

not endeavour to inform yourselves, &c. but whether you, or any private Person have Authority to direct the Commissioners how to act; and it is beyond Contradiction, that your Instructions are such Directions.

You urge, that the present Treaty with the *Indians*, cannot be said to be, either of Peace or War; and your Reasons are, because there is no Precedent Rupture, and that their Demand is to be paid for Land: As to the First, the *Indians* (I am informed) frequently insist on a Peace to be made or renewed, altho' no formal Rupture, or Acts of Hostility subsist, merely for the Sake of Presents; and my Advices from the Northward are, That the *Indians* expect at this Time more considerable Presents, on Account of the Treaty of Peace, than for the Lands; as they are very sensible, their Friendship is of much greater Consequence at this critical and dangerous Juncture, than at any other Time. As to their Claim to the Lands, I am persuaded, if you looked on this Matter in the proper Light, your Duty and Allegiance to our Sovereign would have restrained you from considering it as a private Right, or giving any Treaty relating to it, the low Denomination of a Bargain and Sale. The Title to all the Lands in this Province, is held originally, and founded on a Right from the Crown; The *Indians* demand in a peremptory Manner to be paid for certain Lands; who is this Demand against? It cannot be against the Lord Proprietary, for all the Lands in this Province have been granted him by the Crown; therefore to allow that any Thing is due to the *Indians* from the Proprietary, is declaring, the Crown granted what It had no Right to: Shall we that profess so much, make a Concession of this Kind against the Right and Dignity of the Crown of *England*? What then follows? The *Indians* declare, if the Money is not paid, they shall do themselves Justice; is not this a Menace against the Peace and Safety of the Province? and whose Duty it is to protect the Country against the Threats and Insults of an Enemy, Common Sense will inform you; surely the People themselves are to do it.

But to put this Matter in another Light, I am confident, you or any other loyal Subject will never insinuate, the *Indians* have the least Pre- tence of Right, in Bar of Prejudice to his Majesty's, or that his Lordship holds the Lands under a defective Title; in which Case only, he could be obliged to warrant them; for I believe it was never before imagined, a Vendor of Land was to protect or indemnify the Purchaser against a superior Force or Violence; tho' he may be under an Obligation to do it against a superior Right: And therefore, since the *Indians* have no Right, they can be considered no otherwise than as *French*, *Spaniards*, or other Enemies would be, in case they should make Incursions into, and attack this Province: I hope you would not set up these Distinctions, when called on to assist, either by Men or Money, to prevent or oppose any Attempt to disturb this Province, in Derogation of the King's Title; and I am at a Loss to know, why the Country should not be as much obliged to provide Money for the Support of his Majesty's Right and Dominion by a Treaty of Peace, as by Force of Arms.

It is upon the Presumption of these loyal Principles, which you so largely profess on every Occasion, that I am thoroughly assured of your being convinced of the Necessity of making good any Sum, that shall be stipulated to be paid to the *Indians*, tho' it should exceed the 300 l. Sterling mentioned in your Address of the last Session; and you may depend on my Care in directing the Commissioners, on those two necessary Points