

Share in the Miamis Company⁶⁷ was near to £10,000 yk—we most heartily wish you may have returns for it—this perhaps cannot be expected the year ensuing, but we have strong hopes that with your other affairs the least we shall receive of nett payment will be £15000 yk. In looking over the State of them brought down by our I.T. [Isaac Todd] we observe a Sum of £3000 supposed with W.R. [William Robertson]. As this is an object of considerable consequence and as it is probable that next year we may fall into his debt we should be happy that matters could be so settled as to transfer so much from your to his Account in our Books not only as it would Accomodate all Parties, but because we think it highly necessary in justice to yourself to your Family and Connections that your Concerns with him should be well & clearly understood—we have no reason to suppose there will be any difficulty in settling them, but be assured, we know from experience that a time of success is the best in the world to bring to certainty any matters which are in suspense and that the longer they are put off the more unwilling to speak of them, till, finally circumstances are forgot & disputes arise to the disquiet of all & probably the loss of Friendship & Confidence as well as property. In offering you this advice you cannot suppose us as other [than] disinterested, you know we have too much at Stake, we feel that we do not think it improper to urge the matter and we trust that you may lose no time in getting the business fixed so as to admitt of no doubts or difficulties.

Another matter we must take the liberty of recommending to your most serious consideration & that is the large

67 The Miamis Company, organized in 1786, was composed of six leading Detroit merchants or firms: John Askin, Leith and Shepherd, James Abbott, Angus McIntosh, Meldrum and Park, and Sharp and Wallace. Its field of operations was the Maumee and Wabash river regions. Askin kept the accounts and made up the outfits for the individual traders at the different settlements. These included Joseph Guilbaut at Sandusky, Adhémar St. Martin at Miamitown, and Paul Gamelin at Vincennes; subagents who fitted out minor equipments for small traders were Francis Vigo, Gabriel Hunot, and Louis Lorimier. The ventures of the company proved unprofitable, and its operations continued for only a few years. There remained an inheritance of conflicting claims and legal proceedings which lasted many years and which fill a considerable part of the Askin Papers. Many of the records of the Miamis Company are preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll.