

SECTION X

LETTERS AND PAPERS: 1794

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 10 January 1794

Dear Askin I am your Debtor for more Letters than used to be the Case but as most of them are on business & chiefly answered by me from the House I hope you will excuse me if I have not written you oftener personally

Now that the business of the year appears closed, it is most painful to observe that your remittances of this Season are far short of the Goods sent you in 1793 the former was much worse, in so much that in the two years it appears to me that you fall short nearly if not fully £4000 Currency exclusive of accumulating Interest; Such heavy disappointments have brought your Friend Todd & me into a most unpleasant situation & what is finally to be the result I know not for we must take upon ourselves whatever you may fall short to the Company, if therefore you have for us that regard & friendship which I never doubted, you will assuredly see the necessity of making every possible exertion to prevent us from being the greatest Sufferers that can probably be instanced in Trade to your part of the world. unwilling to wound your feelings further I shall not add on this very painful Subject

The Receipt you sent for 92000^{lb} of flour came very opportunely & saved the agents from heavy reflections that would have fallen upon them & us from the Effects of a Bond that might have become forfeited. That you & M^r Robertson did all that could be done I doubt not, but in engagements with Government no excuses however equitable in appearance to you & me individually will answer them, if you undertake you must fulfill, let me therefore entreat that you never lose sight of this rule least you should involve yourself & injure your Friends. I hope & depend that by first opportunity from your place a voucher for remainder of the Flour will appear

I had requested you to send your account against Mr Bentley but you have not yet done it, at least it has not come to hand. you have not sent a State of your affairs as you intended, I wish you to do it by first vessell in the Spring distinguishing that which may be relied upon from what is bad.

Our latest advices from England are of the 18 September by private Letter & of 3^d October by newspapers and it seems to be the general opinion that the Posts will be given up but that the Indian Trade will be free within the American line to us & within our line to them, but whither the delivery will be immediate or at some distance is not so clear yet it is rather thought that two to three years will be reserved. Taking things in that point of view as the Trade must of course be more divided it seems natural to suppose that the Indian part will fall off not a little & become insecure, but it may possibly happen that an influx of new Settlers will raise the value of fixed property & that the Trade which you call Christian may augment, but in the mean time I would advise getting in Debts & prosecuting for them without delay for there can be little doubt that before the new Comers establish & organize Courts of Justice, some time must elapse and when that is done it is highly probable that property will rise greatly in value. Such is my way of thinking which I mean for yourself alone & would not therefore wish to go abroad as my opinion.

To morrow I propose setting out on my public duty to Quebec where I fancy my Stay will be protracted untill April if not to May. If such Employments conferr honor they are dearly paid for by those who have families, I have indeed none of my own; but three Girls, of whom two [are] marriageable, whom I have brought up put me in mind that if I am not called upon by ties of consanguinity to befriend them, the obligation to it is not less binding since it was voluntary. I beg of you to assure M^{rs} Askin & your family of M^{rs} M^cGills & my best respects & believe me

Dear Askin Your sincere Friend
James M^cGill

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: recv^d y^e 15^h & Answ^d y^e 29^h March, 95

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN EUROPE

London 10th February 1794

Dear Sir:

* * * * *

Since I wrote last there has no event of very great magnitude occurred. His Majesty in his Speech to both houses of parliament recommended pursuing the war with vigour, & they have taken measures for that purpose by voting an augmentation to our forces by sea & land. They have borrowed 11 Millions & upon what are called good terms, the revenue has fallen nearly three millions below that of the preceding year. our income is therefore now only about 13 millions & a ha[l]f, & our expenditure about twenty six! On the continent all is war. The recapture of Toulon has been followed by victory every where. The rebellion in La Vandee (on the banks of the Loire) is entirely subdued, the Austrians & prussians completely defeated on the Rhine, & the French laying every thing waste in that unhappy quarter. Their army opposed to that of Cobourg's in the neighbourhood of Valenciennes has remaind rather quiet for these last six weeks, but not without receiving very large reinforcements, & as soon as the weather permits we expect to hear of a general action taking place in that quarter, which will assuredly be a very bloody one as the French have 170,000 men there. They are making such preparations as are altogether astonishing: they have 15 foundaries established which work incessantly, & cast 1100 pieces of cannon a month; at Paris alone they make 680 muskets a day. they have 24 million pounds of gunpowder ready with adequate stores for the ensuing campaign: Of their naval operations we have felt the effects: notwithstanding our boasted superiority at sea, they have had three ships of the line & several frigates cruising off Ireland which have within the last month taken & sent into the ports of France twenty-two sail of ships: they had six frigates

cruising in the channel about ten days ago which took a number of prizes while our fleet were all, *snug in port*. In the East Indies their privateers have taken a great many country ships & carried them into the isles of Bourbon. In America *you* know they have not been idle. The truth is, our marine has been most shamefully neglected. I hope it will be better managed next year, tho' Lord Chatham is less fit to be at the head of it than you or I to be a bishop, but then he has the *merit* of being M^r Pitt's brother. We expect news of importance every day from the frontier of Spain & Italy, as twenty thousand of the troops employed in the siege of Toulon moved thither & must by this time have reached their destination. Thus you see every thing indicates hostility: you see France surrounded on all sides with powers which it was predicted long ago must have crushed her to the earth: you *have* already seen her repell & defeat all those powers, & you *will* see her oppose to them now, numbers, who to their love of liberty & spirit of enthusiasm, add the discipline of veterans. In this dreadful conflict how many human beings must perish! & how many widows, orphans & relatives must bewail their fate! How many defenceless villages & cottages, the abodes of honest industry & chearful health, must be stained with blood & wasted by devouring flames! Is it only the widows tears & orphans cries that is fit music for the ruthless tyrants that delight in war & desolation? What I most regret is that our country has been so unfortunate as to take any share in this unhappy contest. Had any reasonable man possessed of the least observation gone thro' France when I did & told me afterwards of conquering or subduing them, I should have said, it appears to me to be utterly impossible: you & I differ so completely that one of us must be a fool or something worse. What! conquer four & twenty million of people, with enthusiasm in their hearts & steel in their hands, with a soil & climate the finest in Europe, & with resources for war that are inexhaustable! To attempt such a thing is more absurd than any of Don Quxote's reveries. Did Philip, after a struggle of 17 years, & after executing on

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

public scaffolds upwards of 50,000 of his subjects & destroying five times that number in the field, did he conquer the Seven United Provinces? Did Great Britain, after a struggle of ten years, & the loss of two or three hundred thousand lives, & an expence of 150 million of money conquer America?

In the mean time trade & commerce droop. everything goes cross [?]. Furs are really in a most lamentable predicament, as to saying what they may be worth I cannot say. as long as the war continues they will continue to fall, and what is very unpleasant, I much fear we shall soon have difficulties with the Americans about the posts: there have several things occurred of late that leads me to this conclusion: I wish I may be mistaken. Lord Cornwallis is returned from the east Indies. we have taken Pondicherry & driven the French out of that country. The duke of York is come home, but whether recalled or not has not transpired.

W. R

Addressed: (pr. the Ellice to New York) John Askin, Esq^r Detroit Care of Mess^{rs} Todd, M^cGill & C^o Merchants Montreal

Endorsed: London Feb^y 10th 1794 M^r W. Robertson to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 8^h July Answ^d y^e 14th

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Woolwich March 26th 1794

My dear Father Having wrote a very long letter to my good Mother which you are to consider in part to yourself leaves me but little to say but I could not with pleasure close my intended Packet without addressing a few lines to so dear a Parent. to recapitulate all that I have said in my Mothers letter concerning the children and the happiness of *mon petit menage* would be a sameness but as I can never lack subject when conversing with *mon cher Pere* I shall therefore dash on *sans ceremonie* and commit to paper whatever presents itself to my imagination hoping that it will prove acceptable to my dear Father. *Permettez moi de vous demander combien de Veaus ma Vache a eu depuis que*

*je vous ai laissé car quoique je ne suis pas proche de vous il faut me remettre l'argent s'il vous plait j'en serai bien flaté je l'employerai pour les petits enfans vos petits enfans. excusez moi mon cher Pere il faut avoir un peu de badinage de tems en tems et c est pourquoi je vous parle de ma Vache caille.**

I had the pleasure to see your good freinds Mr Todd and Robertson the other day they asked very kindly if I had heard from you it was in London I saw them the visit of which will form the principal subject of my dear Sisters letter. their behaviour to us is extremely civil Mr Robertson I look upon in the light of a second Father he appeared to be rather uneasy at not having heard from his Brother Mr David for some time past I should imagine that his letters had miscarried as he would not neglect writing to his Brother. My dear M explains to you all circumstances relative to the War and as I am no great Politician can say but little on that head all that I know is that I think myself extremely lucky let the War go as it will that the service has not called my good man at any great distance from me and as it is supposed that it will not be of much longer duration I hope still to be equally fortunate in having him with me he is getting very fast up the list and as the promotion goes on so rapidly I flatter myself of soon being a Captains Lady.

I yesterday paid a visit to the Warren and sure such a scene of Military buissness presented itself to me as you can have no conception of all the Soldier's children in number more than five hundred with some old Artillery men as overseers were busy in making Cartridges of different kinds other Artificers making and repairing gun carriges whilst other again in the Royal Foundery were employed in casting great quantiteys of Brass Cannon in short it is impossible to describe the hurry and confusion caused by such exertions which is making to receive the *Sans Cullottes*

As I have a boy I think I have a right to put my dear Father in mind to save him a little Poney for I make no doubt but he will be as fond of horses as my dear little Brothers used to be I hope old Dick Blackbird and the

little Mare are all alive I am sure if it is otherwise it is not through want of care for they have a good Master I have never rode since my arrival here indeed my dear Meredith would not like the idea of it since the prancing Mare run away with me the recital of that circumstance allways makes him shudder a pleasing reflection for me as it discovers his tenaciousness of me. There are of fruit in this Country very good apples but I think none to compare with the *pome gris* of Montreal the cherries here I think preferable to those at Detroit one sort called white hearts are really delicious I have three cherry Trees in my garden which produces a great plenty and as I am very fond of cherry puddings I have them frequently when in Season.

We drank tea and spent last Evening with a Capt & M^{rs} Holloway of the Engineers there was a large party of Gentlemen also Sir William Green¹ cheif Engineer of all England and General of the Corps he is father to M^{rs} Holloway and came from his house in London to spend a few days with his daughter he is a pleasant old gentleman and we passed the Evening very agreeably. I perceive that it is almost time to conclude as my paper is near full so shall do it by assuring my dear Father how proud I am to subscribe myself his truly affectionate Daughter

Archange Meredith

P.S. my best Compliments to all enquiring Freinds and kind love to all the dear Family may God bless them all.
Adieu

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit Canada favour of M^r Leith

Endorsed: Woolwich March 26^h 1794 M^{rs} Meridith to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 8^h Oct^r

*Please tell me how many calves my cow has had since I left her with you although I am not near you send me the money if you please I would be very glad I would use it for the little children, your grand-children. Pardon me my

¹ William Green was born in 1725, his mother being a sister of Adam Smith, the noted economist. He entered the Royal Military Academy in January, 1737, and

dear father, one must have a little joke now and then That is why I mention my spotted cow.

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Woolwich Mars le 27 1794

Ma très chere et bien aimé Mere Voila votre Archange, occupé a ce qui la rend bien heureuse, cette en écrivant a sa bonne parante par l'occasion de Monsieur Leith, qui laisse ce Pays le vingt du Mois pour le Detroit, il a eu la bonté de s'offrir de se charger de mes lettres, et doit venir passer une journée avec nous, avant de partir, il voira les enfans, et pourra vous en donner une description, car il ne faut pas absolument se fier aux parens den parler qui en dise bien souvent plus quils ne merite. Je me figure que vous etes tous presentment inquiet pour l'arrivé de l'expres, si nos lettres ne sont pas perdue, apres nous avoir laissé, vous devez recevoir un grand paquet, datté du mois Novembre, car nous ne manquons aucune occasion, de vous temoigner notre grande amitie. Vous serai flaté ma chere Mere d'apprendre, que mon petit David est presentment en parfaite santé; jusqua l'age de six mois, il etoit toujours malade, et je navois pas esperance, quil aurai vecue, mais depuis ce tems, cest surprenant comme il est changé pour le mieux, rien sur la part de son pere, et la mienne, a été epargne pour le rechapper, et dieu mercie qu'a ce moment, il est un beau garcon; le petite Anne se porte aussi bien, elle commence de prononcer quellques mots francois, comme nous souhaitons quelle le parle bien, et pendant la jeunesse, et le miellure tems de instruire de cette langue.

Je nest pas recue de vos nouvelles depuis la lettre de ma chere Therese, datté le onze d'Octobre, dans laquelle elle me marque, que ma bonne Cousine Grante etoit prete

thereafter spent his life in the army, rising, in 1798, to the rank of general. He served in America from 1752 to 1761 and participated in the capture of Louisburg, the siege of Quebec, and the capture of Montreal. In 1762 he was stationed at Gibraltar, where he continued for twenty-two years. He planned and executed the fortifications of that post, and as engineer in charge, played a prominent part in the famous defense of 1779-83. In the latter year he returned to England. In 1802 he retired on a pension. He died, Jan. 10, 1811, while visiting at the home of his daughter, Miriam, who was the wife of General Nicolls. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

d'accoucher, jespere de toute mon coeur, quelle est heureusement debbarassé, et que dieu lui a conservé son enfant. je me propose de lui écrire par cette occasion, pour ma Tante elle paroît s'être tout a fait fixé a la Grosse pointe. vous seriez bien triste, si Therese netoit pas avec vous. je suis flaté que Mademoiselle Adhemar a pris le soin des enfans, comme sa doit être beaucoup mieux étant si proche de vous, et n'ayant point de riviere a traverser pour les voir. Scavez vous ma chere Mere, que mon cher mari dit, que je suis si grandie et grasse, que vous auriez peine a me connoître, cependant je ne suis pas enbonpoint dieu mercie deux sont bien assez, et je puis faire mon devoir envers eux avec plaisir, a mon cher M, et satisfaction a moimeme, vous ne pourez pas vous imaginer, un pere plus tendre quil ne l'est, ce qui fait que nous meritons le nom d'heureux Couple, il est Mari affectioné, et je suis femme obeisante, tel est la juste description de notre petit menage.

Pour des nouvelles je n'en ai pas a vous écrire, nous sommes toutes affairé dans notre departement, en preparant tous, pour recevoir les Francois, que l'on dit ont intention de visiter ce Payis, pour moi je nen ai pas peur, je suis si brave, que je pense pouvoir en tuer un moimeme, avec un pistolet, s'il se presentoit devant moi, ne pensez donc pas que j'aurai deux pistolets chargé dans ma chambre tous les nuits, si je ne scavois pas les tirer, et quoique la maison ou je demeure n'est pas beaucoup exposé, cependant quand mon cher M. n'est pas avec moi, je suis tranquille de l'idée, d'avoir de quoi me defendre en cas d'être attaqué. l'on dit qu'il y'a assez d'officiers d'artillerie en Flandres sans en avoir d'autre, cette une bonne nouvelle pour moi, en ce cas mon cher mari, ne laissera pas l'angleterre, il y'aura plusieurs Camps cette Eeté, et je pense que mon Epoux ira a la meme que l'année passé, j'en suis bien flaté comme cest une Endroit bien agréable, je pense que vous etes tous bien tranquille au Detroit, mon cher Pere fait la Parade avec sa Millice de tems en tems, mais ils devroit se croire bien heureux, au prix de ceux ici, qui sont obligé de faire autant de devoir, comme les autres Regiments de pied.

Madame Mercer et les enfans se porte bien, nous avons recue une lettre d'eux, quellques tems passé sans doute qu'ils ecriront a la famille par cette occasion.

S'il avoit été en notre pouvoir de vous envoyer nos portraits, par cette occasion, nous l'aurions fait avec grand plaisir, mais la depense en est beaucoup, cependant nous esperons le faire dans quellques tems, je vous envoie un morceau de mes cheveux, ainsi q'un morceau de ceux de mon cher M. et les enfans, comme je crois que ma chere mere aimera a avoir quellque choses de ces petits enfans; j'ai les profiles de mon cher pere, et mere, qui leur ressemble beaucoup, je n'ouvre jamais la cassette ou ils sont sans les regarder fixement, j'ai une miniature de Monsieur Meredith dans la meme place, qui m'a été présenté par sa belle soeur, c'est ma petite cassette precieuse, qui contient mes petits tresors. Monsieur Leith a été en Ecosse toute Eeté dernière, avec ses Parens, je suis chagrine que vous l'attendiez, parceque vous avez été desappointé je m'emagine quil arrivera au Detroit dans le première Barque; et sitot que ce Vaiseaux paroît, je scait quelle sera la conversation; mes cheres Parens iront sur la Gallerie en haut, Therese portera la longue vue voir les passagers, et chacun aura son tour pour voir. les visites seront frequente pour ce jour, la Gallerie sera bien remplie, Therese prendra la longue vue, et apres avoir regardé pour quellque tems elle dira, *ma chere maman, je vois Monsieur Leith reelment; je le vois il a une habit gris; toute bon mon enfant nous aurons donc des lettres de Monsieur Meredith et cette pauvre Archange*, apres avoir attendue un peu de tems, mon cher Pere partira pour recevoir les lettres; quelle difference ici, je ne me trompe pas quand je dit que je vois cent Vaisseaux passer toutes les jours, comme nous demeurons dans une jolie situation, élevé, ou nous avons une belle vue de la Tamise, mais personne ne scait d'ou elles vienne, par consequent l'on ne s'en interesse pas. mais quand je vois dans la Gazzette, q'une telle jour une Barque est arrivé de Quebec, je m'attend a recevoir de vos cheres nouvelles, vous me connoisez si bien, que vous scavez que sa n'est pas fierté, qui ma fait ecrire touchant votre impressment d'entendre de nos nouvelles, mais je

suis si persuadé de votre affection pour vos enfans que je scait vos sentiments, et a present que je suis *mere* moimeme, il m'est facile de juger de ce que vous sentez pour eux, si nous jugions par nous meme ma tres chere Mere, nous ne pourrions pas nous imaginer quil y'avoit une Mere denaturé au monde mais je craint quil y a trop de ce vilaines femmes qui ne merite pas avoir d'enfans, puis quil ne se soucie guere de sacrifier leurs repos.

[Archange Meredith]

P. S. Madame Graham a eu un logment dans les environs d'ici pour longtems elle va au Detroit entre nous je ne l'ai jamais frequenté comme elle a toujours une suite de jeunes officiers qui ne s'accorde pas avec mes idees d'une jeune veuve vous m'entendez mais c'est entre nous.

Translation

Woolwich, March 27, 1794

Dearest and beloved Mother: Here is your Archange, busy with something that makes her very happy, that is, writing to her good mother by Mr. Leith who leaves this country for Detroit on the 20th. He kindly offered to take charge of my letters and should be here to spend a day with us before setting out. He will see the children and can give you a description of them, for it is absolutely impossible to trust parents who very often say more of them than they deserve.

I fancy that you are now anxious for the arrival of the express. If our letters have not been lost after leaving us you should receive a big packet, dated in November, for we miss no chance to give you evidence of our love. You will be glad, dear Mother, to learn that my little David is now in perfect health. Up to the age of six months, he was always ill and I never hoped that he would live, but since then, it is surprising how he has changed for the better. Nothing has been spared on his father's part, nor on mine, that he might grow strong, and now, thank God, he is a fine boy. Little Anne is well also. She begins to say some words in French,

for we want her to speak it well, and while they are young is the best time to teach them that language.

I have had no news from you since dear Therese's letter of October 11th, in which she tells me that my good Cousin Grant was about to be confined. I hope with all my heart that she is happily delivered and that God has spared to her the child. I intend to write her by this opportunity. As for Aunt, she appears to be well settled at Grosse Pointe. You would be very lonely if Therese were not with you. I am glad that Miss Adhémar has taken charge of the children. It must be much better having some one near, who is not obliged to cross the river to come to them.

Do you know, Mother dear, my good husband says that I am so big and fat you would scarcely recognize me. However, I am not enceinte, thank God. Two are plenty, and it is a pleasure to do my duty toward them, and to dear M., and a satisfaction to myself. You would never imagine a kinder father than he is, so that we deserve to be called a happy couple. He is a loving husband, and I am an obedient wife, and there you have a true description of our little family.

As for news, I have none to write you. In our department we are all busy preparing everything to receive the French, who, they say, intend to pay us a visit. For all that, I'm not at all afraid of them. I am so brave, I think I could kill one myself, with a pistol, if he showed up. Don't suppose that I should have two loaded pistols in my room every night if I did not know how to fire them, and although the house where I live is not much exposed, nevertheless, when my dear M. is away, I am easier in mind with the thought of having something to defend myself in case of attack. They say that there are enough artillery officers in Flanders without any more, which is good news for me, for then my husband will not leave England. There are to be several camps this summer, and I think he will go to the same one as last year. I am indeed glad of this for it is a very comfortable place. I am thinking that you are all very peaceful in Detroit. My dear father will be reviewing his militia from time to

time, but they should think themselves very fortunate compared with those here who must be on duty the same as other regiments of foot.

Mrs. Mercer and the children are well. We had a letter from them some time ago. Doubtless they will write home by this opportunity.

If it had been in our power to send you our portraits with this, we would gladly have done so, but it is too expensive. However, we shall hope to do so sometime. I am sending a lock of my hair, also one of my dear M's., and the children's, as I know my dear mother will love to have something from these grandchildren. I have profiles of my dear father and mother, very like them. I never open the little casket where they are without a good look. I have a miniature of Mr. Meredith in the same place given to me by his sister-in-law. It is my precious little box containing my little treasures.

Mr. Leith has been in Scotland all last summer with his parents. I am vexed that you have been expecting him because you were disappointed. I imagine that he will reach Detroit in the first vessel, and as soon as it is in sight, I know what you will say. My dear parents will go out on the upper balcony, Therese will bring the field glasses to see the passengers, and each one will look in turn. There will be much visiting that day, the balcony will be crowded. Therese will take the glass and having looked for a while, she will exclaim: "Mother dear, I see Mr. Leith, I see him. He is dressed in gray!" "All right, my child. Now we shall have letters from Mr. Meredith and that poor Archangel!" After waiting a little, my dear father will set out to get the letters. How different it is here! I am not exaggerating when I say that I see hundreds of vessels pass daily, as we live in a pretty place, and high, with a good view of the Thames. But nobody knows where they come from so that people are not interested in them. However, when I see in the paper that a vessel has arrived from Quebec, then I wait to hear from you dear people. You understand me so well that you know it is not vanity that makes me write about how eager you are to hear from us. Indeed, I am so sure of

your love for your children that I know how you feel, and now that I am a *mother* myself, I can easily judge how you feel for them. If we judge by ourselves, Mother dear, we could not imagine an unnatural mother in the world, but I fear there are too many wicked women who do not deserve to have children, since they are so indifferent about sacrificing their comfort.

[Archange Meredith]

P. S. Mrs. Graham² has had lodgings near here for a long time. She is going to Detroit. Between ourselves, I have never gone to her house much because she always has a following of young officers which does not accord with my idea of a young widow. You understand me, but let it be between ourselves.

FROM ISAAC TODD TO JOHN ASKIN

London 6th April 1794.

Dear Askin: I received your favor of the 13th Octb^r and am surprised you had not received a Letter from me as I recollect writing two Last Spring & Summer, your Joint Letter with M^r David Robertson to his Bro^r and me was received, and sent to M^r Davison,³ I find there has been a memorial from your Towns people and worthy repres[en]titives Complaining of the unfair & unjust, method of employing you two to furnish the flower, which was sent here by Forsyth & Richardson, in which they I mean

² Felix Graham engaged in the Northwest trade prior to the Revolution. He was at Mackinac in 1772, and mss. in the Thomas William Papers in the Burton Hist. Coll. show that prior to 1773 he had been a partner of Peter Pond. About the close of the Revolution Graham was located at Montreal, where he seems to have continued in the trade with the upper country until his death, which occurred prior to 1794. A later letter of Mrs. Meredith to her father, Nov. 1, 1796, conveys news of the remarriage of Mrs. Graham, evidently in England. Information adapted from Askin Papers, *passim*; Mich. Pio. Colls., *passim*; and "The Journal of Peter Pond," printed in Wis. Hist. Colls., XVIII, 314 ff.

³ Either George or Alexander Davison, brothers, who as contractors had a monopoly of the supply of the royal posts. Alexander, born 1752 and died 1829, was prize agent and confidential friend of Lord Nelson. During the Revolution he was engaged, in partnership with George Davison, in the Canadian trade, and resided for several years at Quebec. In 1784 he was appointed member of the Legislative Council; George also became a councilor. In 1816-17 Alexander was treasurer of the Ordnance Depart-

memorialists forget to state the motives for it, which I am persuaded was a jealousy, that they were not appointed, in that case the mode of M^r Davison's would have been proper and right, indeed their reasoning was so early refuted, that it would have had little weight, had not your Governor wrote and besides ministers here, saying the produce ought to be taken from the Farmer, and recommending his Commiss^y General to do the business, this will not be granted as the receiver cannot be the purchaser, and I believe it will be left to Lord Dorchester to arrange the business in that case M^r M^oGill will have it in his power to put you at least on a footing with any of your Neighbors, but I am still of opinion to secure the supplies and that the quality may be good it must be done by Contract, and that must be with Merchants, which is equally serving the Farmer, unless Gov^r Simcoe thinks the Merchant can raise flour in their Stores. Government here does not like to be teased by representations, and he and your Neighbours representations had nearly deprived your Province of the Supply in any Mode and which the farmers must have thanked them for, altho Govern^t Knew sending flour from this Country must have cost double the price yet to settle the business they intended sending the whole supplies from hence and its only within a few days they were induced to alter it, perhaps to some this might be more pleasing then to see a general benefit without their having such a part as they wanted. I am interested to serve a province in which I have many friends, and in doing so generally its natural to wish to serve my friends, and who I can pledge my Character for your representives ought to be careful they dont do a general injury without answering either the purposes of envey or individual benefit, and it requires attention Trouble & Expence to make the most of the Farmers industry and which they cannot do of themselves for Instance I have been employd since last fall writing to Cork to procure a Man a compleat

ment. He was prosecuted and convicted for receiving unlawful commissions on supplies, and although he refunded some \$8,000 was sentenced to twenty-nine months' imprisonment in Newgate Gaol. See sketch in *Simcoe Papers*, I, 121.

Cooper and curer of provisions and after much trouble I have hired one as high as £70 p^r annum with maintenance and his advances & expences will be above £50, which is lost if an accident happens him he is for M^r Hamilton at Niagara who expects that Settlement will have a quantity of Pork, and to cure it well is of more use then your assemblies representations perhaps they may think M^r Hamilton has no right to do this.

I am you may well suppose, even had I no interest in it extremely sorry for your bad success in business, indeed the great fall in furs and the prospect of being still worse, will make a great change in the Situation of your places I am glad you have so little dependance on That Trade and that your other resourses of remittance may this year answer your expectations, as I am convinced M^r M^eGill has your interest as much at heart as me and will do any thing our own situation will admit of to serve you. I leave the business to him, and shall only remark that this Warr has occasioned such Losses & disappointments of which we have our share that it requires the exertions of ourselves & friends, to support that Credit we have always had.

I am sorry there was not a Peace concluded between the Americans & Indians, and I wish your Govern^r may have used his influence to accomplish it, I am certain either by treaty or otherwise the Americans will in a few years get the Posts. I would therefore recommend [you] to be prepared for it as well as you can, and if matters are settled between them & the Indians, and the posts amicably given up Leaving the Trade free to all, it will be no great injury to the Country nor you in perticular as the River S^tLawrence must be the water communication for all heavy articles and it would benefit by the Industry and ingenuity of the Americans, and as private property will be secured it will become of more value. I have done myself the pleasure of writing your Daughter Theresa by M^r Leith in answer to her polite & Sencible Letter of Last Octt^r M^r Leith has allso a Small packet for her, as you will receive Letters from M^r & M^{rs} Meredith & M^r Mercer, & Robertson it

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

is unnecessary for me to say any thing of them. Remember me kindly to M^{rs} Askin, & the Commod^r & family it gives me pleasure to hear you enjoyed such good health that it may long continue is the wish of

Dear Askin Your Sincere friend

Isaac Todd

John Askin Esq^r

Endorsed: London April 6^h 1794 Isaac Todd Esq^r to
Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 24^h Aug^t Answ^d y^e 22^d Sept^r.

FROM CATHERINE HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenston le 20 May 1794.

Mon chere Père: Je suppose que vous pensé que joubly mon devoir ne vous ayant point adressé de lêtre de long-temps. mais non mon cher Père scachant que vous avé beaucoup d'affaires Je N'aime pas a vous Donner la peine de me repondre, et il y a longtemps que J attend les nouvelles de york Je Croisoit vous marquer que Magdelaine etoit accouché mais elle ne les pas encore jespere en avoir des Nouvelles par la premiere barque. M^r Clark vous remettre cel cy cest un bon garçon Je vous la recommande Cest encore un des Cousin de M^r Hamilton il vas a Michilimakinac pour voir l'endroit, apropos mon cher Pere, M^r H. ma fait esperé que vous viendrai nous voir cette été; Nous serons extremement rejouis de vous voir surtout si vous pourré emmené Ma cher Maman Avec vous et la famille. M^r H. parle d'aller en écosse lhiver qui vient et d'emmené encore trois des mes garçons avec luy pour leur éducation Nouvelles separation pour moy Je desirerai bien que vous vinte a les voir devant quille parte pour quilles ai le plaisir de vous Connoitre et recevoir votre benediction. Je suis bien impatiente d'apprendre des nouvelles de William et Johnny. J'ai vûe une letre de Ma Soeur archange il y a quelque temps adressé a Maman J'espere quelle se porte bien ainsi que M^r Meredith et cest petits enfans. Nous sommes bien Aise d'apprendre que le Comodore Grante et devenu Grand-père Je luy en fait mon Compliments ainsi que M^d Grante. Mes Meilleurs respects a Ma chere Maman Je me propose

d'aller me consollé aupres d'elle si M^r H. me laisse Car je ne puy laisse la maison dent d'autre temps. mes amities a Ma chere Terèse ainsi que les petits enfans que j'embrace. Je suis Mon cher Père en attendant le plaisir de vous voir

Votre sincere et affectionné fille
Catherine Hamilton.

Translation

Queenston, May 20, 1794

My dear Father: You will think I am neglectful of my duty not having addressed a letter to you for so long. But no, dear Father, you are so busy that I hesitated about giving you the trouble to reply. I have been expecting news from York a long time. I thought to be able to tell you that Madelaine had been confined but she is not yet. I hope to have word by the first vessel. Mr. Clark will take it on to you. He is a good boy. I recommend him to you. He is another of Mr. Hamilton's cousins and goes to Michilimackinac to look around. By the way, Father dear, Mr. Hamilton has given me hopes that you will come to see us this summer. We would be rejoiced to see you, especially if you could bring my dear Mother and the children with you. Mr. Hamilton talks of going to Scotland next winter and of taking with him three more of my boys for their education. Another separation for me. I wish that you would come to see them before they go that they might have the pleasure of knowing you, and of receiving your blessing. I am impatient for news of William and Johnny. I read a letter from my sister Archange some time ago addressed to Mother. I hope that she is well, and Mr. Meredith also, and their little children. We were very pleased to hear that Commodore Grant is a grandfather. Present my compliments to him and to Mrs. Grant. My best regards to my dear Mother. I am thinking of going to her for comfort if Mr. Hamilton leaves me for I cannot be away from home any other time. My love to my dear Therese, a kiss for the

little ones. I remain, my dear Father, until I have the pleasure of seeing you

Your sincere and affectionate daughter,
Catherine Hamilton.

PROGRESS OF THE CONTINENTAL WAR

London 24^h June 1794

Dear Sir: I wrote you 10th February & 10th April, to which I refer you. By Letters from Niagara of 29th March I had the pleasure to hear that sometime previous M^r Hamilton had letters saying our Detroit friends were well, and tho' there are letters from your post of 31st January from others I have none from my brother—this coupled with his former remissness continues my uneasiness; but as I have before solicited you to inform me with candour as a friend to what I am to ascribe this, I wait in hopes of a satisfactory elucidation.

On the subject of business, it is hardly necessary for me to take up your time, as M^r Todd has not long since made you acquainted with what relates to furs and I can say nothing agreeable or encouraging on that topic in addition. On the subject of politics, I shall be very brief, having sent the news papers by this opportunity to my brother who will no doubt afford you the reading of them. The war continues to rage on the continent of Europe with unexampled fury: the various skirmishes & battles that have been fought, since the opening of the campaign, exceed in point of obstinacy & bloodshed, for so short a period, any thing in ancient or modern history! At first success seemed rather to attend the efforts of the allies, whose favourite object was to penetrate to Paris—they however had proceeded no further than Landrecy (& every foot they gained was well disputed) which they took after a short resistance, when the duke of York was obliged suddenly to return to the assistance of Gen^l Clairfait whose army in the mean time had been routed with great slaughter loss of artillery &c and the important towns of Menin & Cambray taken by the French under Pichegru. Measures

were immediately taken to recover these places & to succour Clairfairs broken army with whom a junction was to be formed. In consequence a most desperate & bloody battle ensued which commenced in the morning when the French *seemed* to give ground, unfortunately this redoubled the ardour of the British troops, who were led too far, surrounded and above a thousand killed or taken prisoners; the duke of York escaped the latter fate with great difficulty. The Austrians, Hanoverians & Hessians then fled in all directions. The English lost all their artillery, & the guards their colours: seven thousand of the allies were killed or taken—some say many more. I mention this action more particularly, because notwithstanding our defeat, it redounds greatly to the honour of the British who did all that courage & discipline could do, but they were I fear very ill supported by our allies. The duke retreated into Tournay where the army now are. In the mean time the French have driven Clairfait back to Bruges & Ghent, have laid seige to the city of Ypres, & fears are entertained for the fate of Ostend. Towards Charleroi the French have been twice defeated with considerable loss, indeed in both they are said to have lost many thousands. I do not give entire credit however to the Brussels Gazette, because if those defeats were of the magnitude stated the French could not have returned almost immediately and opened the trenches of Charleroi in the face of a victorious army. Towards the Rhine the King of Prussia has done nothing: he however receives about two millions & a half subsidy from this country to furnish 64,000 men. he takes the money & tells us the men are *coming*. The King of Sardinia, another of our allies gets £200,000 pounds for his assistance, but so far from assisting, he cannot even defend himself; for his troops have been beat in a variety of actions, the principal posts leading to Turin taken, & that capital itself threatened, the enemy having been within two days march of it [at] last accounts. The Spaniards have not been much more successful. they have been defeated by Dugom[m]ier (he commanded at

Toulon) lost 100 pieces of cannon, all their tents &c and driven out of Roussillon. Of their operations at sea you will in part have heard: we have reduced all most all their W. India islands & almost without bloodshed. The capital of Corsica also surrendered, & Calvi, the only place of importance there, must also soon fall. But our most brilliant victory at sea is that obtained by Lord Howe on the 1st inst. with 25 sail of the line he attacked the French of 26, & after a most desperate engagement took seven sail of the line & sunk one: our loss was not inconsiderable—about a thousand men killed & wounded, one admiral lost his leg & another his arm: all the French ships were taken with their colours standing, they were nailed to the masts before action & the republicans swore never to strike them! they fought with wonderful, and indeed desperate courage, but were out done in dexterity of seamanship. You will judge of their temper, when it is affirmed that the Ship that sunk went down with her three coloured streamer[s] flying, that those who escaped the carnage which must have been dreadful, when they found her sinking, struck up their favourite national air of “ça ira,” gave three cheers, vociferated, “vive la nation, vive la republique” & then disappeared! Notwithstanding these successes, the critical situation of affairs on the continent, & the serious evils that obstruct & derange our commerce, which has suffered severely from the French cruisers, the people begin to see the impossibility of re-establishing monarchy in France & wish for peace. Besides the vessels taken by them in the East Indies, their depredations have been very great here. the Lisbon & Cadiz ships, Dutch & English consisting of about 60 sail were taken, together with two Dutch frigates having in specie about £90,000 on board. one of the frigates it is said got away afterwards, but whether the one with the specie or not is unknown. it was all insured at Lloyd’s. They took the Newfoundland convoy with the Caster frigate. they were retaken again by us, taken by the French a second time, retaken again & burnt by Lord Howe who could not spare men to man them. Several other

ships (some of them of great value) have been taken since Christmas in all not less than 250 or 300 Sail!

From the complection of affairs in America I was apprehensive of a rupture there, but I am happy to say I think that will not only be avoided but an amicable termination of all our disputes be affected. M^r Jay having lately arrived as ambassador extraordinary from them for that purpose and been well received here. Indemnification for all the ships taken & detained as we[ll (torn)] as the surrender of the posts will be agreed to. it is probable a reasonable time however will be given to those embarked in Upper country trade who may not choose to remain under their government to collect their debts & withdraw their effects: at the same time a man may remain (I should suppose so at least) as a merchant under their government after such surrender of the posts, without becoming a cit[i]zen of theirs, just as a British merchant may & does at Lisbon, Cadiz, Amsterdam or Vienna. People however will do well not to extend & scatter their property too widely in the mean time. The merchants here mean, in due time, to pray the posts may be retained three years, & the Indian country remain free & neutral: the first may in part be complied with, but I hardly hope for the last. As I wrote my brother a few days ago I shall not write again now, & therefore will thank you to make him acquainted with the contents of this, as it will answer the same purpose. I saw M^r & M^{rs} Mercer & spent part of last week with them & the young ladies, who grow very fine girls. they are all well. M^r & M^{rs} Meredith & children are the same. I saw them only yesterday & M^r Meredith this morning on his way down to camp at Warley—better & quieter ground then Flanders.

I beg my kind compliments to M^{rs} & Miss Askin & the rest of your family, Com^r & M^{rs} Grant, M^{rs} Wright &c. I remain, Dear Sir, Your very Hbl^e Servt

William Robertson

I had forgot to tell you, under my political head, that the *good* old empress of Russia is likely to have all her work to do over again as well as the king of Prussia. The government

JOHN ASKIN PAPERS

which these two *worthies* had settled for Poland, & sent their new subjects all to church with so much piety to return thanks to God, has been [?] by one general impulse overthrown. They rose upon the Prussian troops, kept there for their *good*, beat them every where, seized almost all the places of strength, appointed the gallant & patriotic Cousiouski [Kosciuszko] their leader, annulled all the empress had done, convoked new assemblies, appointed ministers & all other functionaries, & have finally raised above 100,000 men, of which number 75,000 are already completely armed. The Empress & King are making preparations to bring them to their senses—he was to have commanded our 64,000 subsidiary troops himself, but he is gone to Poland, & for aught we know taken them with him. The great French fleet (160 sail) are all arrived from America in safety in the ports of France.

Pray let me hear from you soon, & give me all the news of the settlement &c
John Askin, Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin, Esq^r Detroit Care of Mess^{rs}
Todd M^cGill & Co Merchants Montreal

Endorsed: Recv'd & forwarded by Your very hble
Servt Todd M^cGill & Co 6 Sept^r 94

London June 24^h 1794 M^r W^m Robertson to Jn^o Askin
recv^d y^e 8^h Oct^r Answ^d Nov^r 1st

BATTLE EXPECTED WITH GENERAL WAYNE

M^r Harffy's Comp^{ts} to M^r Askin, has sent by the Chip-pawey, directed to his care, a little Bundle, at [the] same time begs he will keep it safe, at his [house] until his return, *and not by any means* [torn] *it to M^{rs} Harffy or let her know anything* [torn] the matter without something may *happen to him* we really look, as not far from seeing the Enemy to day [torn] report says they are, all at the *Roch de Bout*, [mar]ching in a very compact Body. I have sent also

[Lie]u^t Powell's *Tent*, will you please to take charge of it.
Adieu God bless you.

W^m Harffy^t

Monday Morn^g 9 oClock 18 Aug^t 1794

Addressed: Jn^o Askin Esq^r Detroit with parcel & a Tent
and Oil cloth

Endorsed: Little Miami Aug^t 18 1794 Doct^r Harffy
to John Askin

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO MRS. ASKIN

Woolwich le 2 de Septembre 1794.

Ma tres chere Mere: Je ne puis commencer un sujet qui me fait plus de plaisir que de vous informer que j'ai recue deux lettres le deux de ce Mois datté du seize d'Avril, une de mon cher Pere et l'autre de ma Soeur Therese, et quand je reflechie sur les risques que les Vaisseaux cour d'etre pris par l'ennemie, je ne puis m'enpecher de me croire bien fortuné d'entendre si souvent de vos nouvelles. Je suis un peu surprise que vous n'avez pas recue de lettres de nous par l'expres, comme nous en avons ecris plusieurs nous flattant quils arriverai chez vous par cette occasion, mais je ne doute pas que vous les avez recue par le premier Vaisseaux ce Printems.

A present il faut que je dise a ma chere Mere que je suis encore Veuve jusqua Mois de Novembre, mon cher Meredith a laissé Woolwich pour aller au Camp le 23 de Juin, le nom de l'endroit ou il est se nomme Warley en Essex, exactement vis a vis de mes fenetres dans le devant de la maison, la distance d'ici la n'est pas grande comme il ne prend q'une demie journée pour se rendre la, cependant sa n'est pas agreable d'etre sepparé, mais je me souvient que je suis femme d'un Guerrier, cette consideration me rend gaie

⁴ This letter was evidently written under the anticipation that the writer would soon be engaged in battle with the army of General Wayne. The Battle of Fallen Timbers was fought by Wayne on Aug. 20, against the hostile Indians, supported by a considerable contingent of Detroit militia under the leadership of Captain William Caldwell. Harffy, as a member of the regular British detachment, presumably did not take part in the battle.

comme *Pincon*, et m'enpeche de m'a trisster de les petits desagrements a quoi tout le monde sont sujet a rencontrer dans cette vie. Mon cher Mari avant de partir a essayai une maladie tres dangereuse, et qui a duré une semaine, c'est dans ces moments que je me suis sentie vraiment malheureuse, mais n'osant rien faire paroître avant lui, graces a dieu il est a present tout a fait retablie, et je suis heureuse. Nos cheres enfans sont aussi en parfaite santé. David n'est pas encore assez fort pour marcher quoique il soit agée de seize mois, mais cela n'est pas surprenant comme il a été élevé au lait de Vache, cela est un grand desavantage a une enfant, il a plusieurs dents et quoique s'a ne devrait pas venir de moi, cependant je dit quil est un jolie garcon. Anne devient plus amusante de jour en jour, chaque personne qui la voie dit quelle me ressemble je n'en puis pas juger. il me semble vous avoir marqué que j'avois un portrait en minature de mon cher mari, je le tient dans un coffre ou sont mes mielleurs hardes, chaque fois que j'ouvre ce coffre elle cour me prier de lui laisser embrasser le portrait de son cher pere, et apres l'avoir caressai elle me le remet pour le serrer, je puis m'adresser avec confiance a ma bien aimé Mere et lui demander si sa n'est pas naturelle de se sentir fier de telles petites actions de nos enfans, mon coeur me dit que c'est naturelle car je me sent heureuse en observant les idees de cette chere fille.

Il faut que je vous prie d'assurer ma chere Cousine Wright de la joie que je ressent en sachant quelle est heureusement accouché, elle doit avoir recue une lettre de moi que j'ai ecrie par l'occasion de Monsieur Leith. C'est une grande satisfaction quand l'ainee est une fille, car sitot quils sont un peu grandie leurs Compagnies amuse beaucoup la mere, et en cas que le Pere soit absent le tems ne se passe pas avec tant d'ennuye que quand l'on est toute seule.

A l'égard de nouvelles je n'est rien de nouveaux a vous communiquer, vous avez sans doute appris la brillante victoire que notre Amiral My Lord Howe a remporté sur la Flotte Francoise le premier de juin, non chere Meredith netoit pas a Woolwich au tems que la nouvelle est arrivé, il avoit recue ordre d'aller a une endroit nommé Colchester pour

arranger quelques affaires, cependant comme je me pique d'être un bon sujet, sitôt que le soleil fut couché et le tems devient un peu noir, je fis allumer un grand nombre de chandelles et les arranga dans tous les fenestres de la maison qui fit une jolie Illumination. je ne fut pas longtems la seule toute le voisinage en fit autant, nous fumes regalé d'un feu d'Artifice pas loins de nous, et en fin le Coup d'oeil etoit reelement magnifique. Mon cher Meredith se propose d'ecrire a mon cher Pere par cette occasion, il pourra lui en dire plus que moi, mais j'ai souhaité informer ma bonne Parente de c'est qui s'est passé dans mes environs.

Il y-a longtems que j'ai souhaité vous demander comment l'on fait la gelée de pomme, vous serez sans doute surprise d'un pareille demande, mais je vous assure que personne ici ne scave la faire et meme n'en ont jamais entendue parler, et comme mon tres cher mari a qu'on appelle en Anglois une *liquorish tooth*, je souhaite lui remplir cette dent de quellque chose de bon, il parle souvant de cette excellente jelee de pomme et a chaque fois quil la mentione, je regrette ne scavoir pas la faire, je vous prie donc ma chere mere de m'instruire de ce secret par le premier occasion apres avoir recue celle ci, cette a dire si les Francois permettre a cette lettre de vous atteindre.

Pour l'information de ma chere Soeur Therese je prend la liberté d'employer un peu de votre papier en donnant une description des modes. les cheveux sont coiffé comme a l'ordinaire devant en petites boucles mais derriere au lieu d'être relevé ils sont ballins. les chapeaux sont d'une grandeur surprenante, la facon de les garnir est de mettre un morceau de ruban uniment alentour de la forme, est une boucle avec des bouts pendants au coté gauche, une ou deux plumes d'autriche d'aucune couleur que sa soit arrangé dans le devant du chapeau est tout a fait le *ton* ils sont porté toute a fait en arriere et rabbatue a chaque coté par un mouchoir de gauze ou muslin, ou meme un morceau de ruban le meme que celui sur le chapeaux pour attacher sur le menton, mais ce mouchoir doit être d'une musline fine et non pas double, et la mode est de l'arranger en plis sur le haut de la forme et faire paroître le coin, qui paroît bien

jolie quand il est brodé, en voici assés pour la tete. parlons presentment du corps, les tailles sont extremement courte, et les mouchoirs mit de facon a bien exposer la potrine, les ceintures sont bien longue et devant ils sont arrangé en plis afin de les faire etroite puisque la largeur de la sash fait la longueur de la taille, les jupons sont fait de facon a trainer derriere comme une robe, mais pas tout a fait si long, les grande manche sont encore le ton, est rien n'est plus vulgaire que de porter des bas de soie qui sont le moindrement bleu, ils doivent etre aussi blanc que la neige, voici la mode, mais je n'avisé pas a ma chere soeur de l'imiter en tout, car ces tailles courtes sont infame et surtout pour des jeunes filles, et les mouchoirs ouverts ne s'accorde pas avec mon idée de modestie, mais j'ai pensé que ma bonne soeur seroit flaté de scavoir comment le monde s'habille presentment. je me propose de lui écrire par la premiere occasion qui se presente.

Mon heureusté fut bien grande ma tres chere mere de voir par les lettres de la Famille que tout chez vous jouissoit d'une si bonne santé, mon bien aimé Pere dit que s'il pouroit se persuader quil nous viroit un jour, il passera son tems avec moins d'ennuye, je vous assure que je l'espere de tout mon coeur, et ne doute pas que nous aurons ce bonheur, mais il est impossible pour nous gens millitaire de dire quand cela sera le cas, car nous obbeissons a la volonté de notre bon Roi, et ne sommes pas absolument maitres de nous memes.

Je me flatte que les *Yankees* ne vous ont pas attaqué, mais il me semble quil viennes a grand pas vers vous, toutes les Nations paroisse embrouillez en quellque Geurre depuis cette Revolution des Francois. je m'emagine souvent voir lever les epaules aux vieux Canadiens quand ils entende parler de la cruauté des Francois, et surtout a Monsieur Buffette qui paroissoit si surpris quand il entendit dire que le pauvre Louis avoit été si maltraité *et quoi dit il ce grand monarque le Roi de la France*, que diroit il donc s'il pouroit etre temoin de ce qui passe chez eux presentment, mais c'est un sujet trop triste pour le continuer, ainsi je le quitte pour dire a ma chere mere que j'ai recue

une lettre peu de jours passé de Capt. Mercer, me marquant que toute sa famille possédoit une bonne santé, et qu'il avoit eu le plaisir de recevoir une lettre de mon cher Pere, datté du dix sept de Mars dernier, a laquelle il se proposoit de repondre par cette occasion.

Quoique je suis seule ma chere Mere mon tems ne se passe pas avec tant d'ennuye comme vous avez bien de croire, sachant que je suis dans un Pays etranger et mon cher Mari absent de moi, et quelle en est la raison je vous l'expliquerai, C'est parceque mon cher Meredith trouve toujours facon de montrer son affection et attention pour moi. je recois de lettres de lui tous les jours, et non pas une demie feuille de papier mais quelquefois aussi pleine que celle ci, il est toujours le meme envers moi remplie d'affection et de bonté, netoit il pas bien aisé pour lui de me loger dans les Casernes il auroit epargné par cela plus de trente pontes par an, non il na pas volue le faire, il a preferai depenser cette argent afin de me placer dans une maison dont je suis la maitresse. je vous dis ma chere mere que mon cher M. est un sans pareille, je pourrois vous parler de lui pour une heure entiere mais mon papier ne le permet pas rendez vous donc heureux mes chers Parens en sachant que votre Archange l'est aussi s'avez la bonté d'embraser mon cher Pere Soeur Therese mes cheres petits freres et soeurs pour moi. faites mes amities au reste de la famille Commodore Grante Cousin Doctr & & sans oublier ma bonne Tante quand Therese ecrie a Niagara elle fera mes amities a mes soeurs la. adieu donc ma tres chere et bonne Mere, et croyez moi votre tres affectionné fille

Archange Meredith

mes compliments a tous mes connaissances je suis obligé aux Domestiques de leurs.

Translation

Woolwich, September 2, 1794

Dearest Mother: I can begin with nothing that gives me more pleasure than to tell you that I have received two

letters, both this month, dated April 16, one from my dear father and the other from my Sister Therese. When I reflect on the risks the vessels run of being taken by the enemy, I cannot but think myself very fortunate in hearing from you so often. I am a little surprised that you did not receive our letters by the express, for we wrote several, pleasing ourselves with the thought that they would reach you at that time. No doubt you received them by the first vessel this spring.

Next I must tell my dear mother that I am still a widow, until November. My dear Meredith left Woolwich to go to camp June 23rd. He is at Warley, in Essex, a place directly facing the front windows of my house. It is not very far from here, only half a day's journey, but the unpleasant thing is being separated. Then I remember that I am the wife of a warrior and that thought makes me as gay as a lark and keeps me from worrying over all the little troubles of life everyone must have.

Before leaving, my dear husband passed through a most dangerous illness which lasted a week. I was very anxious all the time but dared not appear so before him. Thank God he is now completely restored and I am happy. Our dear children are also in perfect health. David is not yet strong enough to walk although he is sixteen months old, but that is not surprising as he has been brought up on cow's milk, a great disadvantage to an infant. He has several teeth, and though it should not come from me, still I may say he is a pretty child. Anne grows more amusing every day. Everyone who sees her says that she resembles me. I am no judge of that. It seems to me that I told you that I had a miniature of my dear husband. I keep it in a chest with my best clothes and every time I open that chest she runs begging me to let her kiss her dear father's picture, and after caressing it, she gives it back to me to lock away. I can talk about them to my dearly beloved mother with confidence. Is it not natural for us to be proud of such little acts of our children? My heart tells me it is, for I feel a happiness in following the thoughts of that dear girl.

I must beg you to assure Cousin Wright of the joy I experienced when I knew she was safely delivered. She will have received a letter from me that I wrote by Mr. Leith. It is a great comfort when the eldest is a girl, for as soon as they are a little grown they are such amusing company for the mother, and if the father is absent, time does not pass so heavily as when one is all alone.

As for news, I have none to communicate. You have no doubt heard of the brilliant victory our Admiral, Lord Howe,⁵ achieved over the French fleet the first of June. My dear Meredith was not at Woolwich when the news came. He had received orders to go to a place called Colchester to transact some business. However, as I pride myself on being a good subject, as soon as the sun had set and it became a little dark, I had candles lighted and placed in all the windows of the house, a pretty illumination. I was not long the only one for soon all the neighborhood did the same. We were treated to a display of fireworks not far from us and the sight was truly magnificent. My dear Meredith intends to write to my dear father by this opportunity. He will be able to tell more than I, but I wanted my good mother to know what is going on in my neighborhood.

For a long time I have wanted to ask you how to make apple jelly. You will doubtless be surprised at such a request, but I assure you no one here knows how and never even has heard of it. As my dear husband has what the English call a *sweet tooth*, I want to cram that tooth for him with something good. He often speaks of that delicious apple

⁵ Richard, Earl Howe (born 1726, died 1799) was a brother of Sir William Howe of the army, and like him figured prominently in the American Revolution. Richard Howe was educated at Eton and in 1740 began a naval career which lasted, subject to certain interruptions, practically sixty years. By the capture of the *Alcide* off the mouth of the St. Lawrence in 1755 he opened the naval part of the Seven Years' War. He was a lord of the admiralty, 1762-65, and treasurer of the navy, 1765-70. In 1775 he became vice-admiral and as commander-in-chief of the North American station directed the naval operations in American waters until 1778, when he resigned the command. After a four-year period of retirement he resumed active service in 1782 in which year he became an admiral and effected the relief of Gibraltar. He was created Earl Howe in 1788, commanded the Channel fleet in 1790, and with it won the great victory of June 1, 1794, alluded to in the present letter. *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

jelly, and every time he mentions it, I am sorry that I do not know how to make it. Please, dear Mother, teach me that secret by the first chance you have after receiving this, that is, if the French allow this letter to reach you.

For the information of my dear sister Therese, I take the liberty of using a little of your paper to tell her about the fashions—the hair is usually arranged in little curls in front but at the back, instead of being raised, is rolled into a round knot. Hats are surprisingly large. The way to trim them is to put a piece of ribbon straight all around the crown, with a buckle, and the ends hanging at the left side. One or two ostrich plumes of any color whatever, arranged in the front of the hat, is the height of fashion. They are worn very far back on the head and are drawn down at each side by a handkerchief of gauze or muslin, or even a piece of ribbon the same as that on the hat tied under the chin. But the muslin must be thin and not double. The fashion is to arrange it in folds from the top of the crown and have the corner show, which is very pretty when embroidered. Now that's enough for the head, let us say something about the gowns. The bodice is extremely short, and the neckerchief arranged in a way to show the breast. Sashes are very long and in folds at the front so as to make them narrow, since the width of the sash lengthens the bodice. Skirts are made to trail at the back like a court dress, but not nearly so long. Big sleeves are still in fashion, and there is nothing so vulgar as to see silk stockings the least bit blue. They must be white as snow. Here you have the styles, but I would not advise my dear sister to follow them in everything, for the short bodice is a disgrace and above all for young girls. The open neckerchief does not accord with my idea of modesty, but I thought my good sister would be pleased to know how people dress now. I intend to write to her by the first opportunity that presents itself.

My happiness was very great, dearest Mother, to see by the letters from the family that you all enjoy such good health. My beloved father says that if he could persuade

himself that he would see us some day, it would help to pass the time. I assure you that I hope so with all my heart and there is no doubt but that we shall have that good fortune, but it is impossible for us military people to say when that may be, for we obey the will of our good King, and are not entirely our own masters.

I am glad that the *Yankees* have not made an attack on you, but they appear to be coming your way with great strides. All the nations seem to be embroiled in some war since the French Revolution. I often imagine that I see the old Canadians shrug their shoulders when they hear anyone speak of the cruelty of the French, and especially Mr. Beaufait,⁶ who seemed so surprised when he heard it said that poor Louis had been so abused. "What," said he, "'ce Grand Monarque,' the King of France!" What would he say if he could see what has taken place there now! But it is too sad a subject to continue, so I leave it to tell my dear mother that I received a letter a few days ago from Capt. Mercer, telling me that all the family were in good health, and that he had had the pleasure of a letter from my dear father dated March 17 last, which he intended to answer by this opportunity.

Although I am alone, dear Mother, time does not pass so tediously as you might well believe, knowing me to be in a strange land with my dear husband away from me, and the reason of this I will explain to you. It is because my dear Meredith always finds some way of showing his

⁶ The Beaufaits of Detroit are descended from Luke Beaufait, who married Gabrielle Souriceau and lived on the Island of Ré in the province of Aunis, France. Their son, Louis, born in 1733, migrated to Canada and found his way to Detroit as early as the spring of 1761. On Jan. 22, 1767, he married Mary Teresa Marsac, daughter of Francis Marsac and Teresa Cecilia Campau. They resided at the Northeast Coast of Detroit on land at modern Bellevue Avenue, long known as the Beaufait farm. Mary Teresa Marsac was buried at Detroit, Nov. 20, 1804; Louis Beaufait was buried Jan. 11, 1808. They had four children: Teresa, born in 1768, who married William Groesbeck and (second) Charles Chauvin; Marie Irene, born in 1770, who married Jean B. Rivard; Louis, born in 1773, who married Marie Louise Saucier; and Elizabeth, born in 1778, who married Joseph Serré dit St. Jean.

Louis Beaufait was a man of considerable prominence in the early American period, being justice of the peace, one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and an officer of militia. Information adapted from Denissen, *op. cit.*, and Burton, *City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, II, 1355-56.

affection and attention for me. I have letters from him every day, and not just a half sheet of paper, but sometimes as full as this. He is always the same to me, full of love and kindness. Would it not have been much easier for him to have put me in lodgings in the barracks where he would have saved more than £30 a year? No, he would not do that. He would rather pay more so that I may be in a house where I am mistress. I tell you, my dear Mother, my dear M. is without an equal. I could talk to you of him for another whole hour but my paper does not permit me. Be happy then, dear parents, in knowing that your Archange is also happy. Have the kindness to embrace my dear father, sister Therese, my dear little brothers and sisters, for me. Remember me to the rest of the family, Commodore Grant, the Doctor Cousin, etc., etc., without forgetting my good Aunt. When Therese writes to Niagara, she will remember me to my sisters there. Adieu, my dearest and best of Mothers and believe me, your most affectionate daughter,
 Archange Meredith

My compliments to all my friends. I am obliged to the servants for theirs.

OBSTACLES TO BUILDING GUNBOATS

Detroit 9th October 1794

Sir This day His Excellence presented to me A letter Commanding me to build Six Gun Boats in the River Thames. Your Honor will be so good as let me Know hough I shall proceed in this difficulty, I think must occur

1st There is no one man like shipwright to be hired to take Charge of the work. If your Honor should see fit to send for me—likewise. If there is two parties the one Cutting timber in the Woods and the other to work at the Boats; I should not [be able] to attend to advantage in carrying on the work. If your Honor will be so good as to let me have one Carpenter out of the ship yard I shall be able to Carry on the work with Zeal.

2nd There is also an agent wanted at this post to pay the men that is employed in Building the Boats as the money

will not be advanced before the vouchers could be sent to Niagara, and the money tra[n]smitted to this post.

I remain your humble Servant

W^m Baker⁷ A.B.

Collonal England Com^d Detroit

Endorsed: Oct 9th 1794 W^m Baker to Col. England

Copy

FROM WILLIAM DUMMER POWELL TO JOHN ASKIN

Mount Dorchester⁸ 13th Oct^r 1794

Dear Sir: When I wrote the few lines from the falls by M^{rs} Graham It was with Intent to prevent your depend^{ce} on my payment to M^r Hamilton in the Course of Sept^r and I hope in my hurry no expression did so little Justice to my Sentiments as hint at any doubt of your liberality and kindness.

The first time I saw M^r H. afterwards I told him the purport of your letter and my [illigible] with the terms of which I appeared well satisfied. We do not as usual receive our Salary when due but upon Certificate which protracts the payment for three Months and is only compensated by being payable in England which makes Bills in Course a prompt payment.

So much for business. I wrote you a long letter before I received your first, and hinted in it the Impression which I imagined our Lt Gov^r had received with respect to Detroit Politicks and which I fear will not add to his popularity there except with the I. D. You are so good as to interest

⁷ William Baker was at this time assistant ship builder in the naval establishment at Detroit. He was a Quaker, and assisted in entertaining the Quaker peace delegation which visited Detroit in 1793. On the evacuation of Detroit by the British, Baker was among the number who elected to retain their British allegiance. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, VIII, 411, XVII, 590, 646, *et passim*.

⁸ Judge Powell had recently left Detroit to take a place as one of the judges of the newly created Court of King's Bench of Upper Canada. The act creating the court required that its sittings be held in the place of usual residence of the governor or lieutenant-governor. This required the removal of Powell from Detroit to Niagara. "Mount Dorchester" was the name he gave to his residence there, in honor of his friend, Lord Dorchester. See Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell*, 82 ff.

yourself with the Ladies to know how we are fixed. I cannot well describe our Accommodations tho' they are very slender. M^{rs} P. has a comfortable Room and an adjoining One for the Children as bed Chambers. I have one large room badly lighted for Study parlour &c^s and there is a tollerable farmers Kitchen, upon the whole such as to unambitious Minds can afford Content tho' at the rate of 43£s for six Months. The Chief reccommendation of the Spot is that it is dry and reputed the most healthy in the Settle^t and adjoins to my own Lots where I am for the present erecting a log House. M^{rs} P. still keeps up but [is] in hourly Expectation of Confineme^t. She acknowledge[s] with thanks the kind attentions of M^{rs} & Miss A. M^{rs} Richardson has not yet been able to get so far to see us, but from him I learn that she is well and happy. I have been but twice at Newark, to open and adjourn the Court of K. B. The latest News from Europe does not promise a speedy Close to the war in Europe, but seems to flatter us with a Continuance of peace in spite of so many Endeavours on all Sides to disturb it. I have myself as little faith in the Success of *Art* in politicks as in private life so am not gratified by the internal Dissensions in the States which appear to have got to a formidable heighth and threaten little less than a civil war. Could I see any true advantage to be acquired fo[r] the Honor and Interest of England or her Colonies by such an Event, I should have some Satisfaction in the prospect but in my present View of things, I think it not impossible that if the State physicians prescribe phlebotomy they may chuse to employ foreign Operators and provoke a Quarrel with us as a Channel for the bad blood which gives them so much uneasiness. All Accounts from Europe hint at an amicable Settlement with the States at the Expençe of [illegible] reperation to be made but the Question of our Frontier does not appear to have been canvassed. Many think that an Idea of Col. Simcoe will be produced, perhaps adopted, of leaving the Indⁿ Territory as at 1763, unoccupied by either party to serve as a perpetual Barrier between us. Such an Event would justly give to our L^t

BURTON HISTORICAL RECORDS

G^r the highest Merit with this province, which would be highly benefited by such an arrangement.

I have been insensibly led into a Subject I am not fitted for by Information or habit. you must excuse me and whatever may be my political Errors be assured that I am very truly

Dear Sir your obliged and Obed^t Serv^t

W^m Dummer Powell

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Mount Dorchester Oct^r 13^h 1794 Judge Powell to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 3^d Dec^r Answ^d y^e 26^h

BLOCKHOUSE TO BE ERECTED AT CHATHAM^o

Fort Miamis. October 20th 1794

Sir Having received His Excellency the Lieu^t Governors directions to proceed to Chatham on the River Thames, there to lay out a Block House to be built by you, previous to your constructing some Gun Boats, I shall be glad to Know what orders you have received respecting the time of your taking your party to that Place, that I may manage to be at Detroit in time to go up with you

I am Sir Your Most Ob^t Servant

R W Adye¹⁰ Lieu^t Roy^l Artillery

M^r Baker, &c &c

Addressed: on His Majestys Service Mr Baker Master Builder Detroit

Copy

MILITIA DETAILS FOR KING'S SHIP

au Detroit le 23 Octobre 1794

Major Parunt

Mons^r Le Capitaine de Batiment Mons^r Fortie attend apres les trois hommes qu Je vous ai pries dordonner de

⁹ Copy made in long hand, at some later date, of original letter whose whereabouts is unknown.

¹⁰ Lieut. Ralph Willet Adye of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

trois Companie dont vous etes le Major quand quelque homme est ordonne un Officer ou un Sergeant doit etre envoye avec pour voir qu'ils soyent rendu au Bord. Je vous prie de voir imediatement que ce trois hommes si trouvent ou d'autre a leur place, est si quelque un ont refusé et que ce furent leur tour d'aller il faut que celui que les ont ordonne vient faire ses raports ou plaints qu'ils soyent punis selon la Loi car il n'est pas permis qu'une Batiment de Roi charge soye arreté faute de Monde ainssi Je vous prie de Mettre ordre a tout cela sans perdue de tems
Jai lhonneur d'Estre Mons Votre tres humble Serviteur
J A L^t Col Commdg of N E. B. M.

Endorsed: Detroit 23^d Octob^r 1794 from L^t Col Askin
to Major Parunt Lassumpson A Copy

Translation

Detroit, October 23, 1794

Major Parent,

Sir: The captain of the vessel, Mr. Fortier,¹¹ is waiting for the three men whom I requested you to summon from the three companies of which you are the Major. Each man so summoned should be accompanied by an officer or a sergeant to see that he goes aboard. I beg you to attend to this immediately, and if the three men, or others in their place, if any of them refuse when it is their turn to go, he who has issued the order should come and report them, so that they may be lawfully punished. A King's vessel, when loaded, should not be delayed on any account. I therefore beg you to give the necessary orders without loss of time.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

Your very humble servant

J[ohn] A[skin] Lt. Col.

Com. N[orth] E[sssex] B[attalion] of M[ilitia]

¹¹ Apparently this was Pierre Michael Fortier, who was a trader and subsequently an officer in the British naval establishment. His great-grandfather, Anthony Fortier, born in 1646, married at Quebec, prior to 1680, Mary Magdelene Cadieu *du* Courville, a native of that place. Pierre Michael, our present subject, was born there June 16,

Endorsed: Detroit, October 23, 1794, from Lt. Col. Askin to Major Parent,¹² Assumption. A copy

PROGRESS OF AFFAIRS IN EUROPE

London 28^h October 1794

Dear Sir: I wrote you 23^d August, since which I have not had a line from Detroit. I wrote you before how uneasy I was at the silence of my brother & requested you as a friend to inform me what he was doing, & of your compliance I can have no doubt. In the mean time I intend to pay you a visit next spring, & as I have never been at New York, I purpose taking that rout. I had before requested your friendly aid in the adjustment of some points relating to our New-copartnership; & on that subject I shall also hear from you no doubt. You will no doubt have been alarmed, if accounts be true that have reached us, of the approach of the American army towards the Miamis. An action is said to have taken place & the victory to be on their side, & that some of your milit[i]a were with the Indians: This last intelligence our ministry do not wish to countenance, as inferring a charge of hostilities on our side; but at all events, it will produce no serious rupture, for our government, whatever other views they may have had, seems det[e]rmined to settle all differences amicably in that quarter so that you may rest assured whether the posts are evacuated or retained it will be all done peacably: I think they will be given up, but not precipitately: our ministry now find they have quite enough on their hands without involving themselves with more enemies. As they disavowed Lord Dorchester's speech to the Indians, as unauthorised, so they will some other acts in your quarter. this ought to teach com-

1753, and married there, on June 4, 1778, Angelica Aubert de Gaspé, daughter of Ignatius Aubert de Gaspé and Mary Ann Coulon de Villier. They had several children, some of whom subsequently resided at Sandwich or Raisin River, and one of whom was baptized at Detroit, Sept. 16, 1794. One son, Charles Fortier, married Catherine Smith of Sandwich, daughter of Thomas Smith, for whom see *ante*, 287.

¹² For the several Parent lines of Canada and Detroit see *ante*, 418. The particular individual to whom the present letter was addressed has not been identified.

manders a lesson of caution. You know I have been in the habit of filling my sheet with the politics of the day. I have no information but what those useful vehicles the public prints afford. I sometimes give you my own remarks. In opinion relative to this direful war I had the misfortune to be in opposition to all my acquaintance, especially those from Canada; and as the spirit of party has, & still is, uncommonly high & bitter, you may conceive I was a good deal roasted: some advised me as a friend to keep my opinions to myself & indeed, in certain companies it was prudent, others used other [arguments?] of personal risk from informers &c but what I was going to say is that my friends are now coming over to my way of thinking pretending that "to be sure people might have seen, & they always thought so & so." here I am at variance with them again, "no no," say I, gentlemen, do not now come round for I will not let you off so." Man is said to be a thinking animal. nothing is more false, for he is the very reverse, being an *unthinking* animal. We now behold Europe deluged with human blood, torn to its foundation, & every kingdom in it on the point of political dissolution, from the *unthinking* conduct of kings, priests, ministers & people. I think since I wrote last no event of importance has happened on the ocean except the capture of one frigate from the French, & a good many ships from us, about sixty or seventy that we already know of. At land, they are literally driving the armies of all Europe before them: those very armies of whose success in the subjugation of France twelve months ago the most certain hopes, were entertained. Last month was marked by a variety of petty battles, but towards the end of it they appeared to have been only as many pre-[ludes?] to the complete defeat of the allied army under General Clairfait who has been driven across the Rhine with the loss of some accounts say ten & some twelve thousand men, artillery stores & a great deal of baggage. The consequence is the whole country from Aix-La Chapelle to Nimeguen with the cities of Cologne Roermond, Bonn, Cleves &c &c &c are now in the hands of France. Maes-

trecht is besieged. On the Dutch frontier they have taken Craevcoeur, Bois le Duc &c &c and are actually penetrating into Holland where terror & confusion reign. They are sending their valuables to this country insurances has been done on property in Amsterdam for a month at 15 percent premium, & some people think that the French will be in possession of it before that time. Our troops under the Duke of York have been constantly retreating & with considerable loss. We heard yesterday the unpleasant news of his having been forced to retreat to Arnheim over the Rhine, but not before the loss of the greater part of the regiment of Bohn, & what is more immediately afflicting the 37 reg^t of foot has been almost all killed or taken in this affair, not more than fifty men & the major having escaped. In the interior of France, from which I have always thought they had most to fear, order & tranquillity seem to gain ground, owing to the firm, & I am happy to add, for the sake of humanity, moderate measures of the convention. I forgot to add that on the side of Italy the Republican troops have in several instances been successful, & on that of Spain taken the strong fortress of Bellegard with five thousand troops & an immense quantity artillery & stores: thus they are in possession of the two keys of that kingdom.

The poles, not satisfied with the new government of the two worthies who have done so much for their happiness, have risen, as if impelled by one soul, & have every where been successful. The king of Prussia was defeated by the brave Coscioski before Warsaw, & instead of subduing it was very glad to reach his own dominions, without waiting for his artillery & baggage, a considerable part of which he has *left* in the *care* of the poles who are, it is said going to use it against some part of his own dominions. Nor has his partner & associate in villany Catherine been much more successful. The fact is they begin now to fear, particularly Austria & Prussia that those new principles as they are called (the love of liberty by the by is old as man) are getting out in some parts of their own dominions.

I beg to be kindly remembered to M^{rs} Askin and all the

rest of your family, to Com^r Grant & his good family, & remain,

Dear Sir, Your very Hb^e Serv^t
William Robertson

N.B. As this will reach you I expect by the winter express I shall be particularly happy to find an answer from you at Montreal by the opening of the navigation giving me such particulars as you may think useful.

Addressed: pr the Eagle Capt Harris John Askin, Esq^r
Detroit Care of Mess^r Todd M^oGill & C^o Merchants
Montreal

Endorsed: Rec^d y^e 15th March & Answ^d y^e 6th of April
1795

AUTHORITY OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mount Dorchester 14 Nov^r 1794

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st Ult^o covering a Note of Costs on a penal Judgement and stating a Question upon the Demand I recvd this day. As the Case is stated as a Magistrate for future guidance I am less scrupulous in offering my opinion than if the reference was merely individual. As I am unacquainted with the Terms of your police regulations since I was in Detroit I cannot speak for the Letter of them, but I know of no general Law which gives you power to create offences and levy the penalties. The ord^o of Justice under which your former regulations were made subjected the recovery of all penalties to Suit in the Common pleas where of Course Costs were given as in an Action of Debt. But I fear on a summary Conviction before a Single Justice out of sessions no Costs were recoverable by any Statute prior to the 14^h of the King which is the Epoch of our criminal Code, altho' I think by a subsequent Statute the 18^h Geo 3^d, some provision is made for Costs in such Cases, but it has not force of Law here

It is a general Rule of Law, that the Jurisdiction of Justices without the Intervention of a Jury being contrary to the provisions of Magna Charta, must de derived from

some Statute and on the same principle, that the Statute which gives the Authority must be rigidly pursued. Therefore in your Case if the Act or ord^o makes no special provision for Costs none can be adjudged. In hazarding this Statement of the Law I am possibly committing an Impropriety should I have misconstrued your letter and you prove a party in lieu of the Justice in the business, for the appeal in all such Cases goes to the *K B.* so that in Justice to me if you are y^e party You will pay the Costs and let the business sleep.

I hear that some new regulation is adopted respect^s the Grant of Lands and that the Boards are *congèdiee* We hear also of a proclamation for restraint of Sale of Rum to Indians in the Ind^a Country. I presume it looks to the Miamies and is the repetition of an old Scheme of Monopoly in which the Legislators are Tools to ye better informed

M^r Hamiltons family were well yesterday; tho' we are neighbours the bad Roads keep [the] Ladies at home. M^{rs} P. has been confined [to] her room for some time past by the birth of a Son. She desires to assure M^{rs} & Miss Askin of her very sincere regards in which she is joined by

Dear sir! Your very Obed^t and humble serv^t

W^m Dummer Powell

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Detroit

Endorsed: Mount Dorchester Nov^r 14^h 1794 W^m D. Powell Esq^r to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 22^d Dec^r Answ^d y^e 26^h