

N^o 23 or 24 I do not recollect which, from which time untill lately, I, and I believe he, thought it to be mine but now otherwise. please Settle that matter as you think fit. I perhaps may have been premature in getting it located, these long winded storms must be dischargeable therefore shall conclude with assurances of being my Dear Sir Yours
&^{ca}

Sd J A

The Hon^{ble} D. W. Smith Esq^r

Endorsed: Detroit 4^h december 1798 John Askin to D. W^m Smith Esq^r Copy

PROFFER TO FURNISH GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES

Detroit december 9th[?], 1798

Dear Sir As the slaying is now begun, many People have applied to me to know If I would take firewood Some of whom owe me & others would take goods in payment. If you could without any interference with your Arrangements, take five hundred Cords of me, or even less, at the rates you pay others, it would be obliging me very much. Prior to your last arrival, I mentioned to M^r Warren that I had it in my power to furnish Hay for your department of a better Quality than what you generally got, & on as reasonable terms, he said when you came home he would mention the Matter to you, I do not Know whether he has or not. I have always considered the furnishing of any Government with Such articles as were wanted a very great advantage to those who did it, not so much from the highness of the price as the certainty of the payment, whilst our Commanding Officers & he who purchased was on a good footing. I often had preferences at the rates others sold at, but that, owing to their misunderstandings is now over and a mode adopted by which the worst as well as the best of characters may get the Contracts I do not mean by this to infer that I should have a preference under your Government being a British Subject, but only that when you have purchases to make of any indifferent Persons, If in that case you would be pleased to give directions to apply to me it would be rendering me a great Service & I would always