

Lives in Battle; but to speak upon this Subject on the Footing of Interest, Large Public Rewards for Scalps given by provincial Laws to Indians are attended with very pernicious Consequences to his Majesty's Service, for they are so many Temptations to some Indians to kill others that are our Friends, that is when they think they have a good Opportunity to kill such single Indians that are found alone, two fresh Instances of this have presented themselves to me. A single Chicasaw one of our best Friends who was coming up this Way with the Cherokees was killed by them when asleep, and a single Creek in their Company had like to have shared the same Fate, as no Cause of Quarrel is pretended, the Motive could only be their Scalps, Those Cherokees carried the Chicasaws Scalp with them out to War towards Fort du Quesne, and brought it back again, and it is now hanging exposed in Public before my Eyes, made into two Scalps, among the Scalps of their Enemies tho' they know not that I know it.

Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

The Wife of the Chicasaw who made her Escape was sent by Water from Williamsburg to Charles Town to be kept there 'till my Arrival in Order to prevent the ill Consequences of the Revenge she was bent upon exciting, not only among the Chickasaws but among their Friends the Catawbias, and I detain the Creek in this Country by Art to prevent the like ill Consequences of the Revenge he might excite in the Creek Nation

From so light a Foundation, a War might be kindled between four Nations of Indians, at present in Friendship with us, which it is our greatest Interest also to preserve in Friendship with each other. A Meherrin Indian, a very clever Fellow who lives at the Tuskerora Town in North Carolina is now here, I have discovered that the Cherokees have fixed their Eyes on him and determined to kill him for his Scalp, so that I am obliged to take Measures to have him guarded safe Home. Should he be killed there would be another national Quarrel with the Tuskeroras. I think what I have said sufficiently proves the pernicious Consequences to his Majestys Service (wherein the general Interest of the Colonies is included) following from large Rewards for Scalps given by provincial Laws to the Indians. And those Rewards open a Door to great Fraud and Imposition upon the Colonies or the Donors themselves, for the Cherokees in particular have got the Art of making four Scalps out of one Man killed, here are now twenty Scalps hanging out to public View which are well known to have been made out of five French men killed, what a Sum at £50—each would they produce if carried to Maryland where the Artifice probably

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