

INTRODUCTION

With the publication in the summer of 1928 of Volume I of *The John Askin Papers*, the Detroit Public Library initiated at once its series of *Burton Historical Records* and its publication of selections from the personal and family papers of John Askin. The present volume, presenting papers for the years 1796-1820 inclusive, completes the latter project. Save for one or two items whose inclusion seemed desirable, the papers printed end with the year of Mr. Askin's death, 1815. The Editor's Introduction to the entire group of papers will be found at the beginning of Volume I, and our present notice need be but brief.

The Editor's forecast (p. 18) that his annotations of the documents were not inerrant has already found positive confirmation through the detection of a considerable number of such errors in the notes to Volume I. That the passage of time and the scrutiny of interested readers will bring to light the existence of other errors in the notes to the present volume is a matter reasonably to be anticipated. All that the Editor would claim for the notes he has supplied is a scrupulous desire to make them as accurate as his resources in time and accessible information permit. It may promote the convenience of readers of *The John Askin Papers* to explain that throughout the two volumes on the first citation of any printed reference, full bibliographical details have been supplied. In later references to the work in question, commonly only an abbreviated citation is given.

Like the leader of an army, the Editor of such a work as *The John Askin Papers* depends for whatever measure of success he may achieve upon the coöperation of numerous fellow-workers, whose aid it is frequently impossible adequately to acknowledge. Our own indebtedness in this respect is evidenced in almost every footnote throughout the volume. The acknowledgment in Volume I of obligation to Clarence M. Burton, to Adam Strohm, Librarian, and to

the Commissioners of the Detroit Public Library applies equally to the present volume; so, too, does the acknowledgement to Mrs. L. Oughtred Woltz for the translations, made with devoted care, of the French documents in the volume. The Editor's secretaries, Ethel Armstrong and Muriel Bernitt, have contributed much intelligent labor to the making of the volume. Separate and particular acknowledgement is owing to my associate in the editorial task, Louise Rau, the sum of whose contribution to the volume I am unable to express in any brief formal statement. In addition to supplying the detailed Index, she has had general charge of practically all the processes of preparing the manuscript for the printer and seeing it through the press. A final word of acknowledgement is due to John Bornman and Son, printers of the two volumes, for their uniformly patient and efficient coöperation in the task of producing books worthy of bearing the imprint of the Detroit Public Library.

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Detroit Public Library