

His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board the following Letter.

30th June 1757.

Since several of our Colonies are become fond of giving large Rewards for Scalps, if these Rewards were confined to their own People it would be a very laudable Thing, inasmuch as it would be the Means of animating many poor Whites Men who have been used to their Words to go in Quest of the Enemy Indians, and it would afford that Support to some of them in particular who have been driven from their own Habitations in the back Settlements by the War which they 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 interpreting which I have Reason to believe the several Governors have been cautioned not to do, with the Management of the Things, the Superintendants thro' whose Hands all Reports 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 great Scurges, 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, for William Johnson gives no Rewards at all in particular for Scalps by Name, the Warriors 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 Public Rewards for Scalps given by provincial Laws to Indians are attended with very pernicious Consequences to his Majesty's Service, for they are so many Temptations to force Indians to kill others that are our Friends, that is when they think they have a good Opportunity to kill just single Indians that are found alone, two fresh Instances of this have presented themselves to me. A single Chickasaw one of our best Friends who was coming up this Way with the Cherokeees was killed by them when asleep, and a single Creek in their Company had like to have shared the same Fate, as no Cause of Quarrel is pretended, the Motive could only be their Scalps, These Cherokeees carried the Chickasaw's scalp with them out to War towards Fort de Duane, and brought it back again, and it is now hanging exposed in Public 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 Chickasaw who made her Escape was sent by Water from Williamsburg 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 Chickasaws, but among their Friends the Cataubas, and I detain the Creek in this Country by Det to prevent the like ill Consequences of the Revenge he might excite in the Creek Nation.