

FROM ARCHANGE MEREDITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Woolwich 1st of November 1796

My dear Father, You will observe by the date of this letter that we are returned to our old Quarters, but I am sorry to say M^r Meredith's ill health was the cause of our removal from Yarmouth, the air of the latter Place is extremely cold and damp, which by no means agreed with his constitution. the disorder under which M^r Meredith labours is termed a Diabetis, it is a very uncommon complaint and is rarely to be met with, it had made so rapid a progress ere we left Yarmouth, that the Phys[i]cian who attended M^r M advised him by all means to leave the Place, as if he remained there he would not answer for his life. we accordingly departed the 10th of last month, made three days of the Journey, and arrived in London on the thirteenth spent two days there whilst our House here was putting in order for our reception, and came to Woolwich on the 15th. Our mode of travelling was in a Post Chaise by far the easiest conveyance, and also the most expensive that could have been adopted, but we were obliged to submit to it as my dear M was forbid to use any exercise but the most gentle, it has so far reduced the Finances that I hope my dear Father will think of us when he has any spare cash, as it would prove very acceptable. when a Person is ill there are a vast many extra expences which cannot be dispensed with, consequently the *vino* runs away much faster than it comes. however My dear M is so much recovered already that I am delighted at having left Yarmouth, and flatter myself that by next Spring he will be as well as ever.

I trust that you are by this time well settled in your new Habitation,⁹⁶ pray God grant your every wish, and make you trully happy, in one respect you have the advantage of us as our troubles in this Kingdom cannot extend to you. Spain has declared War against England, which is a very unpleasant bussiness at this time, as it may prevent a Peace

⁹⁶ Evidently Askin had planned to move to the Canadian side immediately after the American occupation of Detroit. In fact, several years elapsed before the removal was effected, and although he conducted himself at all times as a loyal subject of the British Crown, he was even appointed, in 1802, a member of the first board of trustees of Detroit.