Dear Sir,

Your note of the 8th was received pityingly, as I returned from Marseilles, where I had been possible for me to attend to it sooner. I regret that I did not communicate by you before leaving the market of my reflections upon the proposition made to me, but I have been confined in my views, and unable to proceed at my present time.

To answer your final application, I might very sincerely plead the want of time and opportunity to satisfy the wishes of those who apply. A sketch of the sort desired ought to be well done sooner, and sooner not under any circumstances, indeed, it is best without much preparation. Sufficient time, without being satisfactory, unless more definite than at present. The necessity became pressing. I do not enjoy here, and that perhaps unsuitable as sufficient reason for declining the task. But I have another.

I have already had other applications, and am convinced of a characteristic somewhat similar and may I suppose experience. It becomes necessary therefore to adopt alike from my conduct and the one which I determine united my portion and the obligations of official duty, to decline...
Respectfully furnishing my unofficial or official statement herein, touching the war in Gen. Taylor's participation in it, or refining this character attends in any way, at least while I am in the field engaged in military duty. What I may feel as liberty to say or do when released from active service and no longer an actor in events which must there be rendered only, time alone can determine.

I must refer to quite myself the necessity of disappointing your expectations, the information as they may have been by my delay. I would sooner refuse almost any other favor, for I know if you were to receive this statement for some beside purposes, which in a precedence of Gen. Taylor, I may be supposed equally anxious, with myself to promote. But after much reflection I have felt it my duty to adopt the present course in relation not only to you and your interests but to see applications of the act of it and once you will appreciate my motives in this determination above.

Believe me very truly,

Your friend,

[Signature]

My H.B. Colbys
Purvey, Va.

[Signature]
No. 12.

Head Res. at Monterey
July 10, 1847.
Col. Polk to J. W. Burton

Accordingly
May 4th.

Yours