

letter and remain assured my dearest Father of the unalterable affection (towards yourself My beloved Mother and all the dear Family) of your ever loving Daughter

A Meredith

Addressed: To John Askin Esq^r Merch^t at Detroit Upper Canada To the care of Mess^{rs} Todd & M^cGill Merch^t at Montreal Lower Canada Via New York

Endorsed: Wool[w]ich Feb^y 1 1807 L^t Col Meredith to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^r 14^h June Answ^d y^e 5 October.

COMMERCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN MONTREAL¹⁵

Montreal 24 March 1807

My dear Askin I received your letter a few days ago. I am sorry to hear of M^r Brushes Misfortune in loosing his Boy. I have wrote two letters to him since I had any from him. Lawyers you know dont like to write without being paid for their trouble. I am much afeard your courts are very slow in desiding Causes, but hope M^r Brush will not neglect the Needfull, for the sooner this business is settl'd the better. I have not wrote to him for some time. you give but little incouragement respecting our Land buseness. this country is all going to destruction. Lester & Managh are bankrupts, Ten thousand pound of their Bills coming back, which will fall heavily on Individuals, many of my friends involved. that scoundrel Bonepart has seized all all the British property in Europe, amongst which is fifty thousand pound, due to this Country for furs purchased last Winter in London and not paid for, nor ever will. by letter, I received of the 10 January from London they say all the deer, Bears, Raccoons, Martins, which went home last fall, cannot be sold at any price, therefore they have put them in the Kings stores & Bonded them, to save paying the dutys untill Bonepart makes peace or dies. I like many more fools speculated in Bears, but fortunately not many. accounts say Congress has refusd to ratify a Treaty which has been made between the Americans & England. Todd is gone to the States to seek amusement and get rid of the

¹⁵ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.