

restore royalty & establish order. we have just heard, that finding he could not depend on his troops for this purpose he has deserted to the enemy with a squadron of horse. What effects this may have produced in Paris we are not yet informed, but I fear most horrid carnage will be the result. When the distractions, or how, of that devoted country will end God only knows, & I fear by their violence they have lost the fairest opportunity of establishing a free government that ever was within the reach of any people ancient or modern!

Capt. Mercer & his family are at Uxbridge. they were very well a day or two ago, as were M^r & M^{rs} Meredith, from all of whom you will no doubt hear by this opportunity.

I beg my compliments & best wishes to Com^r Grant & family, to M^{rs} Askin & all the rest of your family, & believe me,

Dear Sir, Your very humble servant

William Robertson

J. Askin Esq^r

P.S. Ap^l 27th The detention of the ships at Portsmouth for convoy gives me an opportunity of filling up the sheet. Since the 10th little else has taken place but failures & bankruptcies. they are now so numerous, & of such magnitude that ministry seem alarmed & are going to submit a plan to Parliament for issuing four millions of exchequer bills to assist such houses as have actually property but from the present great scarcity of money cannot convert it into cash. Many are sanguine in their expectations that this will relieve the evil that now oppresses & threatens general ruin to trade, but I do not think it. It is singular to see the minister, after borrowing six millions to carry on the war, going to lend four, when he himself must soon want other six! In the mean time troops are embarking to assist our allies to "subdue the French & bring them to reason, & to establish order in that devoted country"! The French are so far from feeling the obligation that they are preparing to resist with all their power. The defection of Dumourier did not [as] was expected & reported, produce any tumult