

L. H. J. Means of Dispossessing the Indians of that little Remainder of Plantable Land which is now left them.

It appears to this Committee that Isaac Nicholls little Regarding the friendly Caution Given by those Commissioners nor that the tract of Land of which he hath purchased a part was Claimed by Maj<sup>r</sup> Nicholas Sewall and a Nego[tia]tion then on foot In both Houses of Assembly for the purchase of the same at the publick Charge Made the purchase mentioned in his Case and partly by Intoxigating Liquors, and partly by a Sume of Ready Cash deluded the Chiefs of those Indians into a Sale of their Lands which said Sume of Money with a Complaint of his Manner of bringing about the bargain was Imediately brought by those Indian Chiefs unto Philemon Lloyd Esq<sup>r</sup> and by him directed to apply to the next generall Assembly for their Relief.

It appears further to this Committee that those Indian Chiefs did apply themselves to the Legislature in Octo<sup>r</sup> 1722 and laid their Complaints together with the purchase Money they had Rec<sup>d</sup> from Isaac Nichols before the Governour and Upper House of Assembly Whereupon a Message was sent to the Lower House Importing that the Indians of the Eastern Shore having made frequent Complaints of Injuries done them either by purchases made of their Lands when in Drink or of Incroachments made by the English into their Bounds and of such persons also who having Entered upon their  
 p. 74 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 the necessity which the two Houses of Assembly found themselves to lye under of Relieving the Indians against English Fraudulent Purchases to [be] the Sole Motives and Inducements of the Act of Assembly Complained of by said Nichols whose willfull 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 grat Deale of Tenderness by Restoring the purchase Money with a Small Defalcation by his Indian Friends and advising him to Relinquish his Claim.

We of the Committee do likewise find this Case of M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Nicholls to be attended with Sundry Aggravating Circumstances first that the Indians, as they Informed the Governour