

preferable to saying anything to yourself which might bring on reflections.

I remain with Usual Friendship Dear Sir

Your most Obed^t Humble Servant

Thomas Smith Esquire¹⁷ Petite Cote

Endorsed: Detroit March the 27th 1800 John Askin to
Thomas Smith (Copy)

SPECULATION IN FLOUR

Detroit March 30th 1800¹⁸

Dear Sir I hope this will find you safe arrived at Fort Erie. Your Family here are all well. Mr Hamilton wrote me that he gets 7 dollars from Government for a bar^l of Flour of 224^{lbs} nett W^t. If you cannot buy cheaper I'm willing to take a half share with you in the purchase of 100 Barrels at that rate payable the 1st of Sep^r next & if you write me that you have made the purchase I will send the little Vessell for it at the worst I think we will get 10 Dollars the barrel for it here but I meant to send it to St Mary's where I think some of the North West C^o who are in Opposition to each other would give a good price for it, & If that failed they would go to Michilimackinac where no doubt it would sell well.

We begin to have a little cold Weather again I have only to add that I am, Dear Sir,

Your Friend & Very Humble Servant

Captain Fearson at Fort Erie.

ACCOUNT WITH THOMAS SMITH

Detroit April the 26th 1800

Dear Sir Your favour of the 24th Ins^t reached me to day as entering into reasoning on the accounts subsisting between us our Ideas are so different it would not answer any purpose, but when I have the pleasure of seeing you here, if you Please, we will give them a trial ourselves in Order to

¹⁷ For the career of Thomas Smith, see *B. H. R.*, I, 287-88.

¹⁸ The day of the month is uncertain.