

Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to Sir William Johnson.]

To Sir William Johnson. Annapolis the 20th of August 1767
 Sir

The Letter you were pleased to write to Me the 1st of May last having been presented a few Weeks ago by eleven Indians from Otsiningo who were conducted hither by M^r Ogden being on their Way to Dorchester Somerset & Worcester Counties in this Province where all the Indians remaining among us reside, I not only gave Orders for their being treated with kindness & furnished with provisions as they should pass & repass thro the Province but also made them a Present of some Cloaths they appeared to be in Want of & recommended it to some Gentlemen who I apprehended had some Influence with our Indians to encourage them to accept the Invitations those Ambassadors came to give them, but as the Lands our Indians possess are confirmed to them by Acts of Assembly to be held so long as any of them shall choose to reside on them & then to revert some of them to original Patentees others to the Lord Proprietary & the Residue to be at the Disposal of the General Assembly I could not take upon me to enter into any Treaty with those Indians about the Sale of their Right to the Lands they occupy at present in this Province it being necessary that the Affair should be referred to the Assembly & that the Acts by Virtue of which the Indians here now hold their Land should be repealed previous to their offering it for Sale; if upon their Return they should represent to you that their Bretheren here are willing to relinquish their Land & to go back to Otsiningo & you should thereupon think fit to empower M^r Ogden or some other Person on their behalf to come hither about the Middle of October next when our Assembly will be sitting & to make an Agreement about the Sale of their Land you may be assured I will recommend it to the Assembly to give them a reasonable Compensation for their Right to the Land & in case They shall one & all be willing to relinquish should they sell to whom pray is the purchase Money to be paid or how divided among them, will any besides those who actually reside in the Province at this time set up pretensions to it or may it all be paid to them, I should be glad to know your Sentiments with regard to those particulars & what Measures you apprehend will be most satisfactory to them.