

enforce payment of the whole sum, if you have it, or to let you off with less. Mr. Fraser has nothing more to do with it. You state that you have paid Messrs. Williams & Casety a considerable sum through the Miamis Company.⁵¹ As I have the account books of that company, I shall be able and disposed to give you credit for all that you have paid. It is rather unusual to advise one's adversary in legal matters, but as God is merciful I have no spite against you and would show you mercy. Make an honorable and just offer to the Miamis Company, also as much as you can for what you owe Messrs. Williams & Casety, and I shall use my influence in putting an end to all your lawsuits, otherwise you will never have any peace or comfort while you live on this earth. Having nothing further to communicate, I remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Endorsed: Near Sandwich, May 12, 1804. John Askin to Mr. Vigo. Copy.

TRADE CONDITIONS AT MACKINAC

Michilimackinac, 30^h May 1804

Dear Askin. Your esteemed favour of the 11^h Ins^t I had the pleasur of receiving some days ago. After an interruption of more than Six months, I am very happy to learn that you & family are well. I am at a loss for words to express my gratitude to you & family, for your kind wishes for my happiness & wellfaer. &c. We have nothing new at this place. After a Short Sickness, we lost M^r Matthew Henry⁵² on the 29th March, much regretted. The winter here was mild & the Spring early. The few traders who are Arrived

⁵¹ On the subject of the affairs of the Detroit firm of Williams and Casety, here alluded to, see *B. H. R.*, I, 185; also document printed *post*, 431-34.

⁵² Matthew Henry was a brother of James Henry for whom see *ante*, 305. William, cousin of James and Matthew, had been serving as Mackinac agent of Major O'Hara, army contractor. When O'Hara withdrew from the contracting business in 1800, he was succeeded by Wilson and Ormsby. William Henry continued in their employ at Mackinac until the autumn of 1801, when he returned to his home in Lancaster, Pa. His place as agent at Mackinac was taken by his cousin, Matthew, who arrived from Detroit on Sept. 2, 1801. He continued at Mackinac in the employ of Wilson and Ormsby until his death, here noted, March 29, 1804. Writing to James Hopkins on Feb. 16, 1810, James Henry gave the date of Matthew's death as May 28, 1804. Henry papers in B. H. Coll., *passim*.