

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: recv^d y^e 15^h & Answ^d y^e 29^h March, 95

PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN EUROPE

London 10th February 1794

Dear Sir:

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Since I wrote last there has no event of very great magnitude occurred. His Majesty in his Speech to both houses of parliament recommended pursuing the war with vigour, & they have taken measures for that purpose by voting an augmentation to our forces by sea & land. They have borrowed 11 Millions & upon what are called good terms. the revenue has fallen nearly three millions below that of the preceding year. our income is therefore now only about 13 millions & a half, & our expenditure about twenty six! On the continent all is war. The recapture of Toulon has been followed by victory every where. The rebellion in La Vandee (on the banks of the Loire) is entirely subdued, the Austrians & prussians completely defeated on the Rhine, & the French laying every thing waste in that unhappy quarter. Their army opposed to that of Cobourg's in the neighbourhood of Valenciennes has remaind rather quiet for these last six weeks, but not without receiving very large reinforcements, & as soon as the weather permits we expect to hear of a general action taking place in that quarter, which will assuredly be a very bloody one as the French have 170,000 men there. They are making such preparations as are altogether astonishing: they have 15 foundaries established which work incessantly, & cast 1100 pieces of cannon a month; at Paris alone they make 680 muskets a day. they have 24 million pounds of gunpowder ready with adequate stores for the ensuing campaign: Of their naval operations we have felt the effects: notwithstanding our boasted superiority at sea, they have had three ships of the line & several frigates cruising off Ireland which have within the last month taken & sent into the ports of France twenty-two sail of ships: they had six frigates