

MVB to W[illiam] P[eter] Van Ness, 16 March 1812

Sir,

I have the Bonds with me but have it not in my power to ascertain the ballance due on them, when I spoke to you about a year ago on the subject you offered to give me a Judgment Bond for the amount due which I then from a conviction that it was unnecessary and not being compelled by absolute instructions avoided taking. I now propose to take a Judgment Bond for \$2500 I giving you a writing that the same is only to be valid for the amount which shall be found due & to stand as a collateral security to the Bonds already given, should this course meet your approbation I will make out the papers this evening.

As to the other matters refered to you in your letter, without in intending on wishing to be understood as accusing you and thereby leading to a discussion which for the present at least I feel it my duty to avoid, I owe it to myself to state that on a calm and dispassionate review of recent occurrences, their result at best extremely painfull has been rendered much less so by a compleat conviction that my conduct has not in any respect been justly subject to censure or reproach. I must further add that the terms "arrangements already consummated or in view" if intended to be applied to me are wholly inapplicable and incomprehensible.

Yours respectfully

MVBuren

Document Information

Date:

16 March 1812

Object Type:

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