

AMERICAN CONQUEST OF FUR TRADE

Montreal 26 February 1810

My dear Old freend I receved a letter from you last fall, and wrote to you the same time which is very extraordinary that you did not receive it. there is no safety in writing otherwise than by post, as the Boatmen is very careless. I also this day had The pleasure of receiving yours of the 13th January and am Happy to find that you and yours are in good Health, which is one of the greatest blessings Providence can bestow on us poor Mortals. also that you are exempt from the many troubles, vexations, and disapointments attending those who are in commerce. for my part I have had a severe Bilious Fever which I got in Lake Champlain, which was near puting an end to our frienlly intercourse. however it pleased providence to Lengthen out my span, for sometime longer. I wish when it was in my power to have retired from active live to have done as you did. when we are young we do not feel the effects of misfortune, so much as when we grow old. how[e]ver when I look arround I find many worse than myself which is a consolation. our old friend Todd is in New York and has been there all winter, which has been a loss to our sociaty. espesially to me. he being the only old friend, except M^r Frobisher, who has not changed their dispositions, some from geting rich, other from having obtain'd places, &^{ca} has raised them in their own imagination above their old acquaintance, and I am sorry to say your friend M^cGill is one of that number. the popolation of this City within this two years exceeds all imagination. the whole trade of the Country is carried on by Americans and their agents, and I expect the Indian Trade will fall into their Hands, as M^r Astore has offerd to purchase out the Makenau C^o he has a Charter from Congress to an excluseve right to the Indian Trade, and I understand he is to be conected with the N W Company to make settlemnts on the North West coast of America, to communicate with the inland N W Trade. M^r M^cGillavray is now in New York & M. Richardson on that

1812, and was three times wounded in the battle of Chippewa, July 5, 1814. See *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, *passim*, and XV, 606.