

permettez moi de vous renouveler les Sentiments d'estime,
d'amitié et de respect avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être
Monsieur

Votre très humble Serviteur
Peter Audrain

Veillez présenter mes respects à Mad^e Askin.

Addressed: John Askin, Esquire Straban

Endorsed: Detroit Oct^r 22^d 1807 Peter Audrain Esq^r
to Jn^o Askin recv^d same day Answ^d ye 14^h Dec^r

Translation

Detroit, October 22, 1807

Mr. John Askin

Sir: You understand my sentiments perfectly in thinking that an imaginary war will not change the esteem and friendship that has existed between us from our first acquaintance. I would say further, real war should never make any difference to men who truly respect each other. It is not your fault, nor mine, if the governments of England and America are at variance. Sooner or later they will come to an amicable agreement. If war should deprive us of the pleasure of seeing each other and of social intercourse, it would be a political misfortune, of brief duration, and the return of peace would renew our mutual pleasure in seeing each other, after such an interruption. I venture to predict that there will be no war, in spite of the present somewhat stormy outlook. Whatever happens, you and your friends in this territory are secure with respect to your property.

You have doubtless read the act of Congress of last session relative to land titles in this territory. Our power, as commissioners, is extremely limited. By that act we may not confirm a title that has not been recorded by the former board of commissioners, nor in the case of land not having been under cultivation and occupied before and since July 1, 1796, up to March 3 last.

We may not grant, that is to say, sanction, the grant of more than one tract to an individual, and the number of acres must not exceed 640.