

Washington Dec. 19. 1857

Dear Mrs. Scott

I have received your letter
and from my long & intimate
acquaintance with yourself
& your family - as well as the
friendship which subsisted so
long between Mr. Boyles & the
I myself - and my sincere re-
spect & regard for him, it would
give me real pleasure to render
him any service that I could im-
partly offer. But since my
appointment to the Bench of
the Supreme Court, I have
uniformly refused to interfere
in appointments to be made
by the Executive, unless they were
connected

connected with the Courts & the
administration of Justice in
them - I have found it absolutely
necessary to come to this deter-
mination. - For my position
in the government has led to the
belief that my recommendation
would have weight, and this im-
pression has brought upon me
a multitude of applications for
recommendation - and would
have made me almost a daily
sollicitor for Executive favor
for a friend if I had not resolved
to interfere in no case except
as above mentioned - For if I
recommended one friend I would
not refuse to recommend another
who was equally worthy and
had equal claims upon me
without giving just cause of
offence. - And if I recommended

all whom I know & really would
be glad to serve, I should be
mixed up with Executive patron-
age & Executive appointments
more than would be desirous
I becoming in my judicial pro-
cedure - You therefore & Mr. Boyle
must pardon me for declining
to interfere in behalf of his son -
although if I recommended
in any case it would give me
pleasure to do so in his behalf.

But the weight of a recommen-
dation from me is entirely
exhausted - I am so much
engrossed with my judicial du-
ties that I rarely see the Presi-
dent or any member of the
Cabinet. - It is well known that
I have been so long separated
from any active concern in
political life - that I cannot be
suggested

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I am presumed to be as well acquainted
with the relative merits of re-
val applicants, as those who are
actively engaged in political
life. And if new Regiments are
raised & officers appointed, the
recommendation of the Senators
& Members of Congress friendly
to the Administration, will
probably have more weight than
those of any other persons - Far
more than mine, because they
will be naturally presumed
to have a better knowledge of
the relative merits & standing
of the different applicants from
their respective States - Mr. Bay
& I presume must be acquainted
with Mr. Kunkel who represents
the adjoining Congressional
District - and from the character
and high standing of Mr. Kunkel
with

with his political friends I
am convinced that he could
render more service in pro-
curing a commission for
young Mr. Boyle than any
one else -

I have written you this long
letter, in order that you may
understand the motives which
induce me to decline inter-
fering in a matter of so much
interest to you & Mr. Boyle.
But I have thought it a matter
of public duty in the judicial
station in which I am placed
to adopt & adhere to the resolution
I have mentioned - and with
best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Boyle &
family - I am &c. modern
your friend & servt.
Mr. E. Key Scott

B. B. Torrey