

FRITZE, LUNDT & Co. Succ<sup>s</sup>.

PONCE

PTO. RICO.

DIRECTION FOR CABLEGRAMS:

FRITZE.

PONCE, P. R. September 24, 1904.

The Right Reverend,

J. H. Van Buren, D.D.,

281 Fourth Avenue,

New York City.

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Right Reverend Sir:

Having learned from our Rector, the Revd. Mr. Watson, that it is the intention to erect a new Church on the plot of ground belonging to Mr. Schuck, which is situated to the south of the present locality, I, as one of your vestrymen here, venture to broach the following proposition, which I submit at the instance of the Revd. Mr. Watson:

It is the avowed determination of the United States Government to select a favorable site in this City whereon to build a new Post Office and District Court, which buildings, I gather from Postmaster Miller 's remarks, will embellish, and be a credit to, the City in general.

Consequently, the authorities are now searching for an appropriate locality, and as the firm of Fritze, Lundt & Co., of which I am a partner, enjoys control of a piece or portion of land adjoining the church on the north side, it is my intention to offer the same for the desired purpose.

But, in this connection, the aforesaid property does not comprise the necessary attributes in that it is lacking in measurement. That the lot shall have a frontage of 200 square feet is an indispensable feature and imperative condition, whereas

our property is limited in this respect to 147'9". Under such circumstances, and being cognizant of your purpose to establish a new brick church edifice, I approached the Revd. Mr. Watson in the premises, and after a discussion with him and the other members of the Vestry, it was resolved to supply the deficiency, - which, as will be seen from the foregoing figures, amounts to 52'3", - from the present church plot, provided the remuneration for such parcel of ground be such as to enable or bring about the purchase of that plot situated on the "Plaza Abolición" in a southerly direction from the church, and on which Mr. Watson holds an option from Mr. Schuck by which the latter binds himself over to sell the same for a sum of \$4,000.

The entire church ground length would be required to complete the required site on which the Post Office and District Court buildings are to be erected, the width - 171'2" - being precisely that of our own lot. This latter would, of course, adversely affect the yard of Mr. Watson's home, but manifestly, this will appeal to you as a minor feature when you take into consideration the benefits accruing from the purchase of the new lot and the building of the new church edifice, all of which can be rendered an accomplished fact by the consummation of the anticipated transaction. A noteworthy feature of the new ground, among others, is the relatively extensive area that it covers.

Briefly then, matters being as before outlined, and Mr. Watson holding the option on the purchase of the referred to ground pertaining to Mr. Schuck at the lump sum of \$4,000, at which price the old church land would be necessarily disposed of,

Rt. Rev. J.H. Van B.-----3.

9-24-1904

I do not doubt that you will concur in that the arrangement will be an advantageous one from the standpoint of the Church, provided the circumstances be sufficiently propitious to permit of the accomplishment of our project, and that you will therefore favor the steps we have taken, and will take, with your approval.

We will keep you properly informed anent future developments.

I am,

Right Reverend Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*Jul. Umbach.*

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JU/M.