

Mr Henry I think must know of some one of that description he shall be well used & paid. however as he will not be put to hard Work I suppose he cannot ask very high Wages. If he was married and had no Children I would have both him & his Wife. I will speak to Mr Pattinson to give [him] a passage in his Boats when they come, & the earlier the better.

Endorsed: Strabane May the 6th 1806 John Askin
Sen^r to Isaac Todd Esquire (Copy)

GOSSIP FROM YORK⁴⁶

My dear Sir I cannot let this opportunity of Mr Baby go without informing you and my dear Sister in law of my keeping my health. And that we have most glorious news of the Russians and French in one of the most fatal battles⁴⁷ that history can relate cut one & other down without given or taken Quarters; And after four or five days of that buse-ness Bonaparte with all his intrepidy obliged to gave way at last—to my namesake at the head of the Brave russians—Alexander is styled the Hero of heros. Baby will relate the whole. during the parliament I have not been able to stir out of the house. two or three of your Countrymen kept me in hot water, by their naturel propensity to disturbance; I do not remember if I informed you of poor David Burnes⁴⁸ having killed himself—with that; that you nor I never will die of. Mr Hamilton tells me he had a short letter from W^m Robertson only saying there was a deal of Moneys due to him in both Canadas of which he wanted some of. Cap- tain Tho^s Robison⁴⁹ our old acquaintance came here with Mr Cartwright on purpose to see me he has in all Proba-

⁴⁶ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

⁴⁷ Austerlitz, Napoleon's classic victory, was won, Dec. 2, 1805. The report of a Russian victory which came to Canada may reflect merely a prior expectation of disaster to Napoleon.

⁴⁸ David Burns was commissioned surgeon in the Queen's Rangers upon Governor Simcoe's recommendation, Sept. 1, 1791, and the British army lists show that he was serving in this capacity as late as 1795. In addition, in July, 1792, he was made clerk of the Crown and Common Pleas of Upper Canada, with a salary of £100. He died in Toronto prior to Feb. 15, 1806, leaving among other property, a considerable library. Information adapted from *Simcoe Papers, passim*; British army lists; Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XXI, 169; and Scadding, *Toronto of Old*, 365-66.

⁴⁹ Thomas Robison was buried in Kingston, March 29, 1806. In Buffalo Hist. Soc. *Pubs.*, VI, 75, he is mentioned as a successor in trade at Niagara of Edward Pollard, for whose career see *B. H. R.*, I, 107. A letter of Alexander Grant to John Askin, April 28,