

U. H. J.
Liber No. 36
May 24

Affairs in this District of North America, relative to a Representation which had been made to him on behalf of the Maryland Indians, some of whom are, it seems, desirous to remove to Ossiningo, and be incorporated with the Six Nations, if they may be permitted to dispose of the Lands, which, by the Legislature of this Province, were heretofore appropriated to the Use of these Peoples Ancestors

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Together with Sir William's Letters, I shall communicate to you a Petition that hath been presented to me by several of those Indians, also the fullest information I have been able to get, concerning their Number and the Lands they Occupy, or Claim so that You may be better able to Judge what Compensation it will be reasonable to give for their Rights, should You think fit to repeal the Laws, by which they are at present restrained from Selling the Lands they Possess

As the Person, who is Authorized by Sir William Johnson, as well as by the Indians, to Act for them on this Occasion will wait here for the Result of your Deliberations, I must recommend this Business in the first place to your Consideration

Gentlemen

The frequent Disputes and great Confusion occasioned in this Province by the Loss of Boundaries, and the Variation of the Compass, are Matters well worthy your Notice, some remedy for so great an Evil is indisputably wanting, but it might, perhaps, be difficult to point out One adequate and unexceptionable, That a just and equitable Regard may be shewn to the Rights of all concerned the utmost Caution and Foresight, as well as the Strictest Impartiality, are requisite.

The Defects of our present Road Laws are obvious, and striking, You must be sensible what great Advantages would arise to the Community, from the Public Roads being made more direct, and kept constantly in Good Repair, I hope therefore You will take this Matter likewise into Consideration

I must also observe to You, Gentlemen, that an accurate Review of the Criminal Laws, made or introduced here, seems to be highly expedient, when it becomes a Question whether a Law is in force or not. A Tenderness towards Convicted Persons, they may not seem to deserve, Usually takes place, and, by that Circumstance, Encouragement is probably given to the Commission of Crimes. Let therefore some Criterion be Established so plain and explicit for determining what Criminal Laws are in force here, that all Doubts, on this Head, may in future be prevented.

Gentlemen of both House

The Proofs I have, on all Occasions, endeavoured to give of my Desire to promote the Welfare and Happiness of the People, over whom I have the Honour to preside, make it, I hope, unnecessary for me now to assure you, that you will always find me ready to