

I am sending my power of attorney to Mr. George Sharp.<sup>65</sup> He will communicate with you.

## INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 20 December 1786

Mr John Askin

Dear Sir Our last Respects were of the 29 October and by the Express for Niagara which will leave this in a few days we are to answer your favors as well to the House as to either of us individually on business, of the 27 Sept<sup>r</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of October and of the 3<sup>d</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> November. After what we have so often wrote you on the Subject of our distresses occasioned largely by our heavy, very heavy advances to you, we had not the slightest Idea that we were still to go on increasing your Account; it would seem however that our expectations were not well grounded and we now see it increased above that of last year altho' we have only supplied you this last Season with Goods to half the amount of the preceeding year. For once more we have nevertheless resorted to honor your different drafts or requests of transferring over the Accounts of others who

65 George Sharp was a prominent trader of Detroit and the Northwest in the period subsequent to the Revolution. In 1784-85 he traveled as far as Nashville, Tenn., and on his return to Detroit made a report of his observations to Governor Hay. In 1786 he was in the South West Company. About this time he became agent for the Miamis Company and centered his activities on the Maumee-Wabash region. In 1789 he was at Miamitown and when in the autumn of 1790 Harmar's army destroyed the place, he withdrew to the mouth of the Glaize (modern Defiance, Ohio), where he was in 1792. Probably on account of General Wayne's advance, he was located at Detroit two years later, where in 1795 he was serving as justice of the peace. He was a friend of Askin, who desired him to locate near him on the British side, but Sharp seems to have gone abroad in search of more attractive surroundings. On Jan. 1, 1799, he writes from Montreal that since leaving Detroit he has visited most of both provinces (Upper and Lower Canada) but has found no situation superior to Detroit, and few equal to it. About this time the new North West Company was being formed and letters of Sharp and Alexander Henry to Askin disclose that Sharp was to act as its principal representative at Grand Portage, for which place he was to depart in the spring of 1799. Whether he did so or not has not been learned. He was at Montreal again the following winter, where he died, Jan. 17, 1800, after a brief illness. In reporting the event to Solomon Sibley, Jonathan Schieffelin writes: "I need not expatiate on his merits. They were too well known to need any encomiums. Suffice that all who knew his virtues lament his loss!" Information compiled from mss. in Burton Hist. Coll., *passim*. Some of Sharp's letters are printed in the *Indiana Quarterly Magazine of History*, V, 137 ff. See, also, *Mich. Pio. Colls.* XIX, 280, 291, and Journal of Henry Hay.