

what does not belong to him, but the matter appears to be that he never got the money otherwise than by a Credit in an Acc^t Current on which there is still a large balance due, and it will fall hard on M^r Todd to pay the money, which I told M^r Meldrum at Detroit. Swan who is gone back to the Illinois this winter will endeavour to get some information on the subject as I wrote him from your place, and I hope all parties will at last be of one opinion; I heartily wish I had never had any thing to say in the business for disputing claims is an unpleasant task. I shall drop the subject by observing that I am now writing from my own head and not as M^r Todd's Attorney.

You will hear the news from this place through other channels, and I have only to add my thanks for your obliging expressions and for the good wishes of your family, and begging you will present my best Compliments to them all, I remain Dear Sir

Your most obed^t & very hu^{le} Servant

Tho. Blackwood¹³

I have not forgot the Quebec Pocket Almanack, but it cannot be sent till the spring.

If you have any Mem^m from me about the 2500^l I will thank you to say what it is, as I don't recollect of having left any with you regarding that matter. I left a mem. about the *Saguinah's* loading only, if I remember right.

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit

Endorsed: Montreal Jan^y 24^h 1799 M^r Jn^o Blackwood to Jn^o Askin recvd^d y^e 7th of March Answ^d y^e 6 June 1799

¹³ Thomas Blackwood was a prominent Montreal merchant in this period. He was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, Feb. 10, 1773. In 1791 he came to Canada, and after several years' employment in the mercantile business in Quebec, entered the service of the firm of Todd and McGill in Montreal, where he continued to reside until his death, Nov. 22, 1842. About the beginning of 1800, he was admitted to partnership in the firm of James and Andrew McGill, and at a later date he became a partner of François DesRivières, son of Mrs. James McGill. Blackwood was for several decades an active supporter of the St. Gabriel Street Church, whose historian says of him: "... few men in Canada wielded a more trenchant pen, or exhibited a more statesmanlike grasp of Church questions, as these were affected by Canada." He was a charter director of the Montreal General Hospital, an executor of the will of James McGill, and a director of the Montreal Savings Bank. A sketch of his career is in Robert Campbell, *A History of the Scotch Presbyterian Church, St. Gabriel Street, Montreal* (Montreal, 1887), 244-49.