

## HIGH TAXES IN DETROIT

Near Sandwich Oct<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1805

Dear Sir, Having wrote both you and the house very fully a few days ago I have only now to say that two days ago I had a Visit from an old acquaintance of mine a Farmer on the other side, who says its the intentions of several to sell their Farms and come over here and as they know I have a good many Lots between River a Trench and those situated on the borders of the Lake or Rivers, for they suppose those I once had still belonging to me. I have no doubt If they put their intentions in execution they will be very desirous to purchase of me. I therefore wish to know if you are disposed to sell any of your own or any of M<sup>r</sup> Todds Lots payable immediately or at least half down for as those people have good Farms on the other side if they dispose of them they will be possessed of money for less than 20/ NY Currency per acre. I would not advise you to sell and though Government, I dare say would give such people Land its now so far back that the Canadians would prefer purchasing on the borders of Rivers or Lakes near other inhabitants to geting Lands for nothing back they like society so much They complain of the Taxes upon the American side, A Dollar for each Dog, twenty shillings for each Carriole and twenty for each Horse with several others, besides being subject to Militia Duty so frequently as to prevent their necessary labour

I have only to add that I am Dear Sir with much esteem

Your most obedient Humble Servant

James M<sup>c</sup> Gill Esquire Merchant at Montreal

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Strabane<sup>24</sup>

*Endorsed:* Near Sandwich October the 7<sup>th</sup> 1805. John Askin Sen<sup>r</sup> to James M<sup>c</sup> Gill Esquire, Montreal, Copy.

<sup>24</sup> The address evidently represents a bit of absent-mindedness on the part of the copyist, who was one of Askin's sons.