

currant bushes for M<sup>rs</sup> Askin. Allice desires her mother to send her a large basket that she says she has there. With respect to what M<sup>r</sup> Todd has said it is true there is yet a ballance of 160 dollars due on the orchard with interest. I have always anticipated to pay off this debt with consider[able] further remittances with the money that I Expected to have got from Gov<sup>r</sup> Hull he yet stands indebted to me about 1420 dollars [If] I should not be able to get any money from him before I shall be able to discharge the 160 dollars in June next perhaps before. I have some months ago forwarded the final certificate of this place which entitles me to a patent to the Sec<sup>y</sup> of the U. S. Treasury but there are some objections made to giving it at this time the Lord only knows what they are adieu

Yours truly

E Brush

*Addressed:* John Askin Esquire Straban

*Endorsed:* March 25 1808 E Brush to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin relative to a Ball. due Mess<sup>s</sup> T & McG Rec<sup>d</sup> and Answ<sup>d</sup> same day

#### FROM ROBERT HAMILTON TO JOHN ASKIN

Dear Sir That I have not been a regular Correspondent of late dus not arise I assure you from Want of Respect. But the sad Evil which befell my family in the Course of this Winter, damped my Spirits & sett me at Adversion with every exertion that was not Called for by absolute duty.<sup>51</sup> Time with his Lenient powers weakens these unpleasant Sensations, And for most of the Evils of Life Patience is the only solid cure.

I am thankful to my freinds for the kind part they partook in my Affliction. My Young folks have suffered a sad Loss but still have we not Reason to be thankfull. God has given them good Constitutions & he has kindly enabled me to give them the opportunity of procuring [a] Good Education which I esteem the first Duty of a Parent. I hear regularly from my Boys in Schenectady They seem to do as I could wish. My Youngest is still with me, but

<sup>51</sup> The allusion is to the death of his wife, Mary Herkimer Hamilton, on Jan. 26, 1808. On the subject of Robert Hamilton's family relations, see *B. H. R.*, I, 188.