

Midland Circuit  
Feb 7 3 1850

Dear Mr Attorney General  
In accordance with  
my promise I have  
bestowed a good deal  
of time — so far as I  
have been able, in  
the midst of ~~the~~  
~~midst~~ of incessant

judicial duties to  
find it - in ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ -  
viewing to amend &  
improve the General  
Code Bill. But a  
work of this kind in  
which in my opinion  
every word should be  
weighed, it is one requir-  
ing much care &  
consideration lest  
we should introduce

precision, I am  
disturbed at the idea  
of failure on our  
first attempt. And  
I am bound to say  
— while I do the fullest  
justice to the great  
learning & diligence  
exhibited in the  
Book of last year  
— I have not seen

the Policy of this -

that I am satisfied  
that if the measure  
is not in many respects  
materially altered,  
it will prove a  
disappointment and  
a failure.

However, so far as  
I can assist in  
proving it, I will

on the remaining  
portions of the Bill,  
but I am taken a back  
by being told by Mr  
Justice Stephen that  
your purpose is to  
introduce the Bill  
immediately. I must  
confess I am sorry  
to hear that this is  
the course proposed

to be taken. I certainly  
think it very desirable  
that the measure should  
pass this Session if  
possible, as persons,  
while the Prep calls  
so loudly for the  
passing of the Bill,  
may be led to think  
that our Criminal  
Law is ~~an~~ a ~~badly~~

defective state, instead  
of being, as it undoubtedly  
is, the part of our  
law which the least  
desires being codified  
or meddled with. The  
fact is that the codi-  
fication of the Criminal  
Law is of very little  
importance except  
as the commencement

of the Codification of  
the Law generally -  
and my earnest desire  
- being desirous that  
the Civil, as distinguished  
from the Criminal,  
Law, sh<sup>d</sup>, at the earliest  
possible period, be  
brought from the fearful  
chaos in which it  
now exists, into some  
thing like order &



willingly do so - provided you are not in too great a hurry to get the Bill through Parliament.

I will send you by the ~~sea~~ post of Sunday night - there is none on Saty - the ~~part~~ observations which have

accounted to me on  
the part of the Bank  
extending from the  
trust on which  
I am indebted in my  
former letter, to  
expenses against the  
person concerned  
in the 1000000  
I shall be  
glad if what I have  
written proves of any

uncertainty and confusion instead of making the law clear to all mankind so far as this is possible. I have only succeeded in accomplishing my proposed task as far as offences agt the State & Public are concerned, leaving offences agt the

persons & next Property  
together with Procedure  
shd to be done. I was  
in hopes that the  
Bill would not have  
been brought in till  
after Easter - so that  
I might have had  
till then - including  
the Easter Vacation -  
to go on working