

Rum is a Drug. the Indians do not purchase One Gallⁿ per month. I saw upwards of 60 of them at one time together spirits, rum & whisky was offered for nothing to them if they would drink but they refused it with disdain. The Chief's reply to the officer Commanding when he offered them some of his Milk was that when they were young & had no teeth to Eat they could not get any of their Fathers milk & used to beg constantly for to suck but now that they were grown up & had good teeth they did not see why their Father should be so generous with offers of giving them some, especially as they could eat all the provissions he might give them. A number of Old men who knew you at Makina address me by [as] the Commissarys son. One of the Chimneys of the House you built at Old Makina²⁶ fell down only last Summer. Several large trees have grown upwards of a fathom in Cercumferance about the Garden I'm led to believe that they are Pickets which you planted for enclosure, which have taken root as they are populars they could not have grown to that Size Since you left it.

The following persons arrived this day from Makina on their way to Montreal v^z Tous^t Pothier, Campbell,²⁷ Giasson, Dav^d Mitchel J^r²⁸ Pothier & that Poor simple man J Bleakly²⁹ all Members or Partners in the South West C^o

I intend to send down as much Cedar Bark as will Cover my Farm House & Barn as soon as I can [have] them embarked I'm told they make verry good Covering far superior to any other bark. I have not seen half a Dozⁿ of white fish since my arrival. this is [the] most barren place I believe in the whole Western Country, Doct. Richardson praised

²⁶ On the outskirts of present-day Mackinaw City, where the fort and garrison were located during the period of Askin's residence there.

²⁷ John Campbell of Prairie du Chien, for whom see *post*, 608.

²⁸ One of the sons of Dr. David Mitchell, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 85.

²⁹ Josiah Bleakley was located at Mackinac as early as 1783, when he was serving as government Indian storekeeper and clerk. A letter of June 22, 1799 (ms. in B. H. Coll.), shows that he was then involved as a creditor in the tagled affairs of Clamorgan, Loisel and Co. of St. Louis. In 1805 he signed a petition of Montreal merchants protesting against restrictions upon British subjects trading within the territory of the United States; and in 1808 he was a member of the fur-trade brigade belonging to the Mackinac Company which was seized by the American government at Fort Niagara. In 1814 he signed an invoice in Montreal. Further record of his career has not been found. Data derived from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*, and sketch in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, XIX, 275-76.