

Signed our names at Detroit this 11 of April 1786.

John Askin

John Cornwall

Endorsed: Detroit April the 11th 1786 Agreem^t with
M^r Jn^o Cornwall N^o 11

NEWS OF THE FUR TRADE

Montreal 12 April 1786

Dear Askin I must not let the first opportunity of the Spring slip over without my personal Respects & I hope they will find you well in your health & a fair prospect of plentiful Returns from the Indian Country.

The House having wrote you on business, leaves me nothing further to say on that head than to conjure you by every tie of friendship to leave no stone unturned in order to make remittances, for on this Summer depends our own existence as men of Character & Credit. The very scanty payments we made last year, has left us indebted with our friends in England so largely that Todd writes me he was under the necessity of relinquishing every Scheme of business except the shipping a few dry Goods & some Rum, being afraid to run further in debt & perhaps even meet with a refusal of further Credit. This situation I need not tell you the cause, least it should have an appearance of reproach, your own feelings will dictate what must be mine. I have no occasion to say more than that I depend confidently on your acting in consequence. Do not suppose that, because I have been complaining for years past, the necessity is not greater than it was the case is much altered—a bad trade here, a scarcity of money & near double the sum owing us from above, but why should I detain you with this exposition of affairs, knowing that you will leave nothing undone that may be in your power to accomplish. I forsee & know that very few goods will be sent to Detroit this Season & it might have been a good year to push, but it is out of our power, therefore I advise you to husband well your dry Goods & if you order any that you may be as sparing as possible. Michilimakinac will be greatly over-