

I have the honor to be Sir Your Humble Serv^t

F. Baby

Depy L^t Cy of Essex

Col Askin

Addressed: H. M. S. Col. Askin Com^{dt} Sandwich

Endorsed: Sandwich Aug^t 12 1807 Francis Baby Esq^r to Jn^o Askin Rec^d from William Doughty [illegible] 8 oClock [illegible] night

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR IN DETROIT²³

Strabane August 18^h 1807

Dear Charles, The *Camden* just going past furnishes me with an opportunity of writing You, the only one I have had for a long time past. for that reason I will begin by assuring you that all the Family are well, which Im sure will be pleasing to You. From the appearance of War between Great Britain & the Americans,²⁴ Allice is determined to go to Vermont, where she will stay untill the difference is made up which now subsists. At Detroit they are making great preparations. The Town of Detroit is Picketed in from the Water Side untill it joins Fort Lernoult A Company of Negroes mounting Guard, The Cavalry Patrolling every night, Batries Erecting along the Settlement, and the Militia called out frequently.

We are very Busy about Militia Duty, although in very bad Order If there are not some Alterations made in the Militia Laws, I entertain little hopes of seeing them better Diciplined even in the course of Twenty Years. Many of the most respectable Gentlemen here, are very anxious that part of the Militia should be Embodied.

Duncan, Robins & Dedines Familly beg to be remembered to You. Doctor Richardson begs to assure you of his Sincere wishes for your prosperity. I have to finish & I remain Dear Charles

Your Affectinate Brother

James Askin

²³ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

²⁴ The attack of the *Leopard* upon the U. S. ship *Chesapeake*, June 22, 1807, had intensified the ill-feeling of the Americans toward Great Britain.