

Translation

Near Sandwich, May 24, 1805

Messrs. Giasson & Berthelet¹⁵

Gentlemen: The bearer of this, my son, Charles Askin, is leaving for a journey to Mackinac to see the country and at the same time to arrange with some Montreal merchant to furnish merchandise and to take in payment flour, whiskey, or lye hominy to be delivered at Mackinac the following year in May or June by the *Saguinah* on its regular trips. For one cannot promise either money or peltry from this place. Both are too scarce. Now, as you have a fairly large trade, I am telling him to give you the preference, and I believe that it will be easier for you to buy your flour, wheat, and whiskey in exchange for merchandise than to pay out the cash. The quantity he will need for this year will not exceed £500 Halifax in value, and I should think that 40 per cent advance on the cost in London would be a fair price to give you in Montreal for the goods, including expenses and risk. For what you will receive in payment you will be charged the prices current here, with duties and freight and no more, since they go at your risk.

If his proposition is agreeable to you, he will hand you a memorandum which you will have the goodness to have filled and ordered from Montreal as soon as possible. It is an advantage to have the merchandise up early. If, however, it is inconvenient for you to make this arrangement, I would be obliged if you would introduce him to some one who you think would be willing to do it, since all my old acquaintances have left Mackinac.

I wrote you on the 29th ulto. on the subject of our old account. This letter is still here and will be delivered by my son who will arrange with you for the balance.

I have the honor to remain, Sirs,

Your very humble servant,

Messrs. Giasson & Berthelet, Merchants, Michilamackinac

¹⁵ Jean Baptiste Berthelet (Berthelot, Berthellet, Bertholott) was engaged in the fur trade of the Mackinac and upper Mississippi regions from the beginning of the century until the close of the War of 1812. In 1813, he signed an appeal to Captain Roberts as