

Translation

Mackinac, June 26, 1806

Sir: This will be handed to you by Captain Mills in reply to one of yours received lately by the *Thames* in which you demand either the money or good merchandise for the remaining five casks of pork that your son, Charles Askin, left here with me last summer. Mr. Solomon,⁵⁷ my clerk, only carried out your son's instructions that, if not able to sell the pork for money, he was to sell it in the spring for sugar as directed in your son's letter. Now I have found that letter among my papers, together with his instructions. Be assured that if I had not forgotten these papers when in Detroit last fall, I never would have given you my note payable in cash, but not remembering about them, and having no desire to be sued, are the reasons why I gave you my note. And it will be paid all right, never fear. Mr. Pothier presented it to me two days ago.

With respect to the remaining five casks of pork, Mr. Solomon has sold them for sugar at the price your son directed in his letter, and I shall send it by Captain Mills.

This experience will stand me in good stead another time. I have learned that the more one wishes to oblige another, the more trouble he has. I can say this because I had no motive of personal interest, seeing that I told your son when I took his things and gave them room in my storehouse that he might put them there and that I would never ask him for a single penny's commission. I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Joseph Guy⁵⁸

⁵⁷ William Solomon was long an interpreter in the British Indian Department. His father, Ezekiel Solomon, was a German Jew from Berlin who found his way to Canada and upon the conquest of that country was one of the earliest English traders to engage in the northwest trade. He was at Mackinac as early as 1761, was captured at the massacre of 1763, and subsequently ransomed and sent down to Montreal. He continued in the western fur trade for many years, although we have few definite details of his career.

His son, William, our present subject, is said to have spent fifty-six years in the government service. He was at Mackinac during the War of 1812 and at various times was stationed at St. Joseph, Drummond Island, and Penetanguishene. He married a daughter of George Johnston of Sault Ste. Marie. Her mother was a Chippewa woman; one of her sisters married Henry R. Schoolcraft, and another became the wife of Rev. Mr. McMurray. Solomon's later years were passed at Penetanguishene. He reared a family of ten children. The narrative of one of them, Lewis Solomon, is in the Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, III, 126-37. See also *Mich. Pio. Coll.*, *passim*.