

the Inhabitants of Dorchester County, and pray Redress L. H. J. therein from this Government.

By all Which it appears to this Committee that the Indian Title to the Lands at Chiccocon did not any ways determine according to the Purport and true Meaning of the Proviso in the Act mentioned by their Removing Twenty Miles Higher up the River for that in November 1721 Coll^o Richard Tilghman and Matthew Tilghman Ward two of the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly for Resurveying and Ascertaining the Indian Bounds did see Sundry Corn fields in the Chiccocon Town as they Informed this Comittee, the most of the Indians then being gone out to their Hunting Quarters according to their Usual Practice Except W^m Ashquash the Late Emperours Son, who had a handsome Settlement and a good Corn field fenced after the English Manner and possibly fixed there by the Indians with design to hold possession, as was Edward Wright also, who in the Deposition of Tho: Abbott Amongst Cap^t Riders papers Marked D. D. is declared to be a Tennant to the Nanticoke Indians and therefore no Desertion or Leaving the place within the Intention of the Provisoe in the Act of 1698 Altho the Injuries by English Mens Horses &c: Induced the Choptank Indians to retire to a place Called Locust Neck upon the Choptank Tract.

It appears also to this Comittee that the facts alledged by Cap^t Rider as to his taking possession of and building a Small Clapboard House in the Chiccocon Town, and the Indians leaving the Place after the burning of W^m Ashquash Cabin, and Cornfield fence, are true, but it is very untruly represented that those Indians themselves had destroy'd their Cabbins or burnt their fences as a token of Deserting and Leaving the place or that the small Improvements made by Cap^t Rider were any Inducement to those Indians in the Re-possessing the place, for they Return'd again of themselves in the fall of the same Year, and Sometime after as Cap^t Rider himself did suppose burnt down his Improvements, but Complained in the mean time to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Assembly for Determining Indian Differences, that the English had burnt W^m Ashquash's house and part of his Corn field fence, with design to drive them away from the said town which doth not seem Improbable Seeing that the fact was done About the time of planting Corn, and the Damage Irreparable for that Season, but W^m Ashquash who did not Remove Twenty Miles hier up the River as it is alledged Remained amongst the English during the Summer for his Subsistance and Return'd again to the Town with