

I had requested you to send your account against M^r Bentley but you have not yet done it, at least it has not come to hand. you have not sent a State of your affairs as you intended, I wish you to do it by first vessell in the Spring distinguishing that which may be relied upon from what is bad.

Our latest advices from England are of the 18 September by private Letter & of 3^d October by newspapers and it seems to be the general opinion that the Posts will be given up but that the Indian Trade will be free within the American line to us & within our line to them, but whither the delivery will be immediate or at some distance is not so clear yet it is rather thought that two to three years will be reserved. Taking things in that point of view as the Trade must of course be more divided it seems natural to suppose that the Indian part will fall off not a little & become insecure, but it may possibly happen that an influx of new Settlers will raise the value of fixed property & that the Trade which you call Christian may augment, but in the mean time I would advise getting in Debts & prosecuting for them without delay for there can be little doubt that before the new Comers establish & organize Courts of Justice, some time must elapse and when that is done it is highly probable that property will rise greatly in value. Such is my way of thinking which I mean for yourself alone & would not therefore wish to go abroad as my opinion.

To morrow I propose setting out on my public duty to Quebec where I fancy my Stay will be protracted untill April if not to May. If such Employments conferr honor they are dearly paid for by those who have families, I have indeed none of my own; but three Girls, of whom two [are] marriageable, whom I have brought up put me in mind that if I am not called upon by ties of consanguinity to befriend them, the obligation to it is not less binding since it was voluntary. I beg of you to assure M^{rs} Askin & your family of M^{rs} McGills & my best respects & believe me

Dear Askin Your sincere Friend
James McGill

John Askin Esq^r