

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. TODD AND MCGILL AT
MONTREAL, JUNE 22, 1778

My Canoes are now arrived & have brought every thing in good order & agreeable to the invoice, except in Bale N^o 7 a small white Shirt in lieu of a large one Ruffled, Bale N^o 3 wants a Shirt of Russia Sheeting, a pair of Russia Trousars & a pair of oxbide Shoes, N^o 4 also wants a Shirt of Russia Sheeting.

The things from England are really well choose & please me much, however a fiddle which I had mentioned in that memord^m is left out, & tho' such an omition can be of no consiquence to persons who can supply the want at the next Shop, it is so different here, that I would not for ten Guineas it had not come, please purchase one for me at Montreal without fail, let the price be about £6 Hallifax. I sent you a memord^m this Spring in which a fiddle was mentioned, that one is also to come, its for an other person, please not to forget a quantity of strings with the fiddles.

I approve much of your plan of forwarding rum as soon as you receive it, no matter what Quantity if it gets on, for except I have it here beforehand, I will not make any more positive contracts, the freight of what came in my Canoes will I dare say cost as much as I get for the whole Rum, but this is not what gives me the greatest uneasyness it's the fear of the NW. C^o not receiving the whole of their Quantity in time, during these troubles I know of no other way of contracting with them, but fixing a price on what of the rum comes by the Lakes & letting them have that by the Grand River at first cost & Expences (I want no profit on it) they must allow me Commissions for purchasing their Corn, flour &c^a for the Bushell of Corn this Year costs me 32/ & I furnished it for 24/ I received my Shirts by M^r Solomon who arrived here in eighteen Days

I have no time at present to examine the Accounts, but shall so soon as [I am] more at leisure. I intend sending off my Canoes in about ten days time, I cannot [write more?], there is above three hundred Warriors going down.