

The man whose lot it is, to be a Repres[en]tative of free people must (from the experience I have just had) lay himself out "to betray the Trust reposed in him or receive the frowns of the Great"—one of these situations is too evidently mine.

Walter Roe and Iredell have been canvassing for 6 or 8 days past for Jarvis,²⁵ Selby and Elliott—whom in justice to myself I set my face against, as Representatives, altho' perhaps worthy persons in any other situation.

Selby and Jarvis are not eligible according [to the] act of Parliament which says "That no person holding an office under [the] Government created since 1705 shall be eligible to be a member of Parliament" see Blackstone under the title "Electors" I think it incumbent on me also to remark from my experience in Parliament of the Conduct of Lawyers, that they are not eligible from their being influenced by the Chief Justice, & consequently the Executive Government. and moreover it will be a shame to us not to be able among us to find liberal Characters without borrowing persons from other Districts, who are influenced and in short, who have neither qualifications or talents to recommend them. If yourself, Meldrum, Park or any liberal man of my old acquaintance should put up I will heartily give them my vote and all my Interest, But should they not, I shall make all the opposition I can, *and let the people at York know, that Mr. Roe or Iredell has no influence here*—and I therefore beg of your Interest and your Son's and those of your acquaintances. Essex sends two Members, Beginning at a certain place in Lake Sinclair & extending towards Point au pins, being the extremities of the County.

I forgot to mention to you before I left York that I resign[ed] my Commission as Capt. of Militia and all other Employments under Government. I am

very truly & sincerely yours etc [?]

Tho^s Smith

Sandwich 24 July 1800

²⁵ William Jarvis was a native of Connecticut who in the Revolution adhered to the loyalist cause and in 1782 became a cornet in the Queen's Rangers under command of Colonel John G. Simcoe. When the latter became lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, he brought Jarvis with him as provincial secretary, which position he continued to hold