

la court a M^{se}l M^eGregor trois mois apres la mort de pauvres Madelaine, et j'ai apriise par cet Barque icité quil soit marie le huit du présent, Je crois que sa pauvre fame auroit plus respecté sa memoire; sa nous a fait de la peine, car nous avions une bonne opion de Richardson, ces-adiere que la tendresse quil a toujour montré pour sa fame nous faisoit suposé quil respecteroit sa memoire un peut plus longtems. Je vais conclure par vous prie dassures mes tendres amitié a mon cher pere, et mes frere, et soeur, et croyez moi avec tout tendresse possible,

Votre affectionné fille

Madelaine Askin

Addressed: (by John A. jr.) Mrs. Askin Strabane Recommended to the care of R. Richardson, Esq., Amherstburg.

Translation

St. Joseph, August 25, 1811

My dear Mother: I hope that this will find you and my dear Father in good health. I am pleased to tell you that with the exception of my dear John, who has a cold, we are all very well. Johnny is quite recovered and I think that in three or four days he intends to leave to spend the winter in the Lake Superior country. The South [West] Company's boats came in yesterday. Although he is not employed by them, I believe that Mr. Crawford, for whom he will work this winter, gets his goods from them. The company's agent arrived this morning from Mackinac, and as he gets his outfit here, there will likely be a great crowd in today and tomorrow. Mr. McGillivray, Mr. Gregory,⁷⁶

⁷⁶ John Gregory, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 334, was one of the early fur-trade magnates of Montreal, being in partnership in the early 1780's with Archibald N. McLeod, for whom see *ante*, 660. In 1784, under the leadership of Simon McTavish and the Frobishers, the North West Company was organized for the purpose of dominating the trade of the upper country. Gregory and McLeod and Peter Pangman thereupon established a rival organization whose creation is of somewhat peculiar interest to Detroit, since they took into the firm Alexander Mackenzie, a young Scotchman who, after five years in the employ of Gregory in Montreal, had recently established himself in business in Detroit. He now entered upon the career of trade and exploration which in the next few years was to win for him world-wide fame. After a short and bitter period of competition, the Gregory-McLeod-Mackenzie firm united with the rival combination in the summer of 1787, and by the union became members of the North West Company, in which Gregory was for