

very purpose of shoving him out of the front and which ere long they will do.

I am Dear Sir very truly Yours

E Brush

P. S. I did not go at [to] Sandwich the day before yesterday as I had intended but shall go tomorrow without fail.

John Askin Esq^r

Addressed: John Askin Esquire Straban.

TROUBLES AT ST. JOSEPH²³

St Joseph's 21st April 1810

My Dear Brother, Tho your nephew John went to York last winter thats to say he left this on the 5 Feb & arrived at that place on the 20^h of same Month, Yet the situation of my mind was such from the persecution of a Malignant Commanding officer that I had not time to write you. rest assured My Dear Charles it was not from the want of that Affection which nature imbibes in us, but merely from the Multiplicity of my Business or Affairs. From the ill state of my Health & the unpleasantness of my situation reduced me to a mere Skeleton however thank God my Health & strength is recovering fast and I hope to be able to get thro with my Affairs & the better of all those Malevolent Characters that have endeavoured to Calumniate me Doctr Richardson happened to be at York when John was there which afforded him and the family at the latters return to this [place] infinite pleasure. Captⁿ Sherrard arrival here was a fortunate circumstanc as the Garrison at this Post was in a state of Mutiny. The principal ring leaders were secured in time The Indian[s] mounted Guard day & night under my Directions with The Soldiers till such times as the prisoners were compleatly secured & put in Irons.²⁴

I do not know of any instance that any Officer in the Indian Department have been persecuted, harass'd or annoy'd as much as I have [been] since I came to this place.

²³ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

²⁴ For Captain Dawson's version of this affair (written the same day as Askin's present letter), see *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, XXIII, 279-81.