

FROM JOHN HECKENWELDER TO JOHN ASKIN

River Huron Ap^r 13th 1786

Dear sir, I have got William and several others the owners of the seven petiagers³⁰ to take them down to You, and likewise some of the Women will send Hulling baskets with them. The Indians who have Petiagers to sell, are all in Debt and chiefly their Debts are old; but they are desirous of paying every body they owe before they leave the place, and for that reason have desired me to beg of You to assist them. There is no one remaining in Debt to me for You, except the three in the Account, which You are to take out of the petiagers. Will^m will enquire of them and inform You who they are in Deb^t to. We want and ought to be away from this place in the course of next Week, and chiefly on account of those People who are to settle here, and must have houses to go in. I must detain the remaining seven new Petiagers untill the Vessel arrives and is Loaded, and then immediately We intend to push off. I am glad to hear that my Letter answers the purpose, and that You find good People to live on Your Land. I think in a few Years time it will be a fine Settlement, but then You will have to get a Mill built, which will be still a greater encouragement towards settling. M^r Cornwell assures me he will do the best he can for You, and tells me the Land is to be laid out in Lotts very soon, which I think very needful. I am informed as I believed and told M^r Tracy: that there is no 13 Mile Tree to be found on the Road. So that the Road is one Mile shorter than We expected. I hope You have got the Seeds I sent You by M^r Dolson. Mr. Cornwell thinks it will not be amiss if he keeps the Powder and Shott yet remaining here.

I am Dear Sir, Your most Obed^t Humb^o Serv^t

John Heckenwelder.

Addressed: M^r John Askin Merch^t at Detroit

³⁰ A petiager (variously spelled) was a boat made from a tree trunk, hollowed out, which was often provided with a plank bottom, the trunk being split in halves, each of which was made to serve as one side of the boat.