

to verify my accounts, but all men are liable to make mistakes and it is not impossible that this should happen to you as to any other man. If it is the case, be assured that in justice to you I could never think you did it purposely.

In open court Mr. William McIntosh accused me of lying when I testified under oath that he had told me that I never received the letter that you and Mr. Park said I had, written by Mr. Abbott for the Miamis Company, in 1790, stating that the company⁵³ had divided up its Wabash debts and that what I owed was to be paid to him and that I had nothing to do with any other person. Therefore, to justify myself I made a search for that letter and put all the papers relating to our affairs into one package but with no thought of using them.

Mr. Dubois had promised to pay you the balance in the spring and Mr. McIntosh seemed satisfied with that, but before his departure for the falls, Mr. Dubois was to give Mr. McIntosh his note in your favor. Unfortunately, Mr. Dubois forgot this entirely and left without doing it. The next day Mr. McIntosh sent his lawyer to me demanding payment, saying that he needed 500 piastres immediately for your business at this place. I replied that I did not have the money, that I would pay him upon the return of Mr. Dubois with whom I had arranged for payment, and that if Mr. Dubois had not gone by his place it was because he had forgotten, but that as soon as he returned, everything would be arranged satisfactorily.

The next day I was served with a writ of habeas corpus, and was then obliged to employ a lawyer and to place in his hands all the papers relative to our business. Afterwards I learned that he had found a mistake of some magnitude. But consider, Sir, the object of Mr. McIntosh. It was not that you should receive money in Detroit, but for the sole purpose of having the property of poor debtors auctioned off and themselves ruined for his own interest. Here is a proof of this. He had a tract of land in the lower meadow put up for the judgment obtained. If I had not happened to be there, it would not have brought the ex-

⁵³ On the division of debts due the Miamis Company, here alluded to, see *B. H. R.*, I, 325 ff.