

Albany, the first week in June next; in hopes of Confirming them in the British Interest, and defeating the Intrigues of the French, who of late have been very Active among them, and, by the large quantities of Goods they have distributed to the Several Nations, may have rendered their Fidelity to the English very Precarious Lib. C. B.

The Expence this Government hath continually Supported to preserve the Indians in a good disposition towards us, has been very burthensome, and the great Pains the French are taking to Seduce them, will greatly Increase this Charge, which any Single Colony will be unable to bear, If the other Colonies should Neglect Joyning therein, it may give our Rivals the Advantage they have been long Labouring to Obtain, over the English Governments, and in the end be a means of our losing the Indians, and with them a very valuable Branch of Trade; Besides the Calamities we may have Reason to fear, from their going over to the French, which are too Obvious to need mentioning The present Wavering Disposition of the Indians may in a Great measure be imputed to their dread of the French which will ever Influence their Conduct, as long as the Colonies remain disunited in their measures, But if they see we are united and Resolved hereafter to Act in Conjunction, their fears will disperse, and they may easily be brought to look with Contempt on what they before dreaded, Seeing they might then rely on a Powerful Assistance from us, if the French should Attack them: And as nothing can more tend to his Majestys Service, and the Welfare & Safety of his Provinces, than this Union of Councils amongst the Several Governors upon Indian affairs; I now Communicate my thoughts on this head, to all the Governors of the British Colonies upon the Main of America, In hopes that they will See the Necessity of establishing such an Union, and if they cannot attend the Treaty at Albany in Person, then to send Commissioners to concert and conclude on the Necessary Measures, to be taken on this important occasion; assuring myself they will Come furnished with Proper Presents, to be distributed among the Indians at this Meeting, At which I flatter myself with your Assistance or that of Commissioners from your Government p. 432

If this Proposal of an Interview between the Several Governors, or Commissioners representing them, be Approved of, and they meet accordingly, it will I conceive be very Proper they should Examine into, and draw up a State of the Indian Affairs, to be laid before his Majesty; and at the same time Consider, whether it would not be a Proper Step, to agree on a Representation to the Governor General of Canada, touching the Conduct of some of the Governors and Officers under