

FROM WILLIAM ROBERTSON TO JOHN ASKIN

London 8th August 1792

Dear Sir, By the spring ships I had the pleasure of addressing you, and as the Nancy Paterson sails hence tomorrow, altho' I have had no letter from you, I cannot let her depart without a few lines. Indeed I have been very unlucky in that respect, for I have not had a line from any body in your quarter, not even my brother, since last autumn! I however hope you are all well, & had once some thoughts of coming out this fall to be convinced of it, but that will not take place till next spring, if even then; for I do not like to be locked up in a fort after breathing the air of freedom so long. I send my brother the papers by this opportunity, & by them you will see we are likely to have a general war in Europe, and that for the *good* of one another mankind are to cut one anothers throats! Russia has attacked Poland because they have with one consent established a better government than they had before: & the *honest* King of Prussia does not find it convenient to keep his *royal* & *sacred* word by supporting them, according to treaty; because he is going to help Austria to knock all the French on the head, as they have now *too much* liberty, & will not be made *happy* but in their own way. To aid in this *pious* & *royal* work, these two worthies, having only about two hundred & fifty thousand men, & fearing that would be too few for such honourable work, Sardinia adds fifty thousand more, & *good* old Catherine, affords a reinforcement of eighteen thousand for her share. This mighty host, under the command of his *serene* highness the duke of Brunswick, now on the Rhine, enter France this month. To this they object, & have on their frontier from Baril to Laydon in camps & garrisons about two hundred thousand troops of the line. they have about three hundred thousand national guards. the conflict must be dreadful: the Austrians & Prussians are said to be well disciplined, & there can be no doubt of the French troops zeal, or rather enthusiasm in the cause of liberty; but in subordination they are wanting. The consequence of this struggle to future gener-