

pers mentioned in his Excellency's Speech, which have been laid before your Honourable House, that the Heirs of Col. *John Rider*, late of *Dorchester County*, deceased, do claim the Quantity of One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-four Acres of Land, within the Boundaries of the said Tract, laid out by virtue of the Law made in 1704, as being surveyed and granted before the making of that Act; and which ought, as they alledge, to revert to them, whenever the said *Indians* shall desert or leave the said Lands, by virtue of the Proviso in the said Act contained; for which Quantity of One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-four Acres of Land, it does not appear to your Committee that any Compensation was ever made to the said Col. *Rider*, or any other Person.

That it appears from the said Papers, That *George Kirkman*, and the Heirs of Col. *William Ennalls*, do also claim Lands within the Boundaries of the said Tract, laid out by the Act of 1704, but that these Lands were surveyed and granted since the making of that Act. It does not appear to your Committee, on the best Enquiry they are at present able to make, that there are any *Indian* Claimants of the Land appropriated by the Act of 1704, or by the Act of 1711, other than those who have subscribed the Petition laid before your Honourable House; and, from the best Information your Committee can obtain, there are now only One *Indian* Woman, and Two *Indian* Boys, settled on the Land mentioned in the Act of 1704, and none, on the Land laid out under the Act of 1711, tho' they still claim the last mentioned Land, which now lies within the Three Lower Counties of *Delaware*, by the late Running of the Provincial Lines.

Your Committee beg Leave further to report, That it does not appear to them, that any of the *Maryland Indians*, except the Petitioners, are desirous of removing out of this Province; but, on the contrary, that the *Choptank Indians* chuse to continue amongst us, and enjoy the Benefit of the Public Provision for them. All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of your Honourable House,
Signed per Order, JOHN DUCKETT, Cl. Com.

The House concurs with the Report.

His Excellency communicated to Mr. Speaker the following Message:

GENTLEMEN of the Lower House of ASSEMBLY,

YOUR Address, in Answer to my Speech at the opening of this Session, demands my Acknowledgements; and I thank you for your Promise to give due Attention to the several Matters I recommended to your Consideration.
H O R °. S H A R P E.

Mr. *Thomas Key*, a Delegate returned for *St. Mary's County*; Mr. *William Smallwood*, and Mr. *John Hanson*, Delegates returned for *Charles County*; appeared in the House.

ORDERED, That Mr. *Wolfstenholme*, Mr. *Eden*, and Mr. *Ware*, do go with those Gentlemen to the Upper House, to see them qualified. They return, and acquaint Mr. Speaker, they saw them qualified in the usual Manner.

The Gentlemen took their Seats in the House.

On reading the Petition of the *Nanticoke Indians*, and the Report of the Committee appointed to state the Facts relating to *Indian Affairs*: It is Resolved, That the said Petition be rejected; and that Mr. *Johnson*, Mr. *Holladay*, Mr. *Ringgold*, Mr. *Hayward*, Mr. *Allen*, and Mr. *Sullivan*, be a Committee to prepare an Address to his Excellency, informing him of the Reasons which induced this House to reject the said Petition.

The House adjourns till To-Morrow Morning IX o'Clock.

SATURDAY, MAY 28.

THE House met according to Adjournment.

The Members were called, and all appeared as on Yesterday.

The Proceedings of Yesterday were read.

Mr. *Ringgold* brings in, and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Address:

To his Excellency HORATIO SHARPE, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of MARYLAND.

The humble ADDRESS of the House of DELEGATES.

May it please your EXCELLENCY,

WE have taken that Part of your Excellency's Speech, with the several Papers which have been laid before us, relative to the *Maryland Indians*, into our Consideration; and from thence, and on the best Enquiry we have been able to make, we cannot discover, that any of them, except those who have petitioned, are desirous of removing from this Province. We find, that by an Act of Assembly, made in the Year 1704, reciting that it was just the *Indians* should have a convenient Dwelling-Place, a Tract of Land, on *Nanticoke River*, was appropriated to the Use of the *Nanticoke Indians*, their Heirs and Successors, for ever; under a Proviso; "That