

The Ill state of my health & constant attention to my duty is the sole cause of not writing M<sup>r</sup> Brush by the two last opportunitys I hope he is generous enough to attribute my Silence from the reasons stated & not thro neglect or the want of attention. I'm sorry that you & several of our friends were disappointed in Madelaines intended visit. In a former Letter I stated it proceeded from my indisposition which had caused the Jaunt to be postponed to next summer. In addition to that cause there was another reason to wit: the want of *L'argent* to pay her expences which arose from the Pay List having been return'd as a change had taken place in the mode of paying the Department of this post & a whole years pay is now due me. therefore next spring you may expect her. Mess<sup>rs</sup> McGilvery & Thain<sup>s</sup> passed here a few days ago for Montreal via York. They spent the evening with me & took an early brakefast. The former was exceeding friendly in offering the North West C<sup>o</sup> dwelling house which is occupied by the Commandant at present & that I should make my own Terms for it. When Cap<sup>tn</sup> Derenzy is relieved I then will move into it as the House I now occupy is to[o] small for my family exclusive of my being deprived of shewing many worthy persons that Hospatilty due to strangers.

H<sup>s</sup> Ex<sup>y</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> Gore has been pleased to appoint me Collector for the place & enclosed the comm<sup>n</sup> without demand<sup>g</sup> the Necessary secur<sup>s</sup> or even an Acc<sup>t</sup> or charge for the Commission fees. I'm sorry that he has done so as I never applied for the same in anyway whatever, but as there is no remedy for the present, I shall act untill such time as an Opportunity offers for my getting rid of it in a handsome manner. In the mean time it will stop up a hole where troublesome men might creep into & annoy me as the former Collector did. please acquaint M<sup>r</sup> L. Barthe that I cannot send him at present red stone as he requests. none can be

5 Thomas Thain of Montreal was a prominent figure in the Northwest trade during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. On the reorganization of the North West Company in 1804, he became a partner of the new company, and he and John Ogilvie (another partner) were chosen to act as its agents for a term of five years. In 1824, when the government was negotiating for the purchase of the North West Company's establishment at Ste. Mary's, Thain was still described as the resident agent of the Company at Montreal. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim.*, and Davidson, *North West Company*, *passim.*