

INDEBTEDNESS OF JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 21 April 1801

Dear Sir We wrote you on the 20th by Mess^{rs} Giassen & C^o Boats and we are now to attend to your favour of 4 last December being the only letter received from you by the Express in winter. we regret exceedingly & are sorry for your Situation. it could not nor did it enter into our head that in so short time as transactions have passed between us and their small amount that your fixed property must be sold in order to enable you to pay the debt owing to our late firm. we conceived that on settling with Todd M^cGill & C^o you remained with so much property in Goods, Debts & vessells as would put it in your power to be very punctual in future transactions. we have been unfortunately wrong in our opinion and we felt the disappointment more painful than any that had happened for many years which drew from us the remark which seems to have given you pain. we never entertained an Idea that were an accident to happen to you, the fixed property would not be forthcoming but have you reflected on the very unpleasant task that it would be for us to have even the appearance of severity to the widow of our Friend? we hope and trust that nothing of the kind will ever be necessary, that your health will continue to admitt of your attending to your own affaires & finishing yourself a business which has been productive of vexation to both Parties.

We now hand you continuation of your a/c with our late firm the balance on 10 Inst being £2155.18/9 also state of J. Anderson & C^o acc^t balance against them £35.1.9. & both Currency; of the latter some part will be paid when L^t Backwells Bill is discharged; but as yet we cannot say the time and as to your own, you know our expectations and we shall therefore not add at present on that head.

We have had Sales of deer Skins from England & unfortunately they are very low. we do not think that all the Detroit ones have exceeded 4/6 S^t & the charges are not less than 1/2. our Friends the Macgregors are better off by Six pence the skin.

As we shall have Goods to go up in Summer & packs to