

to be held on the 6th for that Purpose I'm told the Poor Old man will be in arrears & will not be able to account for the deficiency however as that part does not concern me it will only involve him in difficulties & he can easily get over them as no Security has been taken of him for the due performance of that Office.

Doct^r Geddis has been very attentive to us & M^{rs} G has enquired repeatedly of Nellys welfare. The Makina Gentlemen¹⁸ have not made their appearance as yet Their Agents have Obtained a large spot of Ground for a town. a number of their men are at work in Clearing & rafting timber to build in time it may become a decent place but the Garrison never will I'm afraid I mean the fort as Its on a spot surrounded by Rocks only. The gentlemen of the Garrison appear to be decent & well inclined to be sociable.

No Kind of fruit is got on this Island or the adjacent shore but Wrasberries, therefore please tell Brush that I expect he will send me Apples & Cyder in abundanc[e] & I will send him in return white fish. I have not obtained any sugar yet, my Stores being left behind. If I had brought wth me the Coin of this Country call^d Whisky I might have exchanged enough to supply myself & friends with a Sufficient Store, tho the Price of it at wholesale is 8/& 9/ P^r Gallon & by Smaller quantities 12/& 14/ Spirits 4^o/ P^r D^o —Sugar rec^d in payment at 7½ H^s C^y. Should the price increase & that I find something handsome may be made in the Spring, I will advise you timely that James may take a Trip to this with a few Barrels.

A few good Bills on Montreal can be got at times but all Adventurers must take advantage of the times of the Season. I'm fully persuaded that if any person had arrived at [the right] time with a small assortment of Groceries he would have made exceedingly well as no Store is at present erected. I should have recommended a tryal if the South West C^o¹⁹ were not abuilding. they seem to be all about Makina &

¹⁸ For the manner in which the South West Company evolved from the older Michilimackinac Company, see *B. H. R.*, I, 278. See, also, Wayne E. Stevens, "Fur-Trading Companies in the Northwest, 1760-1816" *M. V. H. A., Proc.*, 1916-17, p. 287 ff.

¹⁹ The South West Company is commonly said to have been organized by John Jacob Astor in 1811. The present document seems to indicate that an organization employing this name was operating in the Northwest as early as 1807.