

Lib. C. B. Lands which they hold in Somerset and Dorchester Counties  
 No. 20 by Virtue of Grants from the Lord Proprietary and Sundry  
 Acts of Assembly which you know are appropriated to their  
 use on certain Conditions therein mentioned.

Tho' I cannot before the Assembly meets proceed so far as to make an Absolute Agreement with the Nanticoke and Choptank Indians for their Rights to the several Tracts they occupy should they be all willing to sell and remove out of the Province yet as Sir William Johnson desires I will suffer them to depart and also permit them to dispose of their Rights. I have signified to the Indians who are come from Otsiningo that they may pursue their Journey to Choptank and Nanticoke to meet and talk with the Indians that live there and also to take them away if the latter are willing to go but not to use any Compulsary Methods.

Presuming that you are acquainted with the Lands held or claimed by the Nanticoke and Choptank Indians and that you know the Principal People among them I take the Liberty to desire you will be present at the Meeting of these Indians with those who dwell on Choptank and Nanticoke and rather encourage the latter to accept of the others' Invitation than discourage them from going, for I have no doubt but the Assembly when it meets will be inclined to make them some Compensation for their Right to the Land which on their relinquishing it is to be at the Assembly's Disposal and suppose that the Persons who are to succeed to such Land as on the Indians' Departure will fall to the descendants of the Original Grantees will not be averse to making them likewise some Compensation. If therefore you find that all the Indians at present in Possession are willing to relinquish all their Pretensions and go away I recommend it to you to learn from them if you can what they would consider as a Satisfaction for their Right to the several and respective Tracts, I should be also glad to know the real Value of those Several Tracts the Quantity contained in each the Improvements thereon, to what Persons parts thereof are leased and on what Terms. As it hath been represented to me that some White Persons who are settled on the Indians' Land have not paid them any Rent for several Years particularly Mary Crutchet and one Adams I hope you will take the trouble to make enquiry and if you find that the Indians have just Cause of Complaint against those Persons or any others exert yourselves so that the Indians may have Justice done them. The Indian called Sam tells me that they have a Claim to some Land at the head of Wiccomoco about four Miles below Venable's Mill but that the English several Years ago took Possession of it without