

Mr. Lloyd brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker, the following Address, viz.

L. H. J.
Liber No. 49
Dec. 12

To his Excellency Horatio Sharpe, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Province of Maryland:

The humble Address of the House of Delegates.

May it please your Excellency,

In Answer to your Message of the 6th Instant, which you were pleased to send us, with an Extract of a Letter without Date from the Honourable Mr. Atkin, we must beg Leave to repeat, that by a Bill some Time ago sent to the Upper House, we made such a Provision as we judged most expedient for cultivating the Friendship and engaging the Assistance of the Southern Tribes of Indians, and establishing them in the British Interest. In doing this, we could not imagine we were interfering in Matters which the Honourable Mr. Atkin, his Majesty's Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs, had the sole Power and Right of managing, and which, as he says, he has Reason to believe the several Governors have been cautioned not to do.

We presume this Affair must have very lately come to your Excellency's Knowledge, or you would not have applied to us (as you did in your Message of the first Instant) to know whether we would choose to employ the Fifty-six Cherokees that were then at Fort Frederick, offering their Service to us; but would rather have given us the Information you now do, of the extensive Commission under which Mr. Atkin acts.

Could we have imagined that it was expressly contrary to Treaties made with the Cherokee Tribes, that they should demand or even expect any certain Reward for Scalps (after having seen those Rewards offered by and accepted from the neighbouring Governments) and that those Indians have already been told so by Mr. Atkin, and likewise that every Person (except himself) was, by his most Gracious Majesty, strictly forbidden to concern with the Indians in the Southern District of America, or their Affairs, we should probably have framed our Bill for giving Rewards, in such a Manner as should be most agreeable to the Royal Instructions; and we are of the Opinion, that the Method proposed in our Supply-Bill, sent to the Upper House this Session, would have been so in every Respect, except that, by that Bill, your Excellency or the Commander in Chief for the Time being (instead of Mr. Atkin) was empowered to direct the Distribution of those Rewards, in Proportion to the Services respectively performed by the Indians for his Majesty's Service, and the Protection of our Frontier Inhabitants, whether they killed or made Prisoners any of the Enemy or not. p. 174

The Cherokees that now are on our Frontiers, or such other Parties as may come, we suppose are well informed, that it is to Mr. Atkin