

appersu de mon Erreur et je le recasté Sans avoir lut un Seul mot je vous assure [Madame] akin vous fait Bien des Compliment je suis Monsieur votre tres h'eumle Et tres oBeissante Serviteur

Et soyez asurez Mons^r que j'ai linclinations de vous servir ils est vrais que je ne persuivray personne En justis j'ai paire plus pour moi même mais ceux qui ont dequoi je ferai payez sans Cela

Translation

Michilimackinac, June 30, 1778

Sir: I had yesterday the pleasure of receiving your letter dated the 21st inst. Your representation of the affair between Gaudin and La Belle seems clear enough, but as the decision does not rest with me, my opinion has no more weight than any other. The Commandant himself, by a council of the traders, decides in all matters of dispute that may arise here.⁸⁶ Therefore, your quickest plan will be to come here with Mr. Gaudin. Yesterday evening I received a letter from Madam, your wife. At first, seeing it addressed to me, I was breaking open the seal, but at the same moment I noticed my error and resealed it without, I assure you, having read a single word. [Mrs.] Askin presents her compliments. I am, Sir,

Your very humble and very obedient servant.

And be assured, Sir, that I have every inclination to serve you. It is true, I do not prosecute people. I might have more paid for myself, but with those who have the means, I manage without that.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. MCGILL AND FROBISHER AT
GRAND PORTAGE, JUNE 30, 1778

My Vessell from Detroit is arrived this morning, but

⁸⁶ This refers to the agreement for the operation of the general store which was established at the instigation of Major De Peyster. Article 7 of the agreement provided that disputes which might arise between traders should be determined by the commandant and six other persons named by majority vote of the subscribers. For the agreement see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, X, 305-307.