

Her Colonies, & any procedure which I conceive tends to divide the Interests of the Parent Kingdom, & all her Colonies, I will oppose with all my weight. on this principle I have voted against an add<sup>l</sup> duty on Rum, first because I conceive it a Regulation of Commerce, & that the Parliament has reserved the right of imposing such dutys to themselves, because as Guardians of all the Colonies, she would not suffer one to infringe too much on the produce of another. Secondly, because West Indian Rum in that Case would pay 2<sup>ce</sup> the duty of Rum distilled in lower Canada, or at least nearly twice.

& thirdly I conceive that an add<sup>l</sup> Duty on W I. Rum, tends to a partial Prohibition, & that we are only losing our time, & flattering ourselves with vain supplies, because I conceive the Governor has no power; or the parliament inclination, to ratify such an Act. I am thus particular, that if you think proper you m[a]y explain my reasons to my friends & constituents, altho not to give up my Letter; for altho I wish you to consider it confidential; there is Nothing in it I am convinced that is not worthy the Sentiment<sup>t</sup> of an Assembly Man.

The family most heartily say! God bless you

P.S. I have been conversing in the Cabinet, the Leveé & the Office, respecting the Militia which I believe will not be organized this Year. I do not find any promise has been made to the Young frenchman<sup>40</sup> to be Colonel, but I rather think he will be appointed Sub Lieutenant of one of the Countys, in which case I suppose he wont take a Commission himself, but will probably have the appointment of the Justices & Militia Officers. I think it wont be for Kent, but cannot speak possitively.

*Endorsed:* Niagara Oct<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1792 Lieu<sup>t</sup> D. W. Smith to Jn<sup>o</sup> Askin recv<sup>d</sup> & Answ<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>h</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>

<sup>40</sup> The allusion is to Jacques Baby. See *ante*, 433-34.