

I am much afraid that flour or grain will never bear transporting from Detroit to Montreal; therefore the farmers will be obliged at last to turn their attention to something else; at present I know nothing which has any appearance of answering so well as hemp; but the preparation of it for manufacturing, requires so much labour that I believe it prevents people from cultivating it where labour is dear. The English farmers here do not seem to understand raising and curing of it, so well as I would have thought they did, and as the Canadians do not understand it at all, it will not be easy to get them to attempt it. Cap^t Gilkinson has the Model of a Machine here for breaking & hackling it, which is very simple and would not cost more than £100, if that, to go with a horse. one to go with Water would be Still simpler for it would require but two wheels the water wheel & another small one and it would require a very small quantity of water to make it go.

The hemp of this Country is generally believed to be equal to that of Russia, but its always spoiled in curing. If we could supply the Mother Country with that article, what an advantage it would be to both it, & ourselves.

I am glad of James's coming down; tho sorry of the occasion. I hope he may do well here. I had a letter from him which reached me before yours tho of a later date.

I have more to say, but I am afraid that I will miss the opportunity I have of sending this, if I do; and as there is another opportunity in a few days I shall now conclude.

Mr. Hamilton and the family are well. that you and my Dear Mother may enjoy the same blessing are the prayers of Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq^r Strabane Sandwich

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Strabane Sandwich

Endorsed: Queenston Feb^r 25 1808 Charles Askin to
Jn^o Askin Rec^d the 18 March and Answ^d