

bags of corn that Mr. McBeath has at the Sault, will load the two vessels. It is absolutely necessary that you put on board the *De Peyster* one-half of each man's merchandise. See, too, that Mr. McDonald⁴⁵ gets off as soon as possible. Pomp, and another man whom you will engage, will go in her.

The other half of each man's merchandise you will load in the *Mackinac* if you can get her ready now. If not, send her back here for another cargo, and by the time she is to return to the Sault there will be plenty of people to load her.

The Indian has done well. He is a good man if one could only understand what he says. Mr. McDonald is trustworthy, somewhat overbearing, but we must be patient and remember that men are scarce just now. It seemed best to give McDonald and the Indian each a quarter of a pint of rum per day while on the voyage, and half that quantity to Pomp. The whole will not amount to much and will be an incentive to good work besides keeping them from helping themselves from the cargo. I have given all three their provisions, and rum, up to June 1, and have paid them their wages for the same time. After that you will take care of them, and pay them, allowing for their victuals from the cargo.

I am sending you all I can get of what you asked and when I have the other articles will send them too. I beg you not to detain McDonald to help load the other vessel, nor to change the Indian to the *De Peyster* as I have promised him he is not to be changed and one must keep one's word with everybody. Also you will have here the account of what I have sent you since October 22. Your account up to that date was sent before. I have credited you with 11 barrels of fish at 60 livres a barrel, but not with the Detroit shipment as Mr. Sterling has neglected to mention how they sold. When I balanced my accounts the first of the year

against Joseph Ainsie on his mission of 1786 to restore peace on the Mississippi. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 238, and *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*.

⁴⁵ The Barthe ledger (ms. in Burton Hist. Coll.) records one McDonnell as engagé to John Askin in June, 1778. Information which would identify his career further has not been found.