

Wheatland, near Lancaster
20 May 1864

My dear Sir/

I have received your favor of the 9th April; but have not heard from Colonel McDowell. Whist I sympathise [sic] with your family afflictions & would do nothing to injure you personally; I yet feel that I have been badly and ungratefully treated & know no means of unraveling the whole affair but by instituting & prosecuting a suit against Col M'Dowell & yourself. This I shall do reluctantly & not for the sake of the money, for I have lost many thousands in loans to friends & never thought the worse of them afterwards.

In you letter to me of ~~26 December~~ the 9th April 1864 you inform me that Col: M'Dowell sold his half of the Patriot & Union in September 1862 for \$1500, (you do not say to whom) "the purchaser to assume his share of the debts of the concern"; & as the best you could you sold out to Mr. Ward, for \$500. – I presume upon the same terms.

Now there could be no debt of the concern more meritorious than the \$1000 I advanced to Mr. M'Dowell & yourself to enable you to hold it against M. Haldeman. You at the time considered it very valuable. Why in selling has neither Mr. Ward nor yourself placed it on the same footing as other debts of the concern? Why has Col: Bigler[']s ~~belatedly~~ been relieved; whilst I stood on the same footing but sacrificed. The Colonel neglected to secure the money as he promised; but I have ever since considered the debt as a loan in good faith & honor as much a loan upon the concern as though it had been imposed in legal form. And I thought you would so consider it, especially after I had made a donation of \$500. Now the property has passed out of your hands, the debt of others have been ~~provided for~~ secured by you in the sale & I am left to lose my money. I will not designate such conduct on the part of the Colonel & yourself as it deserves.

[from the contents, the addressee must be O. Barrett.]

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