

The Death of the Messenger might have proved an heavy Lib. C. B. misfortune, had your Assembly and that of Virginia been sitting, but as Both Houses were in their Recess, and are to sit again pretty near the same time, the Delay was not of any Consequence: Our Council indeed on my laying before them your first Letter imagined this Accident would render it impracticable to receive Answers in time enough to fulfill the Engagements they had laid themselves under in their Treaty with those Indians, and therefore came to a Resolution of dispatching Mr Weiser with a Present of the Value of One Thousand Pounds, so as to be at Ohio within the time concluded upon at his Parting with Schoiady in his return home; but when I imparted to them yours and the Governor of Virginia's Letter they altered their Mind, and on consulting with Mr Weiser, who happened fortunately to be in Town the Day Sir Goochs Letter came to my hand, they were contented to send a Message to the Indians, to inform them that the Interpreter was prevented by some unforeseen publick Business from coming to see them so early as he had given them Reason to expect, but that he should hasten up to them as soon as this Business should be finished, which was hoped would be about the middle of Summer

How they will take even this Delay I cannot say, they are in extream Want and by all Informations very numerous, The French leave nothing unattempted to seduce them from the English Interest, there are some small French Forts a little to the West of these Indians, but whether there are any and what Quantity of Powder and Goods in them to give the Indians I cannot learn, perhaps they have none or not much and in this Case those poor Indians, may be necessitated, if they do not receive supplies soon, to fall upon the Provinces that are nearest to them to get wherewith to subsist. They receive no Part of the Presents that are annually made to the Six Nations by the Governments of New York & Boston, these are all engrossed by the Mohocks, and the Nations to the Westward of Ohio, so that there is the greater Reason why the southern Provinces should take Care of them, as they live upon their Borders & can by their situation, be an effectual Barrier against the French

S^r William Gooch by his manner of writing seems to be of Opinion that Virginia will not send Commissioners, but chuse to make an Addition to the Present to be sent by Mr Weiser from hence, and says he would be glad if I had told him what Sum was expected

But this I have not presumed to do any otherwise than by relating the Circumstances of these Indians, and that, not so much for his Information, as for the Satisfaction such Relation