

pleas, but I find the law will admit of it for reasons hereafter to be explained to you. The 40 Bill which I brought into the house will I hope obviate the difficultys You mention of Debtors under £10, not being subject to imprisonment. Send me word the particulars of what you wish relative to the Navigation, & I have little doubts of carrying thro'. The Proofs relative to the Delivery of goods are hard & require mature deliberation as to amendment. I communicated the purport of your Letter to the Com-modore, & shall to M^r Hamilton. M^r Macomb is gone!!!

That God may bless you & Yours prays

All the Smiths

Endorsed: Niagara Oct^r 19^h 1792 L^t D. W. Smith to Jn^o Askin recv^d & Answ^d the 2^d Nov^r

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AT NIAGARA

Niagara 20 Oct 1792.

My dear Sir: Since I wrote to you yesterday I have rec^d your Letter of 13 In^a P[er] our good friend George Leith.

I shall certainly be acquitted for having proposed a land Tax, having at the very time a petition before the Governor & Council in the Name of my father & myself, for 6400 Acres, which is since secured or rather ordered in Council. this circumstance will be the strongest that I have acted from Principle, & should Malicious reports be spread, I beg you will promulgate my sentiments, situation & concern relative to the said Land business. Every one, myself included, are willing for a Rum tax, but in my opinion there is a difficulty or rather delicacy in imposing it. And I think the first principles of our Legislation Should be guided by modesty, & what will most likely class with the opinions of those, whose concurrence in sentiment the Law has rendered necessary.

The Young french Gentleman has been so strongly recommended at Quebec, & his interest is considered so valueable, that perhaps it would be reckoned indecent to attempt the thwarting of what seems settled; however I have doubts,