

I am still of opinion that a Land tax, whether it goes by that Name or not, Must eventually take place. I act from principle. Altho I value the worlds opinion somewhat, I cannot conceive that one farthing raised by the House of Assembly can be deemed onerous, when the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions will probably have power to raise much greater Sums. M^r Powell³⁹ & M^r Baby have set off this Evening for New York.

God bless You my ever valued f[r]iend
believe me Yours

D W Smith

Addressed: John Askin Esquire. Detroit.

Endorsed: Niagara Sep^r 28^h 1792 L^t D. W. Smith to
Jn^o Askin recv^d & Answ^d y^e 13^h Oct^r 1792.

FROM DAVID W. SMITH TO JOHN ASKIN

Niagara. 2^d Oct^r 1792

My dear Sir! Nothing very particular occurs, but I cannot omit scribbling you a few lines. I am unfortunate in my endeavours to do what I conceive would serve ye[?] in general. I proposed a bill to enable the Magistrates in Quarter Sessions to levy County Rates, but it has been thrown out. I have been of opinion also that the Magistrates in Q^r Sessions should choose the different County, Town, & Parish officers, but that it seems wont succeed either, Most of the Members being for a Town Meeting & that these offices should be elective. however as I conceive these Meetings to have been the Cause of [the] late unhappy Rebellion, & must always be attended with Riot & Confusion, it does not meet my ideas. I think the Majesty of the people should never be called together but to choose their Representative for the House of Assembly; & perhaps to

³⁹ William Dummer Powell, who came to Detroit from Canada in 1789 with the appointment of judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He remained here until 1794, when, on the reorganization of the judicial system of Upper Canada, he was made judge of the Court of King's Bench, thereby necessitating his removal to the capital of the province. For his career see William Renwick Riddell, *Life of William Dummer Powell* . . . (Lansing, 1924).