

Letter Bk. III inserted in the Act of Parliament empowering a Person concerned in the Indian Trade to sue in either of these Colonies any other Indian Trader on Account of Contracts made in the Indian Country or at any of the Truck houses or Posts of Trade to a greater Value than Ten Pounds sterling & also empowering the Courts of Justice in either of these Colonies to take Cognizance of Criminal Actions or at least of Capital Offences committed at any such Places. As it is not likely that the Punishment inflicted by our Laws for Perjury would be so terrible to Persons living in the manner the Indians live as to Men who are Members of a Civilized State & who are by such Punishments rendered infamous especially as it is very common to see Indians without Ears or Noses or at least very much torn & mangled, I submit it to Your Lordships Consideration whether in case they are to be admitted as Witnesses in our Courts of Law (which however Quakers & some other Sectaries principled against taking Oaths are not in Criminal Cases) close Imprisonment for a long time in case of their being convicted of giving false Evidence would not be a more proper Punishment to be inflicted on Indians who are impatient of Confinement than the Penalties prescribed by our Laws for such kind of Offences. Having thus communicated to Your Lordships in Obedience to Your Commands what occurred to me upon considering the Contents of Your Lordships Plan & the Letters therewith sent for my perusal I humbly submit the same to Your Lordships & am with the greatest Respect

Your Lordships most obed. humb. Sv<sup>t</sup>

[Sharpe to Halifax.]

To The Earl of Hallifax. Annapolis the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1764.  
My Lord

Having lately received Your Lordship's Letter dated the 11<sup>th</sup> of August last relative to the Measures concerting by His Majesty's Post Master General for the Establishment of a Regular Post & by that means for the safe & speedy Conveyance of Letters throughout these Colonies I do myself the honour to inform Your Lordship that Ferries are already established upon every River in this Province where the Roads cross them & that attendance is constantly given at them so that there is no Danger of the Riders being detained at such Ferries. The only Offices which are at present established in this Province for the Reception of Letters are on the main Road which leads thro this place between Philadelphia & Virginia, but I am inclined to think that if a Post Office was to be opened at some Central Place in each of the fourteen