

I have taken in here, as part payment on the note Hypolyte Chaboillez owes you, two hundred and fifty-six pounds of beaver, English weight, and sixteen bad otters. That is all I could get out of him here. I sent you his note several days ago. You must try to have him pay the rest. Messrs. Machard & Co. arrived yesterday. I spoke to them today on the subject of your note and the other debts and they assured me that as soon as they had arranged for their peltries they would have me paid by the people who got the skins. What I received from Messrs. Hypolyte Chaboillez & Co. I am sending in my canoes tomorrow morning, made up in three packs marked P R and numbered 1, 2, and 3. There is so much noise in the house I do not know what I am writing to you. Mrs. Askin presents her best compliments to you and to Mrs. Perinault. Kitty is at Detroit with her husband.

Since I wrote the above and without saying a word to me Messrs. Machard & Co. have sold their peltries to Mr. Joseph Sanguinet. That means that I should be obliged to take his note in payment and I consider it would be better to keep the one I have, seeing that it is endorsed by him and signed for Machard & Co. For the remainder of what he owes you I shall take another note.

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. TODD AND MCGILL
AT MONTREAL, JULY 3, 1778

I here inclose you an Acc^t of 42 Packs the contents of each pack seperately, the amount of the whole in their supposed value amounting to 10303 Livers or ancient Shillings⁹² the guides were present when each pack was made up & seen their contents. There is three packs also belonging to M^r Dobie & 3 of M^r Perinaults, the Acc^t of which I send them, the Guides also were present when they were made up, as to Six for M^r Alex^r Ellis⁹³ & 54 which

⁹² The nominal value of the livre was twenty sous. The phrase "ancient shillings" signifies that for the purpose of the present contract there is to be no diminution of this valuation.

⁹³ Alexander Ellice, born at Knockleith, Scotland, in 1743, came to America about