

I have changed my plann of settling at Detroit untill the war is over, indeed in the present Situation of affairs, it's hard to undertake anything.

I dont remember if I mentioned to you that I had a Daughter came up from Montreal last year, where she has been for several [years] past in the Nunnery. She was Married this Winter to Cap^t Robertson,⁴ a Match which pleases me well, as I never was acquainted with a more industrious, Sober, Honenst man, a fine prospect, perhaps to be a grand father next year.

There was no less than twenty-one pairs of Sheets, besides some bed & Bolster cases quite rotten of the quantity I received last fall. I noted it at the Bottom of my receipt to the Barrack Master Gen^l, since which I have had them Condemned We have passed our Winter as agreeably as the place would admit off a Dance every week, & now the Spring is come on some of us return to our work as usual M^{rs} Askin & my famely are well & join with me in best wishes for you M^{rs} Hay & Famelies prosperity

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO THOMAS McMURRY⁵ AT MONTREAL,
APRIL 28, 1778

I was favoured with your kind letter bearing Date the 7th Aug^t last by our Winters Express.

I return you & M^{rs} McMurry my sincere thanks for your care of my Son,⁶ he is not yet arrived here owing to the

⁴ The daughter here referred to was Catherine Askin, whose mother was Askin's Indian consort. Apparently she was fifteen years of age at this time (see letter of Askin to Commodore Grant, April 28, 1778, printed *post*, 77. Phyllis Barthe, there alluded to as though of the same age as Catherine Askin, was born Dec. 18, 1762); hence she was born about the close of 1762. After the death of Robertson she married (second) Robert Hamilton of Queenston. For her death, which occurred about the close of the year 1796, see *post*, 188.

⁵ Dr. Daniel Morison's manuscript journal of events at Mackinac, 1769-72, preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll., discloses that one Thomas McMurray was a member of the garrison there during this period. In the *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, 58-59 is printed a memorial to Governor Haldimand from the merchants of Montreal and Quebec which is signed by Thomas McMurray, among others. Presumably he is the man to whom Askin's letter was addressed.

⁶ John Askin Jr. was the eldest son of John Askin, his mother being, presumably, the Indian woman, Manette. He was born at L'Arbre Croche, probably about the year 1762. He was later sent down to Montreal to be educated, and seems to have remained there several years. He embarked on commercial ventures in the Maumee region,