

here this Spring & took (with what was sent before) every thing that Mons^r Chaboulliez was to get, except 10 Kegs of Rum & 5 bags of Flour, which shall go with the rum & Flour I'm now sending to Detroit for. I know no person so well off[f] in the North Trade as he is.

Please excuse my not writing M^r M^cGill also by this opportunity. I mean make my excuse to him.

M^{rs} Askin & M^{rs} Robertson presents their best Compliments & beleive me most truly

P S S^t Cir goes off to morrow with the small Canoes & what's here & leaves two larger Canoes to take my rum that's coming by the Grand river

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO JOSEPH FROBISHER⁶⁵
AT GRAND PORTAGE, JUNE 6, 1778

I was Yesterday favoured with your two letters dated the 28th of May last. Your guide⁶⁶ S^t Cir came here last night & proposes setting off to morrow with all the small Canoes he leaves two large ones to take on Board the Rum that's coming up in my Canoes.

I'm sorry to inform you that my conjectures about Provisions being Stopt at Detroit is too true, for my Corrispondant there could not get liberty to Ship an ounce for me except he made Oath that it was for the North Trade & no other, & then he would have had permission to forward my proportion of thirteen thousand, which is the whole of the exports to be allowed, or rather would be allowed at

65 Joseph Frobisher was one of the most noted of the early British traders and explorers in the Northwest. He early penetrated beyond Lake Superior, and in 1774 reached Churchill River. He was one of the founders of the North West Company in 1783, and as here indicated bore a leading part in its administration. Unlike the majority of the partners, who wintered in the interior, Frobisher and Simon McTavish (another partner) acted as agents of the company at Montreal. In 1798 Frobisher retired from active business. See sketch in Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Thirteenth Report*, 182-83.

66 The hierarchy of the North West Company, which was being evolved in this period, comprised the following gradations from above downward: partners, clerks, guides, and canoemen (or voyagers). Davidson characterizes the guides as "a useful and intelligent set of men who also acted in the capacity of interpreters. They had a stated quantity of goods supplied to them, and received from one thousand to three thousand livres in wages." See *The North West Company*, 229. Concerning this particular guide (St. Cir) no information has been found.