

Yards of fine white Cloth, which with Sutable trimmings please send me by the very first oppertunity, hardly any person will refuse to embark so small a Bundle on being paid for so doing, the kind of Buttons I would choose is plain double gilt with Eyes if to be had, if not with Ivory bottoms, but eyes answers best as they can be taken off when washing The want of Breeches makes me dwell so long on the Subject, in order to insure their comeing

I am &c^a

per Campau

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. PORTEOUS⁸¹ AND
SUTHERLAND AT MONTREAL, JUNE 23, 1778

I was favoured with your letter bearing date the 1st of May by M^r Holmes, the Provisions you mention I received & delivered agreeable to your desire, what little service I am capable of I have at [and] will at all times rendre Mess^{rs} Holmes & Grant, who from my small acquaintance with them are very deserving young men & I dare say will succeed in the business they have undertaken, their letter to you which I send with this will more fully inform you of what they have done.

I am with esteem &c^a

per Campau

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO ALEXANDER HENRY AT
MONTREAL, JUNE 23, 1778

I suppose by this time you are returned from England⁸²

⁸¹ John Porteous was a prominent merchant of Montreal in the Revolutionary period. He was a signer, Jan. 10, 1774, of the petition to the Crown for the establishment of a representative assembly in Quebec Province, and in this connection has been characterized as one of the "most loyal, sterling, and moderate persons in the community." See *Canada and Its Provinces* (Toronto, 1914), XV, 142. On Oct. 4, 1771, he married Josephite Drouet de Carqueville and to them several children were born. He died, June 13, 1782, and in 1785, James McGill became guardian of his children. See *Canadian Archives Report* for 1885, lxxxi ff.; *ibid* for 1889, xvi.

⁸² In the summer of 1776, Henry had returned to Montreal from his fifteen-year sojourn in the wilderness, and that place remained his home thenceforth until his death in 1824. In the latter part of the year 1776 he had gone to England; apparently this was Askin's first letter to him after his return to Canada.