

Calvert
Papers.

[Penn's Answer to Talbott's Demand.]

An Answer to a Demand made to Nicholas Moore, as my Deputy, by Coll George Talbott the 24th September 1683, in pursuance of a Commission from the Lord Baltimore Proprietary of Maryland and Avalon, dated the 17th of the same month.

The demand being grounded upon the Commission, I will take things in their order, and begin with the Commission.

The Lord Baltimore doth Commissionate Coll Talbott to goe to the West Side of the Skullkill to demand of William Penn Esq^r or his Deputy all that part of Land on the West side of the River, that Lyeth to the South of the 40th Degree of Northerly Latitude.

1. I answer, It seemes very Slight, abrupt and Vnpresided for any person, that is in the quality of a Proprietary of a Countrey, to send to another in the same Circumstance any Extraordinary Messenger, Agent, or Commissioner without some letter or Memoriall to State the demand with the reasons of it. The Practice of the greatest Princes; and might therefore (I conceive) be the Condescention of lesser Seigniories.

2. In the next place, William Penn Esq^r, and the said Penn (the Language of the Commission) is not my American Stile, nor that, which belongs to me in the matter in question, for as such I keepe noe Deputys.

3. I Live not on the West Side of Skullkill nor any Deputy of mine, and I conceive Coll Talbott could not by that Commission come to the East side, to make his demand, which yet he did.

4. I was absent and at New York, when this Commissioner came, and I never did nor never will Commissionate any Deputy to treat, and conclude away mine Inheritance, without my particular direction, and Command; though if I were to goe for England, I would not disowne the Laws, he should make in my absence for publick good, when I came back.

5. Coll Talbott is directed in the Commission to make the Demand according to a Line said to be runn in obedience to his Maiesties Commands in his letter of the 2^d of Aprill 1681:

But I say that noe Line is yet runn in obedience to his Maiestys Commands; for the Letter expressly saith, That the Lord Baltimore, or his Agent shall together with my Agent agree the Latitude, and then runn the Line, and bound the Provinces accordingly, which is not yet done; for those observations, and the Line runn by them are performed by the Lord Baltimore, and his Agents only, and therefore not according to his Maiesties Command in his Letter of the 2^d of April 1681; nor, in my opinion, common Equity; for I knew nothing of them.