

COMMERCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich Oct^r 1st 1805

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 19 August reached me yesterday and Im sorry to observe that nothing has as yet been done by the Government of the United States to relieve the distresses of the sufferers of Detroit. they are endeavouring to erect some buildings at a great disadvantage. they are to pay pretty dear for the Lots & I understand are prohibited from cutting Pine as us[u]al and what timber and boards [are] purchased On this side pays a Duty. a Raft or two have been seized and confiscated. however I dont attribute any of these grievances to be the present Governor who I believe to be a very good Man and perhaps when Congress meet some favorable change for the Inhabitants of Detroit may take place. at present all on the other side seems to be hurry, distress and some confusion so that no payments can be got nor are the new Laws yet promulgated so as to find out by what means Compulsive measures can be used. I think M^r Brush told me the first Courts are to be held in May next. I'm sorry to say that [is] very contrary to my inclination's I do not at present know of any means by which I will be able this year to discharge the Interest on what I owe you. To a man not in business its very strange how many disappointments I have this year met with some of them I shall mention. The *Saguinah* was chartered for £500, to take a load from Fort Erie to Michilimacinae & return this she performed, after which she remained at Fort Erie for a very long time without being able to then get or a prospect of getting if she was to stay untill fall a single Packett of freight she therefore returned we discharged the men & she now remains here what she e[a]rned I fear will not pay expences & some trifling charges of repairs last Spring. many Vessells have this Summer returned Empty & I fear much Except those connected directly or indirectly with the Houses who have a share in

he made a bitter attack upon the administration. William Dickson, the opposing counsel, responded with a violent attack upon Weekes. A day or two later the latter challenged Dickson to a duel, which was fought near a bastion of Fort Niagara, on the American side of the river early on October 10. Weekes was mortally wounded, and died the same day. See Niagara Hist. Soc., pubs., No. 30, pp. 23-24; *Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology*, VI, 167-68; and Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 254-55 et passim.