

Mils & land property, [which] as you know is of ten times the value. dont fail in closing this bisness amediately if ever for if there is much time Lost I am of the belief we shall make nothing of it. alan

Addressed: John Askin Esq^r Detroit or York

Endorsed: River Thames June the 20th 1800 Mr Ebenezer Allan to Jn^o Askin relative to purchases of Indian Land [torn]

THOMAS SMITH'S VIEWS ON LEGISLATIVE CONDITIONS

Dear Sir I am very happy to hear of your arrival safe to your family. The heat of the weather has been so intense and my having been obliged to walk the greatest part of the road from York threw me into a Fever, and have been unwell from the time I left the River Thames to few days ago.

It has been my misfortune always to differ in sentiments with great men in general, altho' God knows it arises from that pure principle "of doing what I thought was right" This four years past I have served the public, & however blamable my conduct may appear to some, I have nothing to reproach my conscience.

Our mother Country has given us a Constitution approaching to her own, as near as circumstances & local conveniences could well admit—and it is now left to us to preserve the purity of that constitution to our descendants, and which can only be affected but by the choice of upright, liberal, & independent characters, who have resolution & integrity to withstand the torrent of the Imperious. The House of Assembly consisted only of 16 Members—four of them were absent, and eight of the remainder unfit to go through the duties of the House—so the weight of the whole House fell upon the Shoulders of Four members in the drawing of Bills, addresses, Examination of Provincial Accounts and the expounding of the laws as well as to withstand the Usurpation of ambitious characters, who are endeavouring to trample on our rights by the corruption of our delegates—and which is too evident to all enlightend men, that they are sowing the first seeds towards the annihilation of our free Constitution.