

means this time to enter into business at this post. I fear before this time twelve months, or perhaps Sooner it will be discovered too clearly, that all those in trade at this post are Sinking money fast, one or two exceptions, and they appear to me even doubtful. there are Several very Worthy characters at Montreal, therefore you must be happier in their Society than were you here, but am Sorry your means are not equal to your mind. & that Gover[n]-ment does not do Something more for you Your Brother by Sticking to the army has got far up, and I am very happy at it. God Knows they earn what they get but as we must all go one way or another, perhaps it is no great matter whether we are Killed or die naturally, it is my opinion. M<sup>r</sup> Visgar I'm afraid never will be able to pay you one penny, and I'm Sorry to Say, report has not told truth in Saying that I'm bettered in circumstances, however I endeavour to reconcile myself to my Lot. I have a large family to maintain, and my Trade which is Small, will hardly give a profit to Support them and I have Suffered So much by extensive business that I have dropt it, for I firmly believe now at this place, he who trades most loses most

the Com<sup>r</sup> is at York, his family are well

Signd J A

*Endorsed:* Detroit 10 September 1799 John Askin to  
L. Col. Abraham Cuyler Copy

#### AFFAIRS OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

Montreal 14<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1799

Dear Sir, I arrived here two days ago & found all well at home. As an opportunity now offers for the Upper Province I embrace it to inclose you a more correct invoice of the articles left with you. One of the bed ticks is put down by guess as I could not find the invoice. You will observe I invoice the dry goods as sold here at twelve months & the liquor as cash; hence if any payments previous to 15<sup>th</sup> July next they will bear interest. I have not put down the transport as some of it may probably be charged to you. In a day or two, when I have had time to look about me, you shall hear from me again. In the mean time I hope