

Letter Bk. III Indian Enemies & did also after the Example that was set by the Northern Govern^{ts} by an Act direct certain persons called Agents to pay a fixed Sum for every Scalp which should be brought in by them & deld up to any Magistrate it is not in my power to put a Stop to this practice neither can I order any of the Money that is so appropriated to be otherwise applied, however if You will communicate to me by Letter Your Sentiments on this point & set forth in strong Terms the Impropriety of such a measure I will lay Your Letter before the Assembly at our next Meeting & perhaps they will be brought to approve of such a plan as you shall fit to recommend. I would have You insist on the great Expencc that these Colonies will subject themselves to by continuing the present Method as I am apt to think that such a Consideration will have its weight with our People & I do not think it would be amiss for you to observe that while the Indians are encouraged to run from One place to another for Presents their Service is lost to all of Us, You may also assure me that His Majesty will expect us to conform to Your Regulation with Respect to the Management of these Indians which will justify me in insisting upon the Repeal of that part of our Act whereby a Reward is allotted for such Scalps as shall be taken by our Indian Allies & support the Arguments that I may urge to persuade them to adopt Your Scheme. When the Assembly met last I earnestly recommended it to them to make some Provision for the payment of such Persons as I should order to supply any of our Indian Friends that may come to or pass thro the Province with such Victuals as they may stand in need of but they would not grant any Sum of Money for that purpose, Indeed they did as it were promise to pay for any Provisions that should be dld to them at Fort Frederick but it is a Doubt whether Mr Ross will ever receive any Allowance for what has been or shall be given to them at Fort Cumberland. I should think that the best way for you to carry your scheme effectually into Execution would be to represent the propriety & Expediency of it to the Ministry & if they shall be pleased to approve thereof the Governors of these Provinces may expect to receive Instructions to pass no Act relative to Indian Affairs unless it be entirely consonant to Your plan, & to get any Act that has been already made & interferes therewith repealed. I lately received a Letter from Colo Stanwix wherein he pressed me to impower Mr Croghan to purchase & in my Name to deliver a Present to the Cherokees that were then with him but I was obliged to tell him that I could not comply with his Request as the Assembly had not left any publick money to my Disposal. When I gave Capt Pearis a Commission in our Provincials I