

Letter from Lord Baltimore & Council to the Governor of  
New York.

P. R. O.  
Colonial  
Papers.

S<sup>t</sup> Maries City in Maryland  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 1681.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir,

The northern Indians with whom (some time since) this Province by Colonel Henry Coursey their Agent at Fort Albany entered into a league of peace and amity having lately violated their articles with us, not only by plundering the houses and destroying the stocks but also murdering the persons of some of the inhabitants of our frontier plantations, hath given us cause of suspicion that they have either forgotten, or are resolved noe longer to preserve their league with us, which called for & hath occasioned our most serious & deliberate consultations in such case to prevent (as much as in us lay) the effusion of more Christian blood, and to contrive, (if possible) the future peace and tranquility, as well as the lifes & safe guards of His Majesties Subjects here. And amongst other expedients, calling to our minds the effectual care by your Government taken for the preservation, & security of the inhabitants of Delaware (otherwise equally obnoxious to the assaults & attempts of those Indians with the people of this Government) by affording to those Indians a free trade (without which they can hardly subsist) only upon those very tearmes of keeping peace and amity with them; we from thence took encouragement and found ourselves obliged to request the like favourable aid and assistance from you, for and in behalf of the inhabitants of this Province, alike subjects to His Majesty the king of England with those of Delaware and New Yorke, that you will now prohibit any further correspondency with those Indians in a way of Traffick and supplies, unless they will also desist from any acts of hostility against us, and proceed to maintain and keep that league of peace and amity with us made, which we desire & are willing to preserve towards them. Sir with this our so reasonable request, (which the lives and properties of His Majestie's subjects calls for at our hands) wee have entrusted the bearer Captain Richard Hill (to whom you may give all faith and credence) and hope that you will vouchsafe to expedite him again to us, with such a satisfactory answer hereunto as may not occasion our further addresses to the king and Council, and his Royal Highness for the Preservation of His Majestie's Subjects here from the insolencys, outrages and attempts of those northern Indians, which otherwise in duty and conscience we shall be obliged to doe; But we in no wise doubt of your sufficient power, and consequently your free and ready concurrence hereunto, in confidence that (if