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There was formerly an Instrument Called an Antinuptial Contract Between Coll Henry Beckman and Gertruyd Van Cortlandt put into the hands of the Lieutenant Governor James DeLancey to be kept by him untill Called for, and as his papers fell into the hands of his Son in Law Thomas Jones ~~his son in Law~~ one of the Judges of the then Province of New York who went to England and Died there, and as I know of no one in England to make application to Therefore shall take it as the Greatest friendship to me if you would take the Trouble and make such Enquiry Either of Judge Jones's family or the family of Coll. James DeLancey so that the Instrument may be found and sent to me. It would without ^{doubt} settle matters so as to put an end to a tedious and expensive family Lawsuit which I have been Obliged to Commence as Executor to the will of the Late Gertruyd Beckman. I hope Sir you will Excuse this freedom from me, and am with the Greatest Respect
Your most obedient and very
Humble Serv^t

His Excellency

Rufus King Esq
Minister Plenipotentiary
from the United States

London

Pierre Van Cortlandt

Copy of a Letter to
Rufus King

Decemr 24 1801

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Cosm's Jant
Decr 24. 1801