

Merideth, Burnett,²⁹ & David Smith from who I had a letter (by his Successor) all despondency. one sentence, says, I was everything when with you but here no body, or hardly known he tells me he is married again I was glad by your letter to find that John's lady was better & that the Doctor was st[ir]ring about. it is very sickly about here, but I am thank God in perfect health and spirits I must & I cannot help it—obliged to see Company and entertain what I am to have yet I cannot tell L^t Co^l Proctor³⁰ & the gentlemen of the 41st Regt are pleasant men.

I am Dear Sir Sincerely your friend

A. Grant

October 24th 1805

John Askin Senior Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Sen^r Esquire at Strabane

Endorsed: York Oct^r 24^h 1805 President Grant to Jn^o Askin Recv^d y^e 2^d Nov^r Answ^d y^e 26th

FROM ALEXANDER GRANT TO JOHN ASKIN

York 1st Nov^r 1805

This is the fourth Epistle from me to you my dear friend since I have been administering this Government the first of which is intirely lost, with [the] poor silly body that was carr[y]ing it from M^r Dickson to Fort Erie from drunk[en]-

²⁹ Probably Lieut. John Burnet of the Eighth Regiment, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 284.

³⁰ Henry Procter, who subsequently figured prominently in the War of 1812 in the Northwest. Information concerning his parentage and date of birth is lacking. He became an ensign in the Forty-third Regiment, April 5, 1781, and major in the same regiment, May 13, 1795. On Oct. 9, 1800, he became lieutenant colonel of the Forty-first Regiment; colonel, July 25, 1810; and on June 4, 1813, was commissioned major general. He served in Canada for many years prior to the War of 1812. After Hull's surrender of Detroit in August, 1812, Procter was left in local command, his rule continuing until his retreat before the army of General Harrison in the autumn of 1813. For his conduct of this retreat, and the loss of the battle of the Thames, he was subsequently court-martialed and suspended from rank and pay for six months. Thereafter, he remained on the Unattached List of the army until his death in Bath, England, Oct. 31, 1822.

On May 19, 1792, he married Elizabeth Cockburn, daughter of Archdeacon Cockburn, in St. Mary's Kilkeny. They had three daughters (Sarah Anne, baptised in Leominster, Nov. 18, 1794; Frances Sarah, born in Canada, July 15, 1803; Augusta Margaret Firth, born in Canada, Nov. 19, 1808); there was also a son, Henry, who was born about the year 1795. Information supplied by Public Record Office, London, Jan. 30, 1929. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1822, in reporting Procter's death, gave his age as fifty-nine years; the *Royal Military Calendar* (London, 1920), states that he was sixteen when he entered the army in 1781.