

to any *Indian Town*, is the only Remedy to prevent that Trade; and a just Reward to the Traders; for nothing else will do. It is an Abomination before God and Man; so lay nothing of the particular Consequences, it is altogether hurtful to the Public; for what *Indie Supplies* we can give them to carry on the War, is not half sufficient; they must buy the greatest part with their Hunting, and if they meet with Rum they will buy that before any Thing, and not only drink away their Skins but their Cloathing, and every Thing what they may get of us. In short, the inconveniencies occasioned by that Trade are innumerable; at this very Time the *English* and *French* Party will fall out in their Drunkenness, and murder one another, and the *English* will be charged with the Mischief thereof. I must leave off before I wear out your Patience: I remain,

S I R, Your very dutiful

CONRAD WEISER.

P. S. *Scawbody* told *Chickeliny* at my House very privately, that *Peter Chartier* and his Company had accepted of the *French Hatchet*; but kept it in their Bosom, 'till they would see what Interest they could make in favour of the *French*.

S I R,

Philadelphia, January 25, 1747.

I Have the Pleasure to inform you, that the *Indians* seated on the Branches of *Ohio*, and to the South and West of *Lake Erie*, Places within the Bounds of *Virginia*, *Maryland*, and *Pennsylvania*, have this last Summer shewn great Zeal for his Majesty's Interest in those Parts, and by their seasonable Declaration of War have prevented some very bad Designs of the Governor of *Canada*, which would otherwise have taken Effect: This came to be known first by a Letter sent to this Government from some of the Six Nations, and other *Indians*, seated at *Cannayabaga*, a Place on or near the River *Condé*, which runs into the *Lake Erie*; who sent down a *French Scalp* in token of their having begun Hostilities against the *French* and their *Indians*. The Traders afterwards confirmed this, with this further Circumstance, that the *French* Governor had sent the Hatchet to those *Indians*, and that they had rejected it; at the same Time letting the *French* Governor know that they were heartily for the *English*, and would fight for them, and not against them: This determined our Government to give them all the Encouragement possible, and while they were deliberating in what Manner to convey to the *Indians* a Quantity of Goods bought for their Use, ten Warriors living at *Ohio* came fortunately to *Philadelphia*, to remonstrate against the Backwardness of the *English*, and to tell them plainly, that unless they alter'd their Conduct, the *French* would soon be uppermost in their Parts. As they address'd themselves to the Governors of all the Provinces, and were told that they should be made acquainted with their Complaints, the Council, in Discharge of their Promise, and considering that your Province is equally with ours exposed to Danger, should these *Indians*, for want of proper Encouragement, go over to the *French*, have thought it their Duty to send you a Copy of the Treaty held with these *Ohio* Warriors, and of the Message of the Council, and of the Answer of our Assembly, wherein they promise to enable the Council to fulfil their Engagements of sending them a Present by Mr. *Weiser* in the Spring, tho' they were then supplied with a considerable Quantity of Powder and Lead and Cloathing, to help them through the Winter; and most earnestly request that you would lay these Matters before your Assembly, and recommend it to them to join with this Province and that of *Virginia*, in making a Present to these *Indians*; and if it shall be thought proper, that there may be appointed one or more Persons, with full power, to join with Mr. *Weiser* in any Measures that may be there thought to be most conducive to the public Good.

Mr. *Weiser* was ordered to accompany and take care of the *Indians*, in their Return to *Ohio*, as far as the inhabited part of the Country; and from what pass'd between those *Indians* and *Chickeliny*, a Person of Character at *Shamokin*, who happened to be at Mr. *Weiser's* on their coming there; and likewise from what was said by the principal *Indian*, *Scawbody*, at parting with Mr. *Weiser*, of all which he wrote an Account, which is copied and sent herewith. I cannot think but the Person or Persons who go to *Ohio* may do extraordinary Service, if they are well supported by an Union of the Southern Provinces, since they will thereby be

[May Sess. 1748.]

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