

From so light a Foundation a War might be kindled between several Nations of Indians, at present in Friendship with us which it is our greatest Interest also to preserve in Friendship with each other. 1. Mchomuc Indian, a very clever Fellow who lives at the Tuskerocan, down in North Carolina is now here, I have discovered that the Cherokee 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 Tuskerocan. I think what I have said sufficiently proves the pernicious Consequences to his Majesty's Service, wherein the general Interest of the Colonies is included, following from large Rewards for Scalps given by provincial Laws to the Indians. And these Rewards open a Door to great Fraud and Imposition upon the Colonies or the Colonies themselves, for the Cherokee in particular have got the Art of making four Scalps out of one Man killed, here are now twenty Scalps hanging out to public View which are well known to have been made out of five Tuskerocan killed, what a Sum at £50. each would they produce if carried to Maryland where the Artifice probably would not be discovered. For these Reasons I have declared to the Indians I have met here, that I do not buy Scalps, they may keep them, according to their own custom as Marks of Honour, and that I purpose always to reward those I employ in Proportion to their Services (whereof I am to be the Judge) without Regard to the Number of Scalps, so that many an Indian may deserve a Reward without killing an Enemy, or if he does kill any he may not be able to produce the Scalp which is often the Case. The principal Cherokee Warrior now in these Parts said this was right, it was the best Way of acting, he was much pleased with it.

At a Council held at the City of Annapolis on Saturday the twenty fourth Day of December in the seventh Year of his Lordship's Dominion Annoq. Domini 1757.

Present

His Excellency Horatio Sharpe Esq. Governor

Benjamin Taffer Esq.

St. Benjamin Taffer

Col. Charles Hammond

Col. Edward Lloyd

Daniel Dulany Esq.

Ordered by his Excellency the Governor with the Advice of this Board that the present General Assembly be prorogued to the 17th Day of January next, and Proclamations issued accordingly.