

believe our Men as good and probably as numerous I have not been on the other side for these five or Six Weeks past or hardly any of the Merchants all intercourse between us is at a stand therefore untill the present disturbance is at blows Over. I cannot get anything done at Detro[it] Towards its commencement I wrote M^r Brush two or three times relative to Your and M^r McGill matters but I got no Answer, Oweing as I believe to his being Taxed with a Correspondence relative to the Public, if he wrote me, and as there is great Party Work on the other Side, I believe some of them Stick at nothing in Order to injure the opposite party and there are Daily representations going forward from one to the other to the President of the United States, So far as I can learn. I hope a favourable change may soon take place.

The present Law relative to Claims to the Confirmation of Lands on the other Side, thus, if you or even a Citizen of the United States claimed one hundred Tracts only [one] would be confirmed and that provided it does not exceed 650 Acres but if its only 10 its all the same you may make your Choice however the Law does not say that you will or willnot loose the other Lands you may or rather have claimed. the Law seems intended to settle some old French Inhabitants who have only a Farm each. The lands out of the Boundaries of those purchased by the Americans from the Indians are not in a worse situation than those within. Commodore Grant's place at Gross Point is of the former, but whats meant is that The American Government cannot give Deeds for Lands they never purchased of the Indians. they have lately endeavoured to make these purchases and more, but the Indians say they have cheated them out of their Lands and payment also, and that they will not sell them any more.³⁰

³⁰ The manuscript is a rough copy in the hand of Askin's son, of a letter by Askin to Isaac Todd. The latter portion of it, dealing with various unrelated subjects, is not printed here.