

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 10 January 1794

Dear Askin I am your Debtor for more Letters than used to be the Case but as most of them are on business & chiefly answered by me from the House I hope you will excuse me if I have not written you oftener personally

Now that the business of the year appears closed, it is most painful to observe that your remittances of this Season are far short of the Goods sent you in 1793 the former was much worse, in so much that in the two years it appears to me that you fall short nearly if not fully £4000 Currency exclusive of accumulating Interest; Such heavy disappointments have brought your Friend Todd & me into a most unpleasant situation & what is finally to be the result I know not for we must take upon ourselves whatever you may fall short to the Company, if therefore you have for us that regard & friendship which I never doubted, you will assuredly see the necessity of making every possible exertion to prevent us from being the greatest Sufferers that can probably be instanced in Trade to your part of the world. unwilling to wound your feelings further I shall not add on this very painful Subject

The Receipt you sent for 92000^{lb} of flour came very opportunely & saved the agents from heavy reflections that would have fallen upon them & us from the Effects of a Bond that might have become forfeited. That you & Mr Robertson did all that could be done I doubt not, but in engagements with Government no excuses however equitable in appearance to you & me individually will answer them, if you undertake you must fulfill, let me therefore entreat that you never lose sight of this rule least you should involve yourself & injure your Friends. I hope & depend that by first opportunity from your place a voucher for remainder of the Flour will appear