

I have not rec^d a dollar in payment since I wrote you last. The Detroit treasury nor no other who [are] owing having any money It's with great difficulty I scratch out these few lines owing to a sore finger that prevents my holding my pen as Usual

I remain Your ever obliged Humble Serv^t

James M^cGill Esquire at Montreal

Endorsed: Jan^y 2^d 1806 John Askin to James M^cGill Esq^r (Copy)

FROM ALEXANDER HENRY TO JOHN ASKIN

Montreal 18 January 1806

My dear old friend It is with much Pleasure I received a few lines from you yesterday dated 30th November, but at same time am sorry you lost your Boots I sent them by I think a M^r Dubois the 10 of September, whose father lives in this Place and he has been for some time past a trader from this to Detroit. I received from M^r Brush the bill for the amount of cash in his Hands. you say you have 32 dollars in Hand for money recoverd from the Indians for our Claim I hope you will be able to recover what you mentioned. let me know what the expectations are in recovering this. our friend Todd went Home and remains there very bad. I am afraid we will never see him more. we are all rejoicing for the victory gaind by Lord Nelson, but the News from the continent of Europe is very bad. am much afraid Bonapart will over run the old World, and then step over the water to pay us a Visit but I dont think it will be in our Time we have reports of the Indians Threatening the americans at Detroit, but I hope peace will continue with you. I wrote to you when I sent the Boots, whether the man has kept the boots or no [I] cannot say. you will enquire for him. his name is François Dubois a

of British traders, one of the foremost of the number being Robert Dickson. American efforts at westward expansion were being vigorously prosecuted, and one of Wilkinson's early measures was to dispatch Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, in the summer of 1805, to assert the authority of the American government over that region. To the opposition interposed by the government to the activities of British traders within the boundaries of the United States was largely due the growth and success of the American Fur Company.