

so near London. The war has a very bad effect on the purse for everything is much dearer now than a year ago, especially bread, which has been enormously high, but it is not really quite so dear now.

On the subject of the war I have nothing pleasant to tell you, unless it is the hope we have of peace before long. Several speak of this as possible in the near future. However, we have a strong force ready to sail for the Islands about the middle of the month. I wish them success but should not like to be in their place. The climate is very bad for anyone not born on the Islands.

I am glad to see that my little sister Adelaide²⁶ writes so well. Please tell her that I thank her for the nice French letter she sent me. It is a good beginning and shows that she takes pleasure in her studies. My dear little Anne is growing finely. She is very delicate, but the air here, near the sea, has given her a good appetite, and I can truly say that she is in perfect health. I was much surprised when I arrived here to see the camp for I had never expected such pretty canvas houses. One notices at once the difference between the soldiers' camping ground and that of the artillery. The soldiers have little gardens filled with flowers in front of their tents, and the doors are painted different colors, with glass set in to admit the light. The officers in charge of the cannon have for ornament some sentinels who keep watch over the powder and who take care of everybody in case of an alarm. If, dear Mama, you could only see the order of everything at the camp you would be astonished, for I assure you it is well worth the effort to see a thing of this kind. Major McGregor would look fine with his red uniform and the little aid-major behind him with such a long sword that he would be in danger of breaking his neck if he marched over ground as full of hollows as it is here. Say to my dear Father that I am not making fun of his company. They are the best and finest looking of all the Detroit

²⁶ The "little sister" was Adelaide (or Alice) Askin, who was born at Detroit in 1783. On Feb. 17, 1802, she married Elijah Brush, for whom see *ante*, 207. She died July 20, 1859.