

WAR CLOUDS IN DETROIT

Strabane April the 28th 1812

My Dear Charles, I'm now two letters in your debt, the last of which dated the 16th Instant came to hand two days ago. It makes your mother and I happy that you do not complain of bad health, God be praised, the Family here enjoy the like great blessing.

The Militia-Law has arrived, but I have not yet seen it. indeed, unless on my children's account I have little to do with it. Except my wishes for the success of the British arms, which can only end with my last breath. I can not comprehend how a man of honour & honesty can ever change his allegiance. There are some preparations making at Detroit, and great ones at Malden for War. I hope it may not take place, yet I dread it much. The contracts at Malden for wood etc for furnishing say to repair the Garrison & make a Vessel, its thought will exceed £6,000. this will throw a Good deal of ready money into this part of the Country. Im sorry y^r brothers are so little calculated for business, otherwise I should have endeavoured to have got them, at Montreal, or Queenston, such a cargo, as I'm sure in proper hands could be turned into cash.

I was almost tempted yesterday to have purchased 50 barrells of flour at 6 dollars & draw on the Mess^{rs} Hamiltons for payment: The quality I suppose must be nearly the same as with you, for its's manufactured at M^r M^cGregors famous Mill at the River Thames, and as the freight down is only 4/ the profit would be something in theirs or your pocketts. You may Speak to them on this subject & if they will answer my Drafts, when I see an opportunity of purchasing & sending them down such articles as will immediately sell with them; they Shall have half the profits; but they must keep me regularly advised of the cash price of provisions or liquors with them, so as to enable me to know when I should buy. They may depend on my directions, not involve them or myself, in purchases to too large an amount for their purses & credit, or in buying articles, the Sale of which may be doubtfull. The inhabitants give their flour for 24/ a hundred & do not yet know that the