

An Act concerning Trade with
the Indians

P. R. O.
Colonial En-
try Book
No. 53

Bee it Enacted by the Lord Proprietary with the consent of the upper and lower house of this Assembly that from hence forward every Inhabitant of this Province shall have free liberty to trade with any Indian or Indians within this Province for any Beaver or other Comodities, and to pass upon any River or Creeke or other passage through any parte of this Province to trade for the like Comodityes with any Indian or Indians without this Province and to exporte the Comodityes or any of them soe to bee traded for from time to time out of this province excepting Corne which shall not bee exported out of this province without especiall leave for the same to bee obteyned from time to time from the Leiuetenant or Cheife Governor of this province or such other Officer or Officers for the time being as hee or the Lord Proprietary or his heires Lords and proprietarys of this province shall from time to time appoynt paying a tenth in weight or vallue for all the Beaver soe traded for, for a Custome to his said Lordship and his heires Lords and Proprietarys of this Province, Provided that noe person or persons who shall att any time hereafter trade as aforesaid, doe sell any Armes or Ammunition to any Indian or Indians, nor impertinently maliciously or wilfully quarrell with or give any just occasione of offence to any Indian or Indians soe trading with him or them wherby the publick peace or safety of this province may be endangered by any warre or Insurrection of any of the said Indian or Indians or any mischeife done by any of them to any of the Inhabitants or people of or in this province, And Provided allsoe that noe person or persons who shall soe trade as aforesaid doe enhance the price of Corne att any time in any such trade to the notorious prejudice of the Inhabitants and people of and in this Province nor goe forth upon any such Trade too weake in strength either in men or Armes and Ammunition wherby those Indians with whome they shall goe to trade may bee the more emboldened to destroy them or doe them mischeife For the better prevention of all which It is allsoe enacted by the Authority and with the Assent aforesaid that all and every person or persons who shall desire to trade as aforesaid shall first from time to time have the Lycence of the Leiuetenant or Cheife Governor of the Province for the time being or of such Officer or Officers as hee or the Lord Proprietary or his heires shall from time to time appoynte for soe tradeing who shall never deny such Lycence to any Inhabitant of this Province that shall att any time desire the same, and that shall give such security and sattisfaction as shall bee reasonable and just to the Leiuetenant