

rest of your family, to Com^r Grant & his good family, & remain,

Dear Sir, Your very Hb^e Serv^t
William Robertson

N.B. As this will reach you I expect by the winter express I shall be particularly happy to find an answer from you at Montreal by the opening of the navigation giving me such particulars as you may think useful.

Addressed: pr the Eagle Capt Harris John Askin, Esq^r
Detroit Care of Mess^r Todd McGill & C^o Merchants
Montreal

Endorsed: Rec^d y^e 15th March & Answ^d y^e 6th of April
1795

AUTHORITY OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Mount Dorchester 14 Nov^r 1794

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 21st Ult^o covering a Note of Costs on a penal Judgement and stating a Question upon the Demand I recvd this day. As the Case is stated as a Magistrate for future guidance I am less scrupulous in offering my opinion than if the reference was merely individual. As I am unacquainted with the Terms of your police regulations since I was in Detroit I cannot speak for the Letter of them, but I know of no general Law which gives you power to create offences and levy the penalties. The ord^{ce} of Justice under which your former regulations were made subjected the recovery of all penalties to Suit in the Common pleas where of Cource Costs were given as in an Action of Debt. But I fear on a summary Conviction before a Single Justice out of sessions no Costs were recoverable by any Statute prior to the 14^h of the King which is the Epoch of our criminal Code, altho' I think by a subsequent Statute the 18^h Geo 3^d, some provision is made for Costs in such Cases, but it has not force of Law here

It is a general Rule of Law, that the Jurisdiction of Justices without the Intervention of a Jury being contrary to the provisions of Magna Charta, must de derived from