

write him for I do not think him favourable to any Contract that does not Originate with himself (Tho I may be mistaken) If you Succeed you will do me an Essential Service & I dare say M^r M^cGill would join you in giving Security in which you may depend there is not the Smallest Risk imaginable, for there will not be any decrease in Cattle coming in to be Sold at the low rate they are, for in their Country they require no Hay nor Grain to winter them unless the Stall fed Cattle & their Indian Corn is so low that the Expence [is] very Trifling. Here the Cattle cost more for keeping two Years than the others do altogether. If you make a Contract the longer the better and the only Exception should be that if great Britain & America should have any Misunderstanding that would prevent a free intercourse with each other, in that case the contract to End. I fear Some others may think of making proposals for this same Business and even lower but I know of none.

I would undertake for still less if it would not be got otherwise, All here well and Asure [you] of their best Wishes as does My dear Sir

Your ever Obligated Friend and Humble Serv^t

Isaac Todd Esq^r Mercht Montreal

Endorsed: Detroit 17th October 1800 John Askin to Isaac Todd (Copy)

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT⁴⁹

Detroit October the 17th 1800

Dear Sir As I know your great wish is to render Service and in particular to the Country where you Reside. I hope you will not think it presumption in me to represent to you that many Artificers Seafaring Men and others who earn from 8/ to 20/ per day (of which Number are Le Blanc the Wheel Wright, say, Mill Wright, Letour the Carpenter & others known to you) never have had, nor ever will if they can help it a penny before hand such Characters I cannot suppose to be the People the Legislator had in view when they exacted that humain Law entitled "An Act for the relief of Poor persons imprisoned for debt. to a person of your pene-

⁴⁹ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.