

I have attended to your order in the matter of changing the accounts of Machard & Co., and wrote Mr. Barthe at the Sault on the subject of that debt. Now I am waiting until they come here to arrange what is still unsettled of their affairs.

Referring to the note of Hypolyte Chaboillez, I cannot promise you that I shall be able to get payment from him. For one thing, he is below and the Major has taken possession of his packs. You know why. However, I do not think they will be held up. I fancy they will be returned to him below, though I still hope to be allowed to take some out here and therefore am not returning you his note with this.

Mrs. Askin begs you to have a gold thimble made for her the same size as that you so kindly sent her before, but much stronger on the edge, the other being broken already in several places. Both Mrs. Askin and Mrs. Robertson, and myself, of course, beg you to present our respects to your wife.

Believe me sincerely

Since writing the above it has been possible for me to take from the canoes of Hypolyte Chaboillez the value of 200 livres in beaver and 20 otters good and bad, not in payment but as security. I was even obliged to sign a statement to the effect that these peltries will be returned to him below, when he has paid the amount of the note. Foolish arrangement, but one must do all sorts of things to extract payment. The rest of this gentleman's peltries are going down now, so try to get what you think he should return to you on the note after what I tell you should be deducted.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO RICHARD DOBIE
AT MONTREAL, JUNE 15, 1778

I was favoured with your letter by Mr W^m Grant⁷⁵ the

⁷⁵ William Grant was one of the early British traders in the Northwest. He seems to have operated in Wisconsin and the upper Mississippi region quite extensively, and it is possible that Grant River in southwestern Wisconsin (from which Grant