

on your having application made for me I will not be refused if there is room

Send me a p^r of Common Cart Wheels

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. MCGILL,¹⁵ FROBISHER,¹⁶
PATTERSON,¹⁷ ETC. AT MONTREAL, APRIL 28, 1778

I take this opportunity to acquaint you that I'm taking every precaution & hope to prevent your meeting with any disappointment, in what I'm to furnish you. As I found that no part of the great quantity of Liquors which I had on the road, arrived I attempted to purchase some at Detroit, but

began, the Earl of Dartmouth created the new office of lieutenant-governor at Mackinac, Detroit, and Vincennes, and Hamilton received the appointment at Detroit. He reached Detroit, November 9, 1775, and his vigorous and frequently stormy administration was terminated by his departure on the Vincennes campaign in the autumn of 1778, from which he was never to return to Detroit. Consigned to imprisonment in Virginia, on securing his release, he went to England, whence he returned to Canada in 1782, bearing the appointment of lieutenant-governor. His administration was beset with difficulties, even as the earlier one at Detroit had been, and over a question of patronage he was summarily recalled in 1785. In 1790 he was governor of the Bermudas, and in 1796, while serving as governor of Dominica, died and was buried on the island. On his Detroit career see Burton, *City of Detroit, 1701-1922*, II, 909 ff. A valuable article dealing with his later career as lieutenant-governor of Canada is by F. H. Soward, "The Struggle over the Laws of Canada, 1783-91" in *Canadian Historical Review*, V, 314-35.

15 James McGill, born in Glasgow, Scotland, Oct. 6, 1744, came to Canada and entered upon the Northwest trade soon after the close of the French and Indian War. He made several journeys into the Northwest, and became an intimate and lifelong friend of Askin. McGill was one of the original shareholders in the famous North West Company. Toward the close of the Revolution he settled down at Montreal, where, with Isaac Todd, he was extensively engaged in the capacity of middleman, outfitting the fur traders with needed supplies and disposing of their furs through the London market. McGill was highly successful in business, and at his death was reputed to be the wealthiest man in Canada. His business and other correspondence with Askin was extensive, and much of it will be presented on succeeding pages of this work. He married, Dec. 2, 1776, Marie Charlotte Guillemin, daughter of Guillaume Guillemin, a prominent official of Canada, and widow of Joseph Amable Trotier dit DesRivières. McGill died at Montreal, Dec. 19, 1813. He bequeathed a portion of his property for the founding of the university which now bears his name. See Pierre-Georges Roy, *Les Monuments Commémoratifs de la Province de Québec* (Quebec, 1923), I, 211-12.

16 Benjamin Frobisher, one of three brothers who at an early date were active in the Northwest fur trade. Joseph and Thomas Frobisher founded the Montreal firm of Frobisher Brothers, in which Benjamin, the youngest of the three, replaced Thomas about the year 1778. The two partners (Benjamin and Joseph) were active in founding the North West Company, and served as its principal agent at Montreal. Benjamin Frobisher died at Montreal, April 14, 1787. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 235, and Gordon C. Davidson, *The North West Company* (Berkeley, Calif., 1918), *passim*.

17 Charles Patterson, another early British trader and a founder of the North West Company. In 1788 Patterson with his boat crew was drowned in Lake Michigan,