

circumstance particularly of my being days and nights absent from home, that Some person is much wanted at their head. indeed I feel it absolutely necessary and indispensable. Tis true My Daughter has behaved in the most praiseworthy and exemplary Manner, but she is little more than a child herself, and certainly not fit to be so often left entirely alone.⁷² having therefore reason to believe that I can obtain the consent of a lady every way well qualified to act as a Mother to my children, I have after the most mature reflection and consideration, come to a determination on the Subject. this may in The Eyes of some people be called a hasty resolution, but when my situation is considered, which is certainly not a common one, an excuse may easily be found. The Person I allude to is Miss M^cGregor the eldeset daughter of the late Col. M^cGregor.⁷³ her character and conduct are well Known, and I think are such as will do honor and credit to Any family in the County I was an Eye witness to her dutifull and truly affectionate beheaviour to her Dying Parent and it was such a[s] convinc[es] and satisfies me she will make a Kind and affectionate Mother to my dear Madelanes children. could I for a Moment think otherwise, she should never have charge of them. Though this is not intended to take place instantly, yet as there are plenty of people ready to raise and propagate storys of this kind (often without any foundation) my wish is, out of respect to you, that the first account of this to you, should come from myself.

I will only add that no change of this Kind will ever lessen The respect and esteem I have for you, and in fact the sincere regard I have for the whole family.

I am with Sincerity Dear sir Yours &

R. Richardson

J. Askin Esq^r

CONFIRMATION OF LAND BOARD PROCEEDINGS

Near Sandwich July the 15th 1811

My Dear Sir, Its some time since I had the pleasure of

⁷² The allusion is to Jane Richardson (born, May 19, 1794), for whom see *ante*, 131.

⁷³ The prospective bride was Ann McGregor, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 442.