

in reply to your favor of the 3rd but as that could not be very Satisfactory, and as the time given by our immaculate Post Master, to answer letters, after the Arrival of a Mail is seldom Sufficient for them to get up here, I avail myself of a little leisure and a Knowledge of what will happen to reply to it more at large.

Flour with us, owing to the great demand and a Knowledge of your wants, is now high, and will I fear rise. little has yet Come to Market & the farmers in my Neighbourhood are Keeping it up, with the view of getting a higher price. it cannot be Shipt by the Merchant at less than Five Dollars P Barrel of 196 lbs, at which price I will deliver the Quantity you order for yourself. the Pork shall also be procured, tho I fear the price of that article, will also be much increased, the Market being bare owing to the large Supply purchased by Government

I have endeavoured to Bargain with several of my Neighbours for flour, but they all Keep aloof so that I cannot well Say what quantity I shall be able to procure at even five Dollars. I am in hopes however that I Shall be able to make out 100 Barrels. I shall also put up about 100 Bags of Corn. I will thank you to say what proportion the Winchester Bushel bears to the Minot, as we have no Measure of that Kind here⁴⁶ Ashes I have in Abundance.

I wrote you the other day Per M^r Burns, to which refer. No European Intelligence of Importance since that time, tho we are in dayly Expectation of something very interesting from England.

I request the usual Compliments to the Family and am My Dear Sir with the sincerest good wishes

Yours very faithfully

Rob Nichol

Addressed: John Askin Esq^{re} Strabane Near Sandwich

⁴⁶ A manuscript memorandum of 1765 upon the condition of the colony states the minot to be the equivalent of five pecks. In 1799 a list of grievances of citizens of Detroit drawn up for presentation to the General Assembly contains a statement concerning the inequitable system of weights and measures in use; merchants purchased grain from the inhabitants by the French bushel of 40 Winchester quarts, while they sold salt and grain by the Winchester bushel of 32 quarts. Askin in replying to Nichol's query (see *post*, 403) stated there was "no real standard" established in Detroit between the Winchester bushel and the French minot.