

are certainly the best entitled to, but as these rewards are intended and offered chiefly to the Indians the case is very different for besides that this is truly and literally interfering (which I have reason to believe the several Governors have been cautioned not to do) with the management of the King's two Superintendents thro' whose hands all Presents and Rewards whatever to the Indians in his Alliance ought to pass, it is encouraging to the utmost private Scalping whereby the most innocent and helpless Persons even Women and Children are properly murdered without the least Benefit accruing by it, Actions becoming only the greatest Savages and unworthy of any Christian People to reward. I am well assured Lord Loudoun detests that Practice and that the French General Moncalm in Canada does the same. S.<sup>r</sup> William Johnson gives no reward at all, in particular for Scalps by name. The Warriours fitted out by him to War deliver to him at their return all that they bring back, and he afterwards presents them to the Relations of such as lose their lives in Battle. But to speak upon this Subject on the footing of Interest, large Publick Rewards for Scalps given by Provincial Laws to Indians are attended with very pernicious Consequences to his Majestys 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 was coming up this way with the Cherokees, was killed by them when a Sleep, and a Single Creek in their Company had liked 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 Publick before my eyes made into two Scalps among the Scalps of their Enemies tho' they know not that I know it. The Wife of the Chicasaw who made her escape was sent by water from Williamsburgh 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 Chicasaws, but among their Friends the Catawbaes 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 slight a Foundation a War might be kindled between four Nations of Indians at present in Friendship with us which it is our greatest Interest to preserve in friendship also with each other. A Meherrin Indian a very clever fellow who lives at the Tuskeraro 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.

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