

Mr Dickson has promised to write Per the Post

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Strabane near Sandwich

Endorsed: Niagara Dec^r 15^h 1804 Mr Rob^t Nichol to
Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 3^d Jan^y 1805 Answ^d y^e 4^h & 10th

HARDSHIPS OF BALDOON SETTLERS

Dear Sir I have by this post your seperate favors of the 25th & 28th Ult^o, and it gave us sincere satisfaction to learn that you & yours were well. We thank God for the same Blessing conferred on us as with the exception of some slight Colds we have all enjoyed uninterrupted good health.

The reports we hear of the Melancholy condition of Lord Selkirks Settlers is distressing to humanity.⁷² The i[n]discreet Choice of a Situation so unpleasant so unhealthy seems completely of a peice with the other parts of the Speculation entered into with rashness & conducted without Consideration. It is said here that 20,000 £ have allready been expended. As much more may be thrown away with equal Success, for when is one Shilling to be expected back? Say that remuneration or Profit were only secondary Considerations with his Lordship, how much has Benevolence been Counteracted by the unfortunate Choice of the Situation. We have not heard a Word of his Lordship since he left us. Some hundred more Sheep & 10 or 12 Brood mares winter in this Vicinity, on their way upward.

In a Conversation with our freind Dickson who has lately been at York, I learn that he has procured a considerable portion of your deeds, which are now in the hands of his Brother Thomas D. for the payment of the fees, amounting to about forty pounds Pro Cur^y. I am very glad to understand that you have lodged money for the payment of this, as Dickson thinks his honor interested for the performance of his promise of punctual payment, And so scarce is Cash here, at this time, that was we all joining together, your freinds could hardly raise that sum among them. Dickson has I beleive done every thing in his power in your behalf.

⁷² The allusion is to Selkirk's Baldoon settlement at Wallaceburg on the St. Clair River, established in the summer of 1804. Forty-two of the original settlers (numbering about 110 in all) died during the first year. For an account of the settlement, see Kent Hist. Soc., *Papers and Addresses*, I, 13-21.