

Michelinackina 30 Mai 1806  
Ch. Chabotier Esqur

Monsieur

Après avoir resté ici quelques jours M<sup>rs</sup> Sutherland & moi avons trouvé à propos de faire arrêter nos trois canots à St Joseph pour quelques jours, c'est pourquoi on vous prie de mettre les Marchandises dans l'Hangan, et on vous envoie en même temps 10 Minots de Bled & de la graisse pour les hommes; de quoi les nourrir environ dix à douze jours et on vous prie bien de leur donner le prêt journallement, et avant que les vivres soient dépensés on se décidera soit de laisser les Effets chez vous ou de les amener ici. Vous recevrez aussi du Lard, pour le guide Riche & vous aurez la bonté de lui fournir du pain pendant qu'il sera à St Joseph. Le joint est le nombre des pièces dans chaque canot.

J'ai l'honneur d'être &c

J. B.

Dans le Canot de J. B. Riche Guide 56

le Canot de Louis St Marie — 55

de J. B. Chatelle — 55

Sans compter les trois pièces qui'on

a laissé chez vous. — 166<sup>pi</sup>



Michilimackinac 8 June 1806

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & C. McGill Es<sup>rs</sup>

Dear Sirs

I wrote you by the Lakes on the 24<sup>th</sup> the day after we arrived, and Mr. Sutherland wrote you in my absence the 5<sup>th</sup> Instant by Mr. Gillespie's Canoe, as there are some Indians going down to Montreal I give this the chance of reaching you to acknowledge your favours of 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> received last night by Mr. Potter, the latter contains a detailed account of the Saly of Furs, for which we were in some measure prepared by Mr. McGill's letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> last month which came to hand the 2<sup>d</sup> Instant.

We have had several conversations with Mr. Walnut on the subject of their business, but nothing has been concluded yet, I am very anxious to see Mr. Dickson with whom I imagine we will more easily come to some arrangement, he is expected from St. Louis daily, and will of course bring accounts of the returns from the Missouri of which we have yet no certain news, but from what you mention of Michael's letter I fear they will be very bad. Walnut seems desirous of giving us what information he possesses of the state of their affairs, though I have not yet got any thing from him in writing  
on



on the subject. His wish is to settle in some manner for the present debt, and leave the surplus intended for this year as a separate business; with this view we proposed two plans, either that they should give up every thing for the benefit of their Creditors generally, and we should give a discharge for our share, presuming others would also do so; or that they should pay what they could this year and be allowed time for the remainder, or perhaps a part of it to be given up. He complains much of the injury done to their Credit and has proposed that we should take all the returns of this year and settle with their other Creditors, or accept of 10% in the Pound on their Debt and what they are bound for on account of R. D. with security for the payment (by the bye I see but one man here that could give such security). Our agreement with R. D.'s Creditors would prevent us from keeping to ourselves any money we might receive on his account, and I do not wish to make such a sacrifice on the Company's Debt till I know what they have in their power to do. Wilnot in speaking of Dickson's affairs says that the stock he put in was very small, without however saying how much, and that he will not allow it



it to be drawn out till the Company's debts are satisfied, in this respect he talks like a man of business, but whether he will adhere to it I know not. He seems in some measure to blame himself for having been ignorant in a great degree of C. D.'s affairs.

Mr Gellispie it appears will get all Frank's returns, though from Wilnot's offer, to put the whole of their fees into our hands, it seems the matter is still open for negotiation, Wilnot says he cannot give the particulars till Frank come in; he at first talked of paying that debt in full on the faith of a promise last year, which certainly ought not to be binding, but on further consideration I hope such a determination will not be taken. The difficulty or rather improbability of obtaining justice in this place has restrained me from speaking my mind on these matters; and all I can say just now is that we shall settle in the best way we can and of course inform you as soon as possible.

The Censos were stoppt at St Josephs with the wampum & silver works, before Wilnot got here, finding the new Collector would not allow them to be landed for exportation, they got there the 3<sup>d</sup> Instant where the men remain till we can come to some final determination. The Boats are expected daily and we intend to land the Goods here and of course pay the Duties. —  
Wilnot



Wilmot suppress the whole of their returns including Sabay and the Missouri, which last is not ascertained, will be about 1000 packs only, but he says the Furs are good which is also Berthelot's opinion. It seems to be allowed that the hunt in the Mississippi has been pretty good, but the immense quantity of goods sent out and the diminution in the value of Furs will render payments very bad. It is the opinion that R. D. H.'s returns are not worse, but rather better than others from the Mississippi, this however is poor consolation.

Regarding Mr. Geason's affairs I may refer to himself.

The provisions from J. Dickson are come up addressed to R. D. H., amount about £525 Halifax; and I understand Pothier has received the Tobacco &c. from Caldwell & Co. The articles from Robison & Martin are not yet arrived.

Mr. Wilmot showed me a letter from Mr. McGill to Dickson which seems to answer their giving Frankes' returns to the House that supplied him, and if they had paid all the charges on these goods it would not be so hard; it is however evident that the meaning is to pay R. D. H. in Furs rather than by drafts on



on us, supposing that they would have it in their power to do equal justice to all their other creditors, enclosed is copy of the paragraph alluded to. We must say that Franks Goods were kept entirely distinct.

It is unnecessary to give any detailed answer to your different favours, the contents will be attended to. We have had two arrivals from Detroit, but I have not learnt any thing regarding the Trade there. When opportunity offers the letter for McGregor will be forwarded.

Not recollecting wherewith to detain you longer, I remain Dear Sirs &c,  
J. B.

Mackinac 14<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Messrs. J. & T. McGill & Co.

Dear Sirs

The foregoing is copy of my last, and I am sorry to say that matters are still in the same undecided state, as Mr. Dickson is not yet arrived nor any accounts further from the Messour. The Boats under Mosta got here safely the 9<sup>th</sup> Instant, and the goods are stored with R. D. Co. for our account, till something can be determined on, they also furnish provisions for the men who are at present employed in making up Packs to be ready when Dickson



Dickson arrives, the canoe goods are still at St. Joseph. The Duties on the three Boat Loads amount to 1005 Dollars for which I have given Bonds with Mr. Grafton as surety.

I have seen Mr. Gillespie this morning who sends down two Canoes loaded with part of the Furs from Franks, I had some conversation with him on that business, he says that he is assured of payment and that Franks' returns have been very good and will do more than pay his outlays, the Furs he says are as good as any parcel he ever saw go from the Post and adds that he hopes we will still get them, as they will be kept apart till further orders, this however is not very likely as that would subject us to the inconvenience of drawing Bills on them, I could not learn if he has any other returns but those of Franks, however I suppose not as they are so good, it seems that he sent two Equipts up the Mississippi with the Fells avains which have done very well. The Debt to their House he informs me is about £5500, this includes Goods remaining last year at LaBaye and sold to A. D. 86. about 29,000 livres value. He says that Franks last year, forgetting he had done wrong in getting Goods up in a clandestine manner on his own name, though intended for the Company, got his other partners



partners to come forward and assure Gillespie  
of payment, and that this being the case  
he could not offer more favourable terms,  
in justice to himself, than he did in Mon-  
treal; and that had he not gone out  
to La Baye still the same payments would  
have been sent to him. He told me  
our letter got there four or five days after  
him. In short we cannot here, or I  
believe in Montreal, take any measures to  
help ourselves and that being the case it  
is perhaps better not to attempt it, but  
to faire bonne face à mauvais jeu and  
make the most of a bad business. and our  
Perry's letter seems to give a sanction to  
the business, as formerly mentioned, at least  
the Parties will attempt to put that  
construction on it.

As Melnot made two proposals I  
wished to have the necessary information as  
far as at present in his power, to enable  
us to judge which would be most ad-  
vantagous, but this we have not yet  
obtained and as we wait for Dickson's  
arrival, I think it better not to have  
any further discussion at present, which  
would probably only tend to irritate us  
both. I cannot so much blame Gillespie  
for receiving his payments as I do them  
for promising it and carrying that promise  
into effect.

This goes by old Morriceau who is  
passenger



passenger in Gillespie's Canoes, I keep Mastas  
for a few days as our John is sick, should  
Mastas' wife want 4 or 5 Dollars please  
let her have them.

There will be other Canoes going off  
in a few days, and should any thing  
occur I will of course write you.

I always am Dear Sirs &c.  
J. B.

Mackinac 16<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & S. McGillivray

Dear Sirs

I wrote you the 14<sup>th</sup> by old Morrysean  
who went down in Gillespie's Canoes, to which  
I may refer, and as it was a good oppor-  
tunity I do not send duplicate of my  
letter. Dickson is not yet arrived and  
we are still in the same disagreeable  
uncertainty as to what arrangements may  
be made, which is the more unfortunate  
as the season is now far advanced and  
if they are to get the Goods they should  
be delivered without delay. I have  
had no conversation with Vibnot on  
business since my last, but if Dickson  
does not come in very soon we must  
come to some determination without him.  
By Mr D. McGillivray, who arrived  
here



here yesterday, I received your esteemed  
favours of 31<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> and two of 1<sup>st</sup> Instant  
to which I pay due attention; the Sale of  
Beaver is high beyond any expectation that  
could have been formed of it and will  
help a little for the bad sale of other  
Furs, but it appears to be more than  
counterbalanced by the Ports of Germany  
being shut against us, and if a favourable  
change does not take place by next winter  
the Fur Trade will be worse & worse. I  
shall particularly attend to your recom-  
mendation of not making any arrange-  
ments, that can possibly be avoided, which  
would oblige us to draw Bills, and this  
consideration will have great weight in  
preventing us from accepting Melnot's offer  
of taking their returns and settling their  
Debts, unless their other Creditors would  
come to some understanding with us, which  
I do not expect; and therefore 10% in the  
Pound would be much better, if to be  
had this year, or security for what may  
be unpaid.

We have not yet seen any state-  
ment of their affairs, though I expected  
it before this time; Melnot said one  
day that our supposition of their Debts  
(meaning



(meaning £4,000) was over-rated.

Our men have made up 102 Packs of Furs for Canoes, among which is 2500<sup>th</sup> good Beaver, and they are now making up Deer Skins for the Lakes. R. D. H. have no other Furs yet arrived, except what has been put into Gillespie's hands.

Since writing the foregoing I have seen Mr Lemoine from St. Louis, he brings accounts to 16<sup>th</sup> last month, on that day Dickson was met within 5 leagues of St. Louis, so that we may look for him every hour. The Missouri Trade was in general reckoned bad and Herby's Equipments among the worst, this however is merely a report, but I fear that it may prove too true.

Mr Sutherland desires to be remembered to you. I remain &c.  
J. A.

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16<sup>th</sup> June - Wrote Chabotier by McMillen's Canoe and sent 25<sup>th</sup> or rather more of grease to detain the men a few days longer.



Nackonac 17<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Messrs J. & S. Mifflin & Co

Dear Sirs

I wrote you yesterday and the present is to advise that I have drawn this day on you to pay a Clerk & a man of R. D. Hos viz in favour of Michel Revolle 1200 & Front. Sanction 690 livres. In doing this it was explained between Wilnot & me, that this was a separate affair on which no composition was to be offered. He mentioned that his statement would be completed to night and that if Dickson were here, he supposed the business would be settled very soon. He still abides by the first determination of making some arrangement for the old Debt, before saying any thing of the Goods. Both drafts are due in September. — No further news of Dickson.

I remain Dear Sirs &c.  
J. B.



Messrs J. & A. McGill Esq Mackinac  
25 June 1806

Dear Sirs

Yesterday I wrote you by this opportunity, and have now to inform you that last night after a long conversation with Dickson & Walnut I consented to deliver them the Goods we have here and to assume those of Geafson & Berthelot. As this is a measure of some moment it is necessary to be a little particular in speaking of it. After we had agreed to the composition, which was in a great measure forced upon us (though perhaps we thereby get as much as by any other settlement that could have been made) we saw clearly that R. D. Esq could be at no loss to get Credit and that in fact it would be as safe to trust them as most of the other Traders here, and seeing that by keeping the Goods on hand a certain loss of Interest would arise without any good prospect of disposing of them to better advantage next year, I agreed to deliver them; and the assuming those from Geafson, which he refused to deliver on any other terms, seemed to follow as a matter of course because they would have got them from others, which would occasion a



a division of their returns next season, besides they would have remained on hand without enabling G. & B. to diminish their Balance, and the assortment is certainly requisite for R. D. & Co's business.

Besides fixed property they reckoned up last night that Goods would remain at different places to the amount of between £4000 & £5000, so that I trust they will fulfil their promises next year. On the point of assuming Geapson's Goods Mr Sutherland allowed me to judge for myself, and I trust that you will approve of what has been done; all I can say is that, having acted from the best of my information & judgement and from cool reflection, I shall not blame myself whatever the result may be, though possibly I may wish it had not been done. It may be proper to give this timely notice that I have also consented to their getting High Wines to the value of about 16,000<sup>th</sup> and advances to men to the amount of 12,000<sup>th</sup> should so much be wanted, and their Tobacco will come to 8500<sup>th</sup> for part of which we are, you know



know, already bound. In return Dickson  
has promised that, if possible he will  
send more Furs than the £10,000 this  
year. The other Creditors are to have  
Furs at a valuation here and to be  
sold on account of R. D. Co. — Their  
new Debt Dickson will amount to  
£11,000 or £12,000 G. for which they  
promise fair as you will find by a  
letter which Melnot has read to me;  
one part I objected to, namely that  
the sacrifice we have made is not  
more than the injury done, but added  
that it was of no use to say any  
thing further on the subject.

It is a singular circumstance that we  
should accept a composition with security,  
and the next day put it in the power  
of the principals to perform their part  
without any surety and I dare say it  
may occasion some malignant smiles;  
you will however see that the cause  
was our being forced (in this Country  
without justice) into the first measure,  
before the other became a subject for  
consideration. I had an opinion at  
one time that some persons here had  
advised them to do in order to get  
their custom afterwards as well as to  
injure us, but am pleased to find that  
my opinion was too uncharitable. The



The Goods left at St Josephs are ordered  
in, and part of the men, at least, will  
be sent off with Fairs in a few days, and  
Wilmot is now shipping about 200 packs  
Deers by the Nancy for us which I hope  
will be at Kingston in good time. I  
have agreed to draw on Mr Astor, payable  
1<sup>st</sup> October for part of R. D. H.'s duties,  
about £1200 to £1500, for which they are  
to consign us Muckrats & Martens that  
are expected to sell better in Montreal  
than other skins. You will of course  
consider of the mode of reimbursing  
him, I wished to avoid it, but consider-  
ing the amicable arrangements entered  
into I could not refuse. You will  
see by their letter that I have promised  
nothing for next year till I can see  
you and know your sentiments and what  
we can do.

The Goods from Robson & Martin  
are not yet arrived, and I cannot  
at present say when we shall leave  
this place. As there will be other Canoes  
to leave this soon I shall write again  
if any thing occurs.

Mr Dickson writes your Prior, and  
you will of course hear from G. & B, res-  
pecting their own affairs.

I remain &c. J. B.

P.S. The articles from Robson & Martin  
are arrived to day, the Tobaccos &c. from Caldwell  
& Co is also here.



Mackinac 1<sup>st</sup> July 1806  
Messrs J. & H. McGill Esq.

Dear Sirs

The beaver Mastia has had a dollar from me to be deducted in paying him, besides what you may have paid his wife. Bad weather has prevented the Canoes from getting ready, however Dickson expects to get them off, five in number, in two or three days if the weather comes fair. By them I shall write more fully, though I hope Mr Sutherland, and perhaps myself also, will be with you before them. In case this goes sooner to hand it is proper to mention that I have drawn on Mr Astor for Duties here to order of George Hoffmann Esq<sup>r</sup> 4800 Dollars payable 1<sup>st</sup> October, the Collector who is as strict as possible, insisted on getting the drafts now and I wrote a letter of advice to Astor, but perhaps it will not be delivered till the draft is presented and almost due. I remain

Dear Sirs &c. J. B.

The Nancy was detained till last night, she has 188 packs for us. I wrote you fully the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Ult. by Doctor Mitchell's Canoes.



Blackman 4<sup>th</sup> July 1806

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & C. McCall & Co.

Dear Sirs

My last was of 1<sup>st</sup> Instant by Duplicate, and this goes by Ruelle who takes down five Canoes for us; Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dickson & Co. will send you the Packing Invoice &c. with the valuation which we consider very high, however Mr Gillespie says it is the same as his Furs are put at, making some allowance for difference of quality. He says that they will not be paid this year within £750 or £850 in consequence of his drawing for part of R. D. & Co's duties and agreeing to settle some other accounts for them here. They are to write you regarding the Furs to be sold for reimbursement of my draft on Astor and to show me the letter before closing it. When the Furs come in from the Missouri and River de Maine, which may not be sooner than ten days hence, part is to be delivered to the other Creditors here and the rest to be consigned to us.

Enclosed is copy of the Invoice of



of Tobacco &c. received from Mr. Pothier  
with the Receipt I gave him, for your  
information, the amount is £408. 14. 9  
York by to which they will of course  
add charges to this place.

I expect that we will leave  
this place in the course of six or  
seven days, unless I find it necessary  
to remain some time longer and go  
down by the Lakes, in which case  
Mr. Sutherland will set out alone.

J. B. Couture, one of the men of  
our light canoe, goes down with Ruelle,  
he has had nothing from me. —

I remain respectfully, Dear Sirs,  
Y. B.

I have seen R. X. H.'s letter



Mackinac 8<sup>th</sup> June 1807

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & A. Mill<sup>rs</sup>

Dear Sirs

I wrote you a few lines on the 3<sup>d</sup> to go by a vessel from St. Josephs, which I believe is still there. I have been here since the 31<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> without doing any thing, as none of the Traders are yet arrived from the Mississippi and we have no news from them or from La Baye; some Traders are arrived from the Grand River who complain of their returns, Adhemar wintered there for R. D. Co. he has made 15 packs, besides Sugar & Corn collected at Arbre Croche, he tells me there remains here 4. or 5 Bales only of furs. It appears there is a Prophet or Manitou among the Indians on the Wabash who has instilled many strange notions into their minds which have been industriously circulated among the other nations and have prevented them from paying the usual attention to their hunt. Mess<sup>rs</sup> Gasson has heard of the death of J. M. Courville in the beginning of winter, but does not know how his affairs will stand.

M<sup>r</sup>



Mr Pothier arrived here the 4<sup>th</sup> Instant  
and by him I received your esteemed  
favour of 21<sup>st</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> to which I shall  
pay every attention as well as to the  
sentiments of your Proc<sup>r</sup>. By Mr  
McJullivray I hope to hear further  
from you and trust he may bring  
~~some~~ some favourable news. -

I have seen a letter to Mr Pothier  
from Mr McGillis of the N. W. Co. of  
18<sup>th</sup> April from Seck Lake (Lac des  
sanguines) which gives an unfavourable  
account of the outfits from this post  
made by Lake Superior, but the people  
here think them exaggerated. Dickson  
wintered about three days march from  
that place in Rivier la Feuille; no  
mention is made of his trade. -

I wrote you by Laronde, and  
from what he told me next  
morning I suppose he will not  
allow his brother to take his Goods  
from the Company. Perhaps his  
determination may be known by the  
return of the Indians who take  
this down or by the summer Canoes,  
in time for the Agents to send ano-  
ther there if he does not take Goods  
from them. Laronde would tell you  
that



that his packs and his brothers can be sent together, I heard of him by Pothar and find he would not get down before McMillen set out.

The Shamus is at St. Josephs, she has brought 167 Bags of the Flour we ordered from McGregors, the remainder waits another opportunity, she being too much loaded to take it.

The collector has called on Mr. Geason today for payment of his Duties, near 5000 Doll. saying that he must have a draft at 30 dts in place of 1<sup>st</sup> October, to this I will not agree if it can possibly be avoided, and if I can ascertain it before the Indians go off, will let you know. The collector is stricter than ever this year, he examined our Trunks &c, besides requiring my oath to the Entry I made. Mr Geason is not well enough to write you to day, but expects to do it tomorrow morning. I remain &c.  
J. B.



Mackinac 9 June 1807  
Messrs J. & C. McMillan & Co.

Dear Sirs

I wrote you the enclosed  
yesterday and which Mr. Geason &  
I have seen the Collector and I  
think he will take a draft for  
15<sup>th</sup> October though it is not yet  
decided upon, if we should be  
forced to draw earlier or at 30 days  
by his taking legal steps to enforce  
payment, I will of course let  
you know, and advise Mr. Astor  
of the cause, but I believe it  
will not be necessary.

A vessel arrived today from  
Chicago, but brings no accounts of  
the trade to be depended upon.  
Mr. Geason has 30 packs from  
Benson & as many from Courville  
shipped by an agent, but no  
letters or news from themselves.  
No news from the Mississippi.  
I remain &c.  
J. B.



Mackinac 10<sup>th</sup> June 1807

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & S. McGill & Co.

Dear Sirs

Above you have copies of what I wrote by an Indian canoe which went off this morning, and as there may not be another opportunity for some time by the Grand River, this will be sent by the contractor to Fort Erie.

Mr Cameron & Rollet are arrived and bring very bad accounts of the returns from the Mississippi, particularly the upper part. Dickson may be expected here in two or three days, they say he has made only 17 packs himself. Belmont was to remain at Prairie du Chen till about the 6<sup>th</sup> Instant; no accounts from the Missouri, but from the report of Indians during <sup>the</sup> winter they think Mr Bird must have done well, and they say that Franks will make good returns. They report that the goods remaining from different people belonging to R. D. Co at Prairie du Chen would not be more than £100 value, a small sum indeed. On the whole, though I cannot get

detached



detailed information to be relied on, yet it is evident our returns will be bad from the Mississippi at least. Berthelot writes Mr. Gibson in the same manner also, but does not particularly mention any Traders with whom they are not concerned. It is said there is less Beaver than usual from the Mississippi this year.

I have heard nothing more from the Collector, and imagine he will, for this season, take drafts payable 1<sup>st</sup> October.

I remain Dear Sirs

Your faithful and most  
obdt. servant  
J. B.

Mackinac 12<sup>th</sup> June 1854

Messrs Geo. & Jas. McGregor

Gentlemen

Since my arrival here I have received your favours of 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> last month, the former enclosing Receipt for 187 Bags Flour which I delivered to the Agents of the Company and one of them is now at St. Josephs to receive it, on shipping the remainder you will please address it to "the Gentlemen Agents of the Mackinac Company" as it is their



their business to receive it and perhaps I may not be here at the time. Some of them will pass down your way and I hope you may be able to make a contract for part of their supplies.

Mr. Grafton is not quite satisfied with your judgment of his Contract, he writes you himself on the subject.

By a light canoe I have received letters from Montreal of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> last month, and as this will probably reach you sooner than letters direct from thence, it is proper to mention that part of the Deer Skins were sold, I have got the average prices, and among those of your marks; it appears that those sold were all hair skins of summer or winter, and hopes are entertained that the remainder may do better as there was some expectation that the German market would brighten in consequence of the appearance that the French were retreating. Another sale was fixed for the 15 April, when the 2<sup>d</sup> & 3<sup>d</sup> sorts of Beekoon were to be put up and the fine Otter, but not a word about other Furs.

One of the spring Fleets had got to Dubu and the others were daily expected.

I remain Gentlemen, Your m. ob. sc  
J. B.

From what we have yet learnt, the returns from this Post will be bad.



Mackinac 20<sup>th</sup> June 1807  
Messrs J & A. McGill & Co.

Dear Sirs

I wrote you the 10<sup>th</sup> instant by the Lakes and this goes by the same way, in case it should reach you before the Canoes which will not set out for some days to come. Mr Dickson arrived on the 16<sup>th</sup> but none of the other partners are yet come in, Thelmont is expected daily; Dickson & I have had some conversation on business, but he wishes the others to be here before any thing is decided on, he has assured me that no partial payments should be made. No news yet from aird, in fact I have no more particular information than when I last wrote, as Dickson has not the Books with him nor a list of the returns from their various equipments he has shipped for you by the Steamer 120 Packs Deer skins and in a few days I expect our run by the Light Canoe will be sent off, by them I shall again write you, which will probably get to hand before this.

Your favour of 29<sup>th</sup> came to hand by Mr. McIlwray, he left this a few hours before Dickson's arrival, which I was sorry for, as I wished them to meet here.

I remain Dear Sirs  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup> & faithful  
Servant



Mackinac 26<sup>th</sup> June 1857

Messrs J. & C. McGill & Co

Dear Sirs

Above you have Duplicate of <sup>still</sup> my last, and I am sorry that it is, out of my power to give you more pointed information. Wilnot arrived some days ago, but as some of their packs are not yet arrived from the Mississippi and other parcels in Company not divided, I have no list of the returns from which any calculation can be made. Franks is not ~~yet~~ come in and is not expected for some time, nor is there any news at all from Aard, more than formerly mentioned, but we look for accounts of him soon by Michaels who was to set out about the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant; and perhaps Aard may come with him. The people from Lake Superior arrived last night, their returns are not good, though not so very bad as we were at first informed by McGillis' letter.

Mr. Patterson was here some time ago and wished to buy Muskrats for Mr. Astor, at least he must be concerned as he had given Patterson authority to draw



draw on him for the purchases or on you,  
he did not buy any himself, but left  
directions with Mr. Gillespie who has  
since purchased all that Geafson and  
Dickson & Co. may have, at 2/3 York, the  
very small amount out, payable by drafts  
on Astor; this will enable them to pay  
their Duties here and I expect no  
drafts will be drawn for our account  
on Astor, except the sum of 1027 Doll;  
for which I gave bond. The sum of  
£1235 stated by R. D. & Co. as due to the  
Collector includes the whole duty, as  
Wilmot tells me, on the Goods they had  
from us and Geafson last year.

As my own men well, I expect,  
be with you nearly as soon as this I  
shall of course write by them, meantime  
I remain Dear Sirs &c.  
J. B.



Mackinac 28<sup>th</sup> June 1857

Messrs J. & C. McGill & Co.

Dear Sirs

I wrote you a few lines this morning by a Canoe of Doctor Mitchell, and I have since been with Jackson & Gillespie and have agreed to absolve the latter from his security for which they put into my hands the two Canoe load of Packs now going down and 400<sup>to</sup> Beaver besides, to be shipped on their account, you will have packing Invoice of them enclosed, also the Bills Lading, the Furs are good but it will require too high a valuation to make up the sum deficient on last years payment, I found that had I persisted in holding Mr Gillespie's security they would have put double the amount of Furs into his hands as an indemnification, and this might prevent them from arranging with their other Creditors, by which means they could not accept their shares in the Mackinac Comp<sup>y</sup> nor would the Agents employ them, when they might be taken off from their affairs, the same reason has occasioned them to call a meeting of their Creditors which was intended for today, but is



is put off till tomorrow, the principle  
to be offered is to give share & share  
alike to those they owe, taking our  
account of this year, this is an  
awkward time to call a meeting of  
when they do not know their returns,  
and perhaps some of the parties may  
make difficulties in accepting it,  
when I can inform you any further  
on the business I shall of course do so,  
and I expect there will be other  
opportunities in a few days.

I have explained that I cannot  
undertake to advance money on Furs to  
be shipped, but only for Goods put in  
which I am told may amount to  
£1000, part of which will be drawn  
out by payments to men & Clerks from  
the retail store.

In giving up their returns they  
do not ask a discharge, but time  
to pay what Balance may remain.  
We are anxious to hear from Mr  
Kerd, and I fear his Furs will be  
late in getting in.

Enclosed is account of advances to  
the men and you will please pay  
Mastis wife four Dollars. The Canoe  
which I brought up may perhaps  
be worth something if it meets with  
no



no accident in going down. I remain

Dear Sirs &c. J. B.

Dickson shipped 120 Packs Deer Skins  
by the Thomas the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant to your  
address, the Packing account was  
sent with them. Two winters of R.  
D. H.'s go down in these Canoes, Frans  
Rouffean & Louis Rondeau, you will  
please pay the former 231<sup>rs</sup> and the  
latter 44<sup>rs</sup> 8 charging the same to them.

Mackinac 2<sup>d</sup> July 1807

Mess<sup>rs</sup> J. & A. McGillivray

Dear Sirs

I wrote you the 28<sup>th</sup> last month  
by Euro to which please be referred. The  
next day there was a meeting of R.  
D. H.'s Creditors when it was agreed  
that a parcel of Furs should be put  
a part to answer for their Debts due  
to different people, exclusive of their  
new account with us and £400 odd  
they owe Gellespie, he & us are to receive  
in proportion to our Debts on the  
remainder and to answer for the defi-  
ciency that may arise on the Sales in  
England, in the same proportion; by  
this means we will avoid the advance  
of money on Furs to be shipped.  
These Debts, as you may see by the  
list



lest you have, amount to £2300 or £2400  
and include what is owing to J. Dickson  
and R. Hamilton, <sup>the fees</sup> are to be valued  
here by Mr. Bleakly who is not inter-  
ested in the transaction, and it remains  
to be determined to whom they shall  
be consigned. - I find Rousseau had  
got their note for what he sold  
last year which he endorsed to  
Logan & Watt who sent it up by  
Father with orders to see if it was  
not paid, and this would have  
prevented them from accepting their  
shares in the Company, it was therefore  
necessary to come to some determination,  
as the agents had allotted to each  
partner his department and only  
waited for that decision to make  
it known to them. - I have also  
signed a paper to say that the defi-  
ciency, if any, on the fees put into  
our hands for the composition of  
last year shall be consolidated with  
the new account; this I know is  
intended by them to bar us from  
ever claiming more than that com-  
position, but if ever they are in  
a situation to pay the whole, I  
think it may be worth trying.



I shall of course carry a copy of it down with me.

These Muskets will go near to pay the Duties, and as for Clerks & mens wages they are to draw on us for them, against which we are to get the Goods they put into the Company and if they do not suffice to sell Loss for the deficiency in Montreal, if I do not buy from them here which I have no expectation of being able to do.

I am sorry that I cannot yet give an Idea of what payment we may get from them this year, but see with pain that it will not be near what it ought to be.

Frank's is not come in yet and there is no news at all from Ark.

I remain, Dear Sirs  
Your most faithful and  
Obedt Servant,

J. B.

5th July. - Frank's came in this morning and has brought the remainder of his Furs with him. Dickson & Co have begun today to make up two Canoe loads of Packs for us which will be dispatched in two or three days by which time I may be able to say nearly how many packs they will



will send us, exclusive of birds  
returns which are not yet known,  
we learn by Mr. Labron that he  
had not got to St Louis the 5<sup>th</sup>  
last month, one of his Clerks, Crooks,  
had arrived and I am told has  
made good returns.

Per Rulle

MacKenac 10<sup>th</sup> July 1807  
Messrs G. & C. M'Pherson

Dear Sirs

I wrote you a few days ago by  
Rulle, and this goes by Parrot who  
has two Canoes under his charge for  
you, loaded by R. D. Co. regarding  
which they will write themselves; the  
four packs to make up the pay-  
ments of last year are in these  
Canoes. I have not yet seen the  
Recapitulation of the other Packs, as  
they are very debatory in their business,  
but do not expect that we will  
agree about their price. The Furs  
to be valued by Mr. Steakley are  
not yet put aside, when that is  
done we shall see what remains,  
there



There will however be only Deer Skins,  
I suppose about 80 or 90 Packs which  
are made up to ship in the Nancy  
which will sail in a few days. We  
do not yet know what success Mr  
Purd has had, Mr Michael who  
left St. Louis the 14<sup>th</sup> ult, brings no  
accounts of him to be depended upon;  
he was expected there a few days  
afterwards and I hope may be in  
here before long. Jackson & Co are  
to have one of the summer Canoes  
to take down part of his Furs.

I have seen the list of drafts  
drawn by R. D. & Co to be sent to you,  
amounting to upwards of 15,000 Dollars,  
which they assure me is all for  
wages due to men & Clerks and that  
the one to Abbott is for Bous given  
to Engage's which came into his hands.  
They are of opinion that the Goody & Co,  
put into stock will cover what they  
may have occasion to draw for.

I remain, Dear Sirs  
Y<sup>r</sup> m<sup>t</sup> obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>,  
J. B.



Mackinac 11<sup>th</sup> July 1807

Messrs J. & A. McGill & Co.

Dear Sirs

I wrote you yesterday by loaded  
Canoes, but as the present opportunity  
is by Michaels who goes down light,  
I enclose copy of the same also  
part of what I wrote the 2<sup>d</sup> Inst.

You will find enclosed the Receipt  
of 68 Packs sent off yesterday  
the quality is in general good and  
I estimate them at about £2500;  
I cannot say how many Deer Skins  
they may have still to send us, but  
suppose that (including 120 Packs by the  
Shamus) there may <sup>be</sup> 13000 to 14000 which  
will make a like sum, Aird's returns  
are not known but supposing he  
pays his equipment of 76500 Livres  
there will still be a great Deficiency.

Dickson has made up the whole of  
their Musk-rats, they have 17500 which  
will pay their Duties within a trifle.  
To day they began the Packs to be valued  
by Mr. Blackley, those from the Lower  
Mississippi & River de Moune are  
to be taken, but the Beaver & Musk-  
rats are taken out and there will  
not be enough of these parcels, whether the



the deficiency will be made up in Deer  
Skins or if we shall wait for  
Aurifer's returns I do not yet know.

When I see the valuation I will  
perhaps propose that they shall be  
sold in Montreal if any person  
will give the price, and I mean  
to endeavour that Mr Hamilton  
should not get paid in full to  
our prejudice, as he may very well  
wait for his money.

Courville & Beignon arrived last  
night, but part of their Packs are  
not come in. I remain &c.

J. B.

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Mackinac 16 July 1807

Messrs J. & S. McGill Esqrs

Dear Sirs

My last was of 11<sup>th</sup> Instant by  
Mr. Nichols, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> I received  
your esteemed favour of 13<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> to  
which I pay due attention, I have  
also seen your letters to Godson and  
R. S. Esqrs and am sorry to find the  
news of Feers so discouraging, I wish  
to flatter myself that matters are  
at the worst and hope they may  
get



get a little better before next year's  
Sales.

In former respects I informed you  
of the different arrangements made  
here, the three Canoes are now  
getting ready to set off, they are to  
be consigned to Bleakley and Pothier  
till further orders and I enclose the  
Recapitulation with the value put  
on them by the former, which is low,  
though God knows but it may be  
high enough; you will also find  
Note of the Deer Skins shipped to  
our address, you have already had  
account of the Furs, by which you  
will see that the returns are very bad.  
There is no further news from him,  
it will break in very much on his  
returns to make up the sum formerly  
mentioned, seeing the valuation is so  
low; it is however understood that  
if they get their money in Montreal  
the Packs are to be given up, but  
I do not imagine R. D. Co. will  
agree to sell at these prices, Jackson  
is now at St Joseph's on the Company's  
business, and I shall wait his return  
before speaking to them any more on  
the subject. The Agents have had



so much other business that the amount of Goods put into the Company's Stock is not yet ascertained, I cannot therefore give any further information on that point just now. Geayson says he will have upwards of £4000 value, but short returns in furs, though he does not yet know what is to come from the Menos. He sends down two or three Canoes in a few days.

The Duties are not yet all settled, but if any thing is to be drawn for on our account, I think it will not be £100. -

The certificate about Wampum was found sufficient by the Collector.

When any thing occurs I shall of course write you, meantime I remain

Dear Sirs &c. &c.

J. B.

There are more Bears and the quality better this year than usual. What a pity they do not sell!

I am much obliged by your mentioning Mrs Blackwoods' welfare, enclosed is a letter for her: - The Massey sailed today.



Messrs. J. & A. McGill & Co.  
Dear Sirs

Mackinac 30<sup>th</sup> July 1807

I wrote you of the 16<sup>th</sup> Instant  
and a few days afterwards to Mr  
McMill. Yesterday Mr. Aurd arrived  
<sup>30 days from St. Louis</sup>  
and has brought his Furs with him,  
but not enough to pay, I shall get  
a Note of them to enclose for your  
information; he gave into the Com-  
pany's Store at St. Louis the remainder  
of his Goods, which he says may be  
near to £200 Currency. - The Deer  
Skins, between 500, 60 packs, were paid  
away for men's wages and other Debts.  
From what Mr. Aurd says it appears  
there will be difficulties in the way  
of Traders going to the West of the  
Mississippi, it is however believed  
here that they will be got over, as  
the Indians must have supplies  
which the Americans cannot for the  
present furnish.

As Mr. Aurd's Furs will be  
made up without delay, I hope before  
long to get the different matters  
of accounts &c. brought to some settle-  
ment, but do not know whether I  
will



will find an opportunity when I am  
ready to set off. - Mr Denis is  
waiting with four canoes for more  
packs to come from the Illinois, if  
I can be ready I intend to go  
down with him. I remain  
do. J. B.

Franks went away two days ago, he  
has left his Power of atty with  
Dickson to act for him.



Nichimackenac 3<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1807

Paid to the Washerwoman

38.10 — — — 112 11

to D<sup>o</sup> for Mastia — — — " 13

paid abbotts' acct. for copy of  
agreements of last year

with Dickson Ho. 2 of York " 126

paid for Milk — — — " 113

217 11

4<sup>th</sup>

R. D. & Co. are to be charged for

$\frac{2}{5}$  of 2450 being wages of men

Ent<sup>d</sup> that took down packs 980

a canoe to go down 200

a kettle 18 sail &c 20 — 38

1218



Michilimackinac 4 July 1806  
accepted R. D. Ho's draft to  
Chs Lennieux for 150 Livres due  
in October next

---

accepted R. D. Ho's draft of this date  
to order of Wm Gilkerson, payable 15<sup>th</sup>  
October next for 2890 Livres 15<sup>th</sup> July  
also their draft of this date to order  
of Nathaniel & Birsday Norton, at  
97 days date for 13,438 Livres —

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9<sup>th</sup>  
sold D<sup>r</sup> Mitchell the Flour remaining  
at Mr Gilkerson's 28 to 30 Barrels  
belonging to J. & A. McGill at  
four Dollars ps. each payable  
next year —

---

1<sup>st</sup> June 1807  
Paid the collector for Duties on Beef,  
Wine & Lard and entry of my  
Canoe  $\frac{950}{100}$  Dollars 276

---

Paid for Eggs bought by the Guide  
for our ~~our~~ voyage — 8<sup>11</sup>  
Calash here to LaHone — 11 " 17 "

---

Due by the Guide on money given  
to buy Eggs — 31



Michelinackonac 28 June 1807

To pay in Montreal for accounts  
of R. Dickson & Co. - viz -

to Frans. Roybeau - 231.<sup>00</sup>

Louis Rondeau - 441.<sup>00</sup>

672.<sup>00</sup> = 28 " 4

13<sup>th</sup> July

Advanced Louis Lafontaine, engaged  
for John Hay, 1 Hat - 10 "

15<sup>th</sup>

Rec<sup>d</sup> from R. Dickson & Co and  
del<sup>d</sup> to Geo. Hoffman (Jr) Receipty

George Gillespie's draft of 14<sup>th</sup>  
instant to J. & A. M. Co at  
30 days on J. J. Astor for  
 $1032 \frac{40}{100}$  Dollars, being duties of  
last year with interest to  
15 Sept<sup>r</sup> next

16<sup>th</sup>

Received from J. Gibson and paid  
to C. Lafontaine to settle accounts  
viz in Bank Notes of the  
Bank of N. York - £5 -  
Gold

5<sup>th</sup> Bull 10/8 11



Michelinacorum 10<sup>th</sup> June 1806  
Gave Bonds for Duty on Goods by three  
Barges under Mastia, J. Gasson surety

vir  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Feby 1806 — 335.09  
10 April — " — 335.09  
10 June — " — 335.09  
Doll. 1005.27

17<sup>th</sup>  
Dracon of this date on J. & A. McGill  
Ho. payable in Sept<sup>r</sup> next, to be charged  
R. Dickson Ho. to order of  
Michael Pinville — 1200  
Fran<sup>s</sup> Lancteau — 690  
as advised same day 1890 livres

26<sup>th</sup>  
Drew on John Jacob Astor Esq<sup>r</sup> payable  
1<sup>st</sup> October next to order of George  
Hoffman Esq<sup>r</sup> for 4800 Dollars to  
be charged J. & A. McGill Ho. as by  
advice, for which R. Dickson Ho.  
are to consign us Muskrats & Martens  
or other Furs to sell in Montreal.

27<sup>th</sup>  
Received from Joseph Guy payment of  
Thos. Dickson's draft on him in my favour  
of 14<sup>th</sup> Ult<sup>o</sup> for 21.19.7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> York, as follows  
vir  
D. Mitchell Jun<sup>r</sup> Bon 18<sup>th</sup> Jul 12 — 7 13 10  
Mr Dunham's — do — 23 — 5 15 —  
Cash — — — 4 5 11  
Halifax 13 14 9



Michilimackinac 24<sup>th</sup> June 1806

Note of Goods received from Mr J. Pothier for account of Caldwell Fraser & Co. for which gave a Receipt and delivered them over to Robert Dickson & Co. - viz -

35 Rolls N. West Twist	3388 <sup>ts</sup> <sub>2</sub>		
5 Casks Carrot do	2097		
3 kegs Rappu Snuff	5485 <sup>ts</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1/4	365 14 "
1 keg - 6 doz. Large Papers fine Cut Tobacco	91 <sup>ts</sup> <sub>2</sub>	1/8	7 12 6
1 d. 6 doz. second - do		8/	2 8 "
1 d. Barbey	92 <sup>ts</sup>	5/	1 10 "
4 boxes Chocolate	200 <sup>ts</sup>	8/	3 14 "
3 kegs Plug Tobo	314 <sup>ts</sup> <sub>2</sub>	2/3	22 10 "
1 box Mustard	9 doz.	1/2	18 6 "
Painting packing & cording		11/	4 19 "
35 Rolls		18/	31 10 "
5 Iron bound Casks		37/	8 4 "
3 kegs for snuff		4/	" 12 "
2 d. for cut Tobo		7/	" 14 "
1 d. for Barbey		9/	" 9 "
4 Boxes for Chocolate		3/	" 12 "
3 kegs for Plug To		4/	" 12 "
1 box for Mustard		4/	" 4 "
£292.19.3 Halifax			
To be added the Transport from Albany or any other customary charges			
		York 6/	468 14 9