciary is invested with such powers, to be
exercised for such terms, I feel the importance of
a great degree of circumspection in the selection
of individuals to discharge such important trusts.

No one doubts the ability of Mr. Shepley, as a jurist, to
distinguish himself on the bench; while his urbanity