

FROM ROBERT NICHOL TO JOHN ASKIN

Queenstown July 25th 1801

Dear Sir * * * * You may perfectly rely on every Exertion in my power to Procure freight for any Vessell in which you may be interested, but at present there is not a Single package of Chance freight on the Communication, nor is there any expected that I know of. all that I can do shall be done and [I] hope that something may turn up.

Two days ago I had a letter from M^r Clark. he arrived at Montreal with his Ark containing 340 Barrels Flour in 10 Days from Kingston, and has proceeded with it to Quebec where I hope he will sell it to advantage.

He is much pleased with the Mode of conveyance, and I presume from the very great Saving, it will be generally adopted. You will See by the Niagara paper that Parliament have taken the Hemp Business into consideration and have determined to give the Culture of that article every Support in their power. for this we are much indebted to M^r Selby's Exertions at York, for without the Steps which he took the Business would have fallen to the ground; Your Estate on the Lake St^c Clair appears to me well calculated for the growth of that article and I think you & M^r Barthe should make an Experiment with four or five Acres of it the Expence will not be great & the profit is certain

I have forwarded to M^{rs} Askin the News papers: and the 1st Volume of the History of England to Charles. the others shall follow in a few days & I hope he will make a good use of them

There is no prospect of getting any price in Cash for Sugar. therefore [I] don't think it advisable for you to Send any down, as the risk of its lying a long time on hand is almost certain

We would take a quantity of Cyder from you provided we could make payment in any other manner than *Cash* for that is not to be had. if it would suit you to Barter it for Salt or Whiskey We would take Twenty or Thirty Barrels at all events Send us two of your own making for *Home Consumption* and let it, if you please, be put into Sweet Barrels.