

faire usage, de rayer Ce que vous trouveres hors de propos

Continuant mes voeux pour votre Santé et la prosperité  
de votre famille j'ai L'honneur d'Etre avec Respect

Monsieur votre tres humble et ob<sup>st</sup> Serviteur

G<sup>l</sup><sup>m</sup> Monforton

Colonel Askin E<sup>qr</sup> Sandwich

*Addressed:* Colonel John Askin Es<sup>qr</sup> Sandwich

*Endorsed:* Sandwich 24<sup>th</sup> July 1807 Mons<sup>r</sup> Monforton  
to John Askin.

### *Translation*

Sandwich, July 24, 1807

Sir: You alone feel for me in my distress and your visit to me in prison proves your solicitude for my fate.<sup>20</sup> Such kindness can proceed only from a generous heart and of this I have had sincere evidence.

Men, you say, are not the same today as yesterday, nor will tomorrow find them as they are today. One must, therefore, meet each day as best one can. In Europe bears and lions have been tamed and made tractable as domestic animals, but never has a tiger been so tamed. As tigers I regard these people who sacrifice everything, even personal interest, to their revenge, violating the sacred laws of humanity and of Christian charity. You think it deplorable for a Christian to live thus wretchedly for so long a time. I am a Christian and I know that Jesus Christ, when dying for me upon the cross, pardoned and prayed for his executioners; why, then, should I not pardon and pray for mine? May the God of Vengeance pardon them and render them good and happiness in proportion to the injury and pain they have inflicted upon me and mine.

<sup>20</sup> Askin had undertaken to befriend the writer, whose misfortunes were occasioned by a dispute over real estate. In a letter of June 29, 1807, preserved among the Askin papers, Monforton explains that Jacques Bezer Jr. had sold to Monforton's son a tract of land Monforton had formerly purchased of Bezer's father, and had mortgaged to Gregor McGregor. Monforton claimed that he had been intimidated into signing the mortgage by the threats of McGregor, and that the latter by unjust measures had secured possession of Monforton's home and property "up to the very bed of my wife." Whatever legal justification there may have been for McGregor's course, the present correspondence discloses some of the ill effects which flowed from laws permitting imprisonment for debt.