

as yet disposed of one. Mr Brush is certainly a regular, industrious, sober man, and except in improvements is by no means extravagant for a man who *earns so much by his profession*.

I am quite at a Loss what steps to take relative to Mr McGill's and your claims to Land in the Michigan Territory. I may add more expence and yet as the Law now stands not stren[g]then the claims; constant possession & cultivation on all the tracts from July 1796 to 1807 is what the commissioners require, otherwise they can not grant certificates; now though all were possessed before 1796 very few have been constantly occupied and improved since; surely unless congress means to rob people of property for which they paid a valuable consideration; they must alter this Law, and strong representations from Montreal, and this by the Interested should be made for that purpose.

In my Letter of the 3^d & 9th September Last I mention the unpleasant issue of my suit with Mr Thomas Smith relative to the mortgage; neither my Law[y]er or self are yet determined, whether or no to apply for a new trial, the costs of this one will I suppose be £30 or £40 which with twenty pound, formerly for a non Suit is very provoking & expensive, when a man only seeks for what is clearly his right: Ruland does not deny that all that's done is only taking the security of the Land & making the Debt become his and which he is not able to pay; I have one redress yet, which is better than Israel Ruland alone; which is Ebenezer Allan⁶⁸ & Israel Rulands original note, for what was due you £128 with Interest from June 1800. Allan I believe able to pay and perhaps it would be better to sue him, for though he gave a mortgage on Lands to Ruland, & Ruland to me in order to secure that debt with something due me, Yet as he joined to invalidate the mortgage by the Testimony of his Brother; he should be made to suffer; Smith will in all probability get the Land, having bought it of Allan; dishonest men generally play tricks on each other; Smith made me some payments on Rulands Mortgage, but yet there is still due me £246 of which sum 190£ odd, should be yours; Smith & Ruland say they gave Mr Brush in part

68 Probably the individual whose career is sketched in *B. H. R.*, I, 559-60.