

upon a new and final period of his career. Two factors were decisive of the change he now contemplated. The first we have already dwelt upon—his inability to make ends meet in the Indian trade. The second was of a public nature. In 1796 Detroit, which had been for a generation under British rule, passed into the possession of the American nation. Askin's loyalty to his government was such that he had no desire to live under another flag. In advance of the American occupation, therefore, he resolved to abandon his home and establish a new one on the south side of the river where the British flag still waved. For various reasons the actual removal was delayed until 1802, but in the interval since 1796 Askin seems never to have wavered in his design of removing, and never to have entertained the slightest thought of becoming an American citizen.

Among the pieces of real estate which Askin had turned over to Isaac Todd in the process of discharging his indebtedness to the latter, was a tract in the eastern section of what is now the city of Windsor, opposite the lower end of Belle Isle. This tract Askin fixed upon as the site of his new home and when Todd learned of his desire he graciously presented it to Mrs. Askin. Thither Askin removed in the spring of 1802, naming the place Strabane in memory of his north Irish birthplace. Henceforth he lived the life of a farmer, but even in these later years he engaged in various other activities, shipping ventures on the lakes, brick-making, distilling, and supplying lumber and other materials for the government at Amherstburg and other places. He acted also as agent in charge of the local property interests of Isaac Todd and James McGill, and he was almost continuously engaged in prosecuting his own claims to tracts of land over which he had acquired control during the years of his earlier business career.

Although Askin never achieved any widespread renown he was for half a century, successively at Mackinac and Detroit and on the Canadian side, a man of outstanding influence locally. Herein consists his chief historical significance, for so numerous were his interests and so varied his contacts that almost every aspect of the history of the