

Please give my love to my Dear Mother and to my
Brothers & Sisters

Your Dutiful & Affectionate Son

Charles Askin

John Askin Esq^r Strabane Sandwich

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Sandwich Fav^d by M^r
Witherall

Endorsed: 40 Miles Creek Feb^r 28^h 1812 Charles to
Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 5^h March Answ^d y^e 6^h

INJUSTICE OF LAND BOARD DECISIONS

Strabane April the 14th 1812

My Dear Friend, The only letter I received from you since you got home, was on the 24th November last, and was dated at London the 15th June; by it I was happy to find that you did not complain of bad health, and you gave hopes of returning to Canada this Spring; but I'm very sorry to learn by a Letter of M^r M^cGills dated the 14th February last, that he has no such hopes, which seems to effect his spirits much; he says you are the only one of his first acquaintances left, & now he dispairs of Miss Portius [Porteous]² living long; All his & M^{rs} M^cGills pleasure in this life seems to be at an end; how seemingly hard is this good mans Lot; yet as infinite wisdom directs all for the best, it must be so, and so he thinks it; for the more friends we lose by death or absence, the less our attachment is to this World, & the better we prepare for the next. Nothing could be a greater Loss to M^r M^cGill, than your Society; he loves you as a brother & you always brought him home dayly news, interesting and amusing which he otherwise could not have; his natural turn being, not to mix, but with a few chosen friends. He wrote me

² Mary Charlotte Porteous, daughter of John Porteous, for whom see *B. H. R.*, I, 144. Porteous had ten children, two of whom died before their father and one of whom (Mary Charlotte) was born after his death. McGill assumed their guardianship, and after the death of Mrs. Porteous, Mary Charlotte was taken into his home and treated like a daughter. In his will, McGill bequeathed her \$5000. She was afflicted with tuberculosis and died either before or soon after her foster father. See "The Early Years of James McGill," by E. Fabre Surveyer, in *McGill News* (supplement), September, 1929.