

assemble them without an instrument from the Governor may be illegal, & to force that Instrument from him by Law, May be an Infringement of His prerogative. I have been working a hundred ways to get your fire bill passed, & this day I have brought something into the House, which I think will succeed & answer the purpose. it is that whenever there shall be found in any space of half a mile Square, 40 Houses therein, it shall be lawful for the Magistrates in Q^r Sessions to make regulations for the prevention of fire in that place. The Great delicasy & difficulty started is mentioning the Name of the Town of Detroit. however as the Proclamation unquestionably in my opinion puts you in the County of Kent; I trust you will find no difficulty, as the bill is framed merely to serve Detroit. No answer to the Merchants Memorial, which on all hands seems as difficult as it is desirable to execute. The Etiquette of Courts is too often but Silence, when they cannot comply with the Petition; I fear by no answer being given to this, that nothing can be done therein, from the Knowledge I have of the L^d Dep^t. Th[e] Gov^r has thrust another troublesome task on my Shoulders, for which I have neither salary or fees, altho he has given me a Commission to act as Surveyor General til the King's pleasure is known. The Democratical party seem to think will lead me to think as the Government wishes, but I hope I am above bias, & I do not feel it at all incompatible to discharge my duty to my Constituents; & at the same time have regard to the general Interests of the Unity of the Empire. Our House of Assembly for the most part have violent levelling principles, which are totally different from the ideas I have been educated with. The Neighboring States are to[o] often brought in as patterns & models, which I neither approve or Countenance. I think Modesty should be the Characteristic of our first Assembly. I conceive it political, prudent & grateful & I am confident the contrary behaviour wont succeed to do the Country any good. Whatever may be the future prospects of designing Men; we can not at present exist without the Assistance of Great Britain; she has ever shewn herself a foster Mother to