

FROM JOHN BURNET TO JOHN ASKIN

Plymouth 6th March 87

My Dear Sir It seems to me a long while since I had any communication with my friends at Detroit. I hope they will do me more justice than to suppose this proceeds on my side from any want of regard to those with whom I passed so many happy days—and my pride will not let me suppose I am forgotten by the friends I so much esteem—even if I had any thing worth your paying postage for it was not the Season to get a letter to Detroit.

I have not heard from you since the letter wherein you express yourself so kindly with respect to the Ballance between us—it has cost me many a painful thought that my circumstances and situation is so changed as to be hard run for such a small sum—yet small as it is I am grieved it is still unpaid—but I have for some time felt myself much relieved by recollecting that M^r Laughton never accounted to me or you for all the time Paddy Edgar was employed as a Sawyer in the Yard.

The books must alwise be forth coming. I therefore authorize you to demand the same from his first employment which was in the month of December & to give receipt to M^r Laughton for the wages he pays you, which will over Ballance my account with you, and which he cannot withhold—this relieves my mind on that score.

I am so far removed from all intelligence that I know not what passes in your part of the World. I hope the return of the Spring Vessels will let us know that you & your worthy Rib & Children are well, & that you all passed your Winter happily. We have had you all Burnt, swallowed by Earthquake, Attacked & taken by the Americans, &c &c but I have no fears, doubts or difficulties in believing it all false and that you are all alive and well as my most sanguine wishes could make you.