

FROM JOHN ASKIN TO MESSRS. TODD AND MCGILL
AT MONTREAL, MAY 8, 1778

The inclosed letter to the Gentlemen of the N. W. C^o will Shew you how matters go on at Detroit. I could make you some remittance now, but think it best to wait for an opportunity by the Grand River.

Major De Peyster has taken my Vessell into the Service, Robison [Robertson] I beleive will be ready to sail with her by the 10th he is now Riging. I do declare that as things now go on, I dont know what to order, of all I write for nothing Arrives. I must leave all to Yourselves, if Liquors could be got up, I mean Rum, by the way of the lakes without being embezeled to so great a degree, no matter how much you sent, however I think there should be a man to take care of each Boat load, or at most not to have charge of more than two.

M^{rs} Askin begs you'll be so kind as to deliver Madam Perinault the piece of Silk with the trimmings, that's coming or come from England for her, there's two pieces in the Memord^m, but one of them we Suppose will be left Montreal before this Reaches you. Madam Perinault will be so kind as to have the other made up for M^{rs} Askin.

I here inclose you a Bill of Sale or what may answer for such, of one L. Blanc who goes down the country Prisoner to take his trial he quarrelled with another of my men who died soon after. Please inform me about the Land & write me on the Subject.

I have no news about the Payment of my Rum that was Destroyed on Lake Erie by order of Col^o Caldwell,³⁷ it's very hard if that just demand will not be paid, perhaps you could obtain an order to receive the same Quantity out of the Kings Store at Niagara, which if the carrying place

³⁷ The allusion is to the wreck of the *Chippewain* in November, 1775, when Lieutenant Colonel Caldwell ordered the goods destroyed (after having been brought ashore) to prevent their falling into American hands. See documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, IX, 467 and XIX, 319. Lieutenant Colonel John Caldwell received his commission in the Eighth Regiment, Oct. 27, 1772. During the Revolution the regiment was stationed at Niagara, where in September, 1776, Caldwell presided over a council of the Iroquois and western tribes. He either retired or died soon after this. *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XX, 687.