

ii, New York January 9<sup>th</sup> 1813

From our acquaintance and friendship, I beg leave to address you, and state that I perceive that the President has approved the Law to remit the Bonds for goods imported from England, under certain restrictions that their trading to the West Indies are not included, to me it is all important.

Since the dissolution of the partnership of Pell & Galletti, I have been engaged in trade to the Island of St. Croix under the firm of Galletti & Burger. I need not point to you the manner of doing business there, it must occur that we cannot always bring every thing home. We have had still have a considerable sum due us. In March last, we despatched one of our vessels, with a careful Captain to collect all he could in money or Bills, if not to be had to take produce, and call off New York should the Non importation act be continued, he was to proceed to Lisbon, after obtaining necessary refreshments, in the mean time the Embargo took place, we could not convey to him any particular intelligence. Not hearing of the War he sailed from the Island on the 15<sup>th</sup> July with a cargo of Rum, and met with nothing material, arrived off the Highlands on the 30<sup>th</sup> and land off of you, until next morning, when he was boarded by a Pilot and informed of the War. The Seamen refused to continue with him unless he came in, and through the persuasion of three

Pilots, & no other were in company / came into Port, when  
the ship, Henry, was seized by the collector, the property was  
bonded for, and as usual selected the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Secretary of  
the Treasury for relief, by permission of the Com<sup>rs</sup> - and yet  
have had no answer -

When the attachment Bond, were under debate  
with H of R. Mr. Stevens, mentioned that there would be  
a provision made for other cases, not included in that Bill  
not seeing any thing of it, I take the liberty to ask you for in-  
formation, if consistent, and you can with propriety, what  
plans to give as soon as is convenient - If any and what  
arrangement will be made -

If necessary, can give a more particular  
detail, the principal part of the evidence, presumed is  
now with Treasury department.

Last session of Congress, repeated their  
failure to bring home Com property - which presume you recollect  
We with all others of the same nature, were debated -

Your attention to this, will confer regu-  
lar favor and obligations, on

The Honorable  
Reine Van Cortlandt Jun  
Ch. Cong. &c.

Yours obedient humble Servant  
Salthazar. J. Melick

Melick's Testimony