

mitted, at Detroit, Manette (or Monette), a slave woman whom he had purchased from M. Bourassa at Mackinac. We have no further record of this woman, but the act of manumission, taken in connection with the chronological relation between the act and the births of Askin's children, suggests that she may have been their mother.

However this may be, there is no slightest room for doubt that Askin ever regarded the children as legally his own, and discharged for them the complete obligation of a tender and loving parent. All were educated, in so far as lay within his power, reared to civilization, and all contracted honorable marriage unions, one with a member of a French family of Detroit, one with an army officer, and one with a lake captain and (second) with one of the foremost merchants of Canada. Whether Askin's union with the mother was terminated by her death or by a voluntary separation is now unknown; but the known facts concerning Askin's character during his long career are such as to give assurance that his treatment of her was both honorable and kind, judged by the standards of his time and environment.

The commercial relations of Mackinac and Detroit were very close in the period we are dealing with, and Askin, while living at Mackinac, must have paid rather frequent visits to Detroit. One such visit was made in the spring of 1772, when on June 21 he was married here to Marie Archange Barthe, member of an early French family of Detroit. She outlived him several years, dying in 1820. She was French and Catholic; he was of Scotch blood and with no religious connection. By the union Askin, already affiliated with the native race, entered into close relationship with the French element of Detroit. Such an alliance was highly conducive to the furtherance of his social and commercial influence, although we do not mean to suggest that the marriage was dictated by such a motive. Like most of the old French families, the Barthe family was a prolific one, with widespread local connections. One of Mrs. Askin's sisters married Captain Daniel Mercer of the British army, and another Alexander Grant, the "Com-