

Contracts made in the Indian Country or at any of the Touchhouses
or Posts of Trade to a greater Value than Ten Pounds Sterling & also im-
powering the Courts of Justice in either of these Colonies to take Cognizance
of Criminal Actions or at least of Capital Offences committed at any such
Places. As it is not likely that the Punishment inflicted by our Laws
for Perjury would be so terrible to Persons living in the manner the Indians
live as to Men who are Members of a civilized State & who are by
such Punishments rendered infamous especially as it is very common to see
Indians without Ears or Noses or at least very much torn & mangled, I
submit it to Your Lordships Consideration whether in case they are to
be admitted as Witnesses in our Courts of Law (which however Quakers
& some other Sectaries principled against taking Oaths are not in Crimi-
nal Cases) close Imprisonment for a long time in case of their being
convicted of giving false Evidence would not be a more proper Punishment
to be inflicted on Indians who are impatient of Confinement than the Pe-
nalties proscribed by our Laws for such kind of Offences. Having thus
communicated to Your Lordships in Obedience to Your Commands what
occurred to me upon considering the Contents of Your Lordships Plan & the
Letters therewith sent for my perusal, I humbly submit the same to Your
Lordships & am with the greatest Respect Your Lordships most obedt humble

To the Earl of Halifax. Annapolis the 20th Oct. 1765.

My Lord,

Having lately received Your Lordships Letter dated the 11th of August
last relative to the Measures concerning by His Majesty's Post Master
General for the Establishment of a Regular Post & by that means for the
safe & speedy Conveyance of Letters throughout these Colonies I do my-
self the honour to inform Your Lordship that Tories are already