

would have done much Service by mixing it with the other flour.

M^{rs} Askin & I return M^{rs} Fleming & you many thanks for the Stores you were so good as to send us, had they arrived they would have proved a seasonable relief, tho we are not quite destitute. M^{rs} Askin has still some Tea & loaf Sugar & at once a Day for herself will be able to hold out, the rest of us have Chocolate for Breakfast & Barly Substituted in the room of Coffe for the afternoon. Spirits & Spruce we have & can & must do without wine for the Present.

I sincerely wish you much joy of your Boy, perhaps he may one Day become my Son in law, I have Girls worth looking at. Cap^t Robertson was Married to my Daughter this Winter, so that I stand a fair chance of being a grand father in a Short time. I'm sure I have little the looks of it for I'm much Younger than when you saw me last, tho' in your opinion much crosser. I'm not altogether sure, but I have some intentions of paying you a Short Visitt in the month of May. I thought to have been an Inhabitant of Detroit before this, but untill the present troubles are at an end it's hardly possible. I little expected they would have continued so long

We have not any news in this Quarter worth your Notice. M^r Todd³⁰ mentions to me, that M^r Day³¹ says, he expects the Commissaries in the upper Country will soon be put in a better footing & have more pay allowed them, *comme il leur plaira*.

Many thanks for your Country Dance Book. I send it you by this opportunity. (I mean the first that goes from this) We daily expect to see a Vessell or Boat from your Quarter as the Ice is now gone from here. M^{rs} Askin joins

³⁰ Isaac Todd of Montreal, an intimate friend of Askin, one of the founders of the North West Company, and long a foremost figure in the fur trade of the Northwest. The journal of Daniel Morison (ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.) shows him to have been at Mackinac as early as 1769, while expressions in letters of Alexander Henry to Askin imply that he was one of the earliest British traders in the Northwest. He maintained a life-long correspondence with Askin, and many of his letters are preserved in the Burton Hist. Coll.

³¹ Nathaniel Day was Commissary General of Provisions and Supplies, and hence Askin's immediate superior.