

ago & not yet repaid. I beg you'll be so kind as to make mention of it to his excellency Sir Guy Carleton.³⁶

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO THE NORTH WEST COMPANY AT
MONTREAL, MAY 8, 1778

I wrote you the latter end of last month, since which Lieu^t Bennett with Mess^{rs} McBeath & Rankin are arrived here in Boats, they say that we cannot expect any Vessell from Detroit before news gets from Montreal there, but what concerns you & me much more is, a report that perhaps neither Flour, Corn nor Rum will be Suffered to come from that Post to this, this Season (I mean for People in Trade) its certain that those who left Detroit this Spring were not Suffered to bring but a very small quantity nor could they get a positive answer whether or no these Articles would be Suffered to come at all or not.

I have applied to Major De Peyster who will make known to Governor Hamilton the bad consequences of laying an Imbargo on Provisions &c^a without which it's impossible that trade can be Supported. You may depend on every thing that's possible being done to prevent Disappointments, when the Vessell arrives I will be able to write you with more certainty, therefore this warning is only to yourselves.

I send off the first of your things for the Portage in three days Consisting of Rum, Corn & what's most necessary. I shall at same time write your Clerk to provide some place to receive L^t Bennett & the Troops with him, untill some of Your C^o Arrives.

Your Canoes are Ready.

³⁶ Sir Guy Carleton was born at Strabane, Ireland, in 1724. He joined the army at the age of eighteen, served under Wolfe at Quebec, and in 1766 was appointed lieutenant-governor and the following year governor-general of Quebec. He successfully defended Quebec against Arnold's force at the opening of the Revolution. In 1778 he was succeeded in the governorship by General Haldimand. He served in the army throughout the war, and in 1786 was again appointed governor of Canada. This time he held the office until 1796, although absent from Canada from 1791 to 1793. See sketch in Ontario Bureau of Archives, *Thirteenth Report*, 172.