

Translation

Mackinac, July 5, 1799

John Askin, Esq.

Sir: I forgot to write to you yesterday respecting a man who deserted about fifteen days ago, a winterer who took up the canoes, Pierre Turcotte by name; and as he went by way of Detroit, and as I think you might find him, here are the advances made to him, and his contract. He received 94 livres in Montreal, and 2 livres 4 sols in this place, and his equipment, amounting to 64 livres. If you can take him, get back what he owes me. If not, return him to me by the first boat.

I am sending you also the account and contracts of the three men, Lafontaine *dit* Marion, who ran away from me last year, one at Niagara, and the other two at Detroit. I am told that they wintered at the Miamis. If you can have them arrested, do so, and make them pay the amount and damages, if possible.

I remain, Sir, with respect,

Your most humble servant,

J. Giasson & Co.⁵⁸

RENTAL OF SALT SPRING

Detroit 8^h July '99

D^r Sir I am favoured with your obliging letters of the 27 & 29 of last month, and thankful to you for the news which when at leisure I beg you will continue,

Please take up my news-Papers and transmit them regularly. M^r Hamilton will be so kind as to pay the charges, I received the pa[c]k per the *Russel*, but no order on M^r Forsyth as mentioned in a former Letter nor is there occasion to Send one unless you choose, as what is coming from the Mauravian Indian will put a Ballance in

⁵⁸ Jacques Giasson was born in 1709 and in 1745 married Marie Angélique Hubert of Montreal. Their son, Jacques, was born in Montreal in 1747. The elder Giasson engaged in the Northwest trade as early as 1747, and ten years later obtained, in conjunction with his brother-in-law, a three-year monopoly of the trade of Green Bay. He died in Canada in 1762.

His son, Askin's correspondent, was engaged in trade at Mackinac during the British and early American periods. He died in 1800. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XVIII, 197.