

tion of the King, which happened at Paris 24th of this month is an act condemned by the laws of justice, humanity & sound policy! All the powers of Europe who were before neutral, seem now arming to attack them, & we expect every day hostilities will commence between them & us. what the event may be no human eye can penetrate. to this country, loss of trade & increased taxation are certain, but what else, time only can unfold. To the staple of Canada, little less than destruction; for the prospect of war here, added to the effect that on the continent it had before produced, will in all probability lower furs at least twenty or thirty percent: The Hudson's Bay Beaver, which last year (*the fine*) sold for 19/ & 20/, sold the other day for 13/ a[nd] 15/, & so on of the rest! Deer skins however will suffer very little if any diminution of last year's prices.

I shall attend to your orders, as well as to the purchasing of a lottery ticket, so that you may be once again within the pale of fortune: if I buy you a large prize, I expect five percent commission, brokerage &c &c & I hope to have it in my power to state such an account. M^r & M^{rs} Meredith were very well. we dined (M^r Leith, A Todd & myself) [with them] a few days ago. I beg my most sincere respects to M^{rs} A, Miss Therese & all the family, Com^r [Grant] & his & am, Dear Sir,

Your friend & humble servant,

William Robertson

J. Askin Esq^r

P. S. Febr^y 2. The Deerskin sale is now over, & I am sorry to find, even *they* have fallen short of expectation as you will learn, when you know yours average only 4/10. what may be the consequence to furs, I fear almost to surmise, for the prospect is every day more alarming. I have just got a letter from Capt Mercer, he was pretty well after an attack from the gout. M^{rs} M & the young ladies very well, but not particularly fond of Dublin

Addressed: John Askin, Esq^r Merchant, Detroit p^r M^r Innes⁸

⁸ Robert Innis, whose coming to America is accounted for in the present letter,