

the Lower House Importing that the Indians of the Eastern U. H. J. Shore having made frequent Complaints of Injurys done them either by Purchases made of their Lands when in Drink or of Inroachments made by the English in their bounds and of such persons also who having Entred upon their Lands by Consent and upon Condition of paying rent therefore have not Comply'd therewith so that the Indians on the one hand are cheated of their rents And on the other hand with the loss of their Lands The first gives a great deal of Unnecessary trouble to the Government as the other will lay us under A Necessity of purchasing more Lands for them to make Corn upon. We also observe that the Necessity which the two houses of Assembly found themselves to lay under of relieving the Indians ag^t English fraudulent purchases to be the Sole Motives and Inducements of the Act of Assembly Complained of by said Nicholls whose wilful and Contemptious proceedings in relation to his purchase and Small Improvements made thereon deserved the Censure rather than Compassion of the Legislature who treated him with a great deal of tenderness by restoreing the purchase money with a small Defalcation by his Indian friends and Adviseing him to relinquish his Claim

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We of this Comittee Do likewise find the case of M^r Isaac Nichols to be attended with sundry Aggrivating Circumstances: first that the Indians as they Informed the Governour and Upper house of Assembly were made Drunk by him in which Condition with Allurement of the Money a bargain was brought about for the Land in Question. Secondly that the said Land was purchased by him at an under rate the Consideration being Expressed in the Deed to be twenty seven pounds ten Shillings Current money whereas the publick paid Major Sewell the Year following for A tract of Land called [Indian Neck] of which tract Isaac Nicholls had purchased the better part. Thirdly that the purchase and Improvements made by Isaac Nicholls af^d tend Evidently to the defeating the good endeavours of the Legislature in making the Indians the primitive Inhabitants of this Country Easy under their present Circumstances and loss of their Country by Securing Convenient and Suitable Lands for them and their posterity to Subsist upon, for Nicholls knew before the time of his purchase that Major Sewell Claimed the Land and had Petitioned the Assembly for Satisfaction therefore.

It Appears likewise to this Committee that the Attested Certificate of Sales can be of no Avail to said Nichols in the present Case where his purchase differs so very widely from