

Sir

Whitehall 13. Sept. 1766.

Advices having been received from His Majesty's Superintendants for Indian Affairs that the most unprovoked Violences and Murders have been lately committed on the Indians under the Protection of His Majesty, and whose Tribes are at present, in Peace and Amity with His Majesty's Provinces, and that the Offenders have not yet been discovered, and brought to Justice, and likewise that Settlements have been made on the back of the Provinces, without proper Authority, and beyond the Limits prescribed by His Majesty's Royal Proclamation of 1763, and in some places even beyond the utmost boundaries of any Province in America, and that in consequence the Indian Nations, do every where discover discontent and resentments, which may endanger the Peace of His Majesty's Provinces and the Safety of his Subjects.

It is therefore His Majesty's Commands that you apply yourself in the most earnest manner to remedy and prevent those Evils, which are as contrary to the Rules of good Policy as of Justice and Equity.

The Violation of those Principles attended also with so many Dangers to the Provinces is what cannot be permitted if a due Obedience had been paid to His Majesty's Royal Proclamation and a due attention given to proper Restraints on the Conduct of the Indian Traders, these Evils would have been effectually avoided.

His Majesty's Commander in Chief has received Express Orders to cooperate with the Civil Government for the enforcing a due Obedience to that Proclamation; and his Majesty requires and expects every Measure to be taken which prudence shall dictate, for the removing such Settlements, preventing in future any such Settlements as are contrary to the Intention of it, and for apprehending such Offenders whose daring Crimes have so direct a tendency to involve the whole of his Majesty's Provinces in America in an Indian War.

I am with great Truth and Regard Sir
Your most Obedient humble Servant
Shelburne.

The following is an Answer to the above Letter from the Earl of Shelburne One of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

My Lord
Since I had the honour to receive your Lordship's Letter dated the 13. of Sept. last I have made Enquiry but cannot find that any Violence hath been committed within this Province on any Indian since the Conclusion of the late War nor have any Lands been granted in Maryland beyond the Limits described in His Majesty's Proclamation of 1763. if therefore any Settlement hath been made on Lands to which the Indians have any Pretensions it has not been by Persons claiming Protection under this Government, and your Lordship may be assured that I shall never countenance the making any Settlement that can possibly give the Indians the least Cause of Offence and if any of the Inhabitants of this Province shall injure them in any respect I will endeavour to have the Offender Punished; but as there are on the Frontiers of this Provinces

Persons