

it does not auger well. I am working day & night to effect a police bill for you in such manner as to prevent & obviate all your difficulties, & my struggles shall not be wanting to bring it to maturity.

I hope to get my accounts from you before Winter, that I may liquidate it, in Case it exceeds the bill already sent, & a few pounds perhaps in my good f[r]iend George Leiths hands, to whom give my ever warmest regards as well as to the worthy Doctor,³⁸ God for ever bless you & yours prays all this family, particularly

D W Smith

Addressed: John Askin Esquire. Detroit

Endorsed: Niagara Sept^r 24^h 1792 Lieu^t D. W. Smith to Jn^o Askin recv^d y^e 29th Answ^d y^e 13th Oct^r

LEGISLATIVE VIEWS OF DAVID W. SMITH

Niagara. 28. Sep^r 1792

My worthy friend! I received your Letter of the 20^h In^s My Mother returns thanks for the apples, which you advise to be on their way. by the last Ship I transmitted you a Bill for £200 Ny. which with what I have in M^r Leiths hands may perhaps pay the Costs; if Not I beg for the accounts by Leith & they shall be liquidated, with a thousand thanks. We have done little as Yet, One Grand bill for the General Settlement of the Law of the Land will I expect pass; & we have passed a Jury bill in general terms thro' our house with some difficulty—a bill to enable 2 Justices to try for 40 [shillings] without appeal, is in great forwardness. Ways & means seem the great difficulty. one or two Committees for that purpose have proved nearly abortive. I proposed that [every] Landholder should pay one farthing P[er] acre P[er] annum for all Lands above 200 Acres, which I conceived would not burden the Settler, but the Court party & the popular party were both against me & I stood alone in the House. however

³⁸ Dr. Harff, for whom see *ante*, 304.