

but such a thing may occur; we often wish it realized. The Princess Royal is soon to be married to the Duke of Wirtemberg he is arrived for that purpose. I dare say my dear Archange will give you all the particulars, as She has promised to write you very often and say everything from me to you, as I may not have opportunity. God bless you. present my best regards to M^{rs} Askin, Sister Theresa and all the Family, also to the Commodore, his Family &c &c &c &c &c &c &c and believe me with great Truth My dear Sir

Most affectionately Yours,
D Meredith

Endorsed: recv^d Sep^r 13th Answ^d ye 4th Nov^r 1797

FROM COLONEL RICHARD ENGLAND TO JOHN ASKIN

London April 24th 1797

It is probable that an Account of my Misfortune on my passage from Quebec, has reached you, As M^{rs} England wrote to Miss Askin immediately on her Arrival here. A Detail of all Our Sufferings, Escapes, and Losses, would be by far too tedious to torment you with, and therefore will Only say, that I was with my Family ten *long* Weeks on Board an Enemys Ship, which you will allow was by far too long to be on Board a Friends Ship, considering the Latitude and Season of the Year that we were Captured in. After a variety of Sufferings we were permitted at Length to land at Brest, but without a single Article either of Use or Comfort that we possessed, All which we were early pillaged of, and in about two Months after, I was permitted to come here to endeavour to effect my Exchange for a particular Officer mentioned by the French Government, who Owing to a Combination of very distressing Circumstances Our Government will not permit to be exchanged, and I am Obligated to return to France, and to Captivity, for the Remainder of the War. I have however Succeeded in extricating my little Boy¹⁶ from the Cruel Conditions I was Obligated to sign for his

¹⁶ Apparently the allusion is to Richard England, who was born in Detroit in 1793 and died in London in 1883. He entered the army as an ensign in the Fourteenth Regiment in February, 1808, and retired in 1877, having held for many years the full rank of general, and having been for several decades one of the foremost soldiers of England. He served in many lands and several continents during his long career, most notably, perhaps, in the Crimean War against Russia, of 1854-55. See *Dict. Nat. Biog.*