

Present  
 Henry Holland  
 Robt Livingston  
 Jos: Cuyler  
 Peter van Brugh  
 Govt Banker  
 Phil. Livingston  
 John Collins  
 Lt. Wendell  
 Herib. Kenfelaar  
 David van Dyck

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All a meeting of the Com<sup>rs</sup> of the  
 Indian Affairs in Albany the 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Novem<sup>r</sup> 1721

Copy  
 Com<sup>rs</sup>

Whereas his Excellency W<sup>m</sup> Buel Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Capt. Genl<sup>l</sup> & Gov<sup>r</sup> in Chief of the Provinces of  
 New York New Jersey &c. hath been pleased to write  
 a Letter to the Com<sup>rs</sup> appointed for managing the  
 Ind<sup>ian</sup> Affairs at Albany. Dated the 22<sup>d</sup> of October last  
 wherein he enclose Copy of a Petition of several  
 Merch<sup>ts</sup> of London to his Majesty against an Act  
 of general Assembly pass'd in New York the 19<sup>th</sup>  
 of Novem<sup>r</sup> 1720 and an Order of his Majesty in  
 Council upon that Petition referring it to the  
 Lords of Trade & there Report thereon with  
 the Chief Allegations made by the sd Merch<sup>ts</sup>  
 before the said Board Desiring us to make  
 our Observations on as many of the sd Allegati-  
 ons mentioned in the sd Petition or hearing  
 before the Lords as we know they have misrepre-  
 sented. We having Consider'd of the same do  
 take leave most humbly to make the following  
 Observations thereon

That what is alleg'd in the first Article of  
 the Petition affic'd. That all Trade whatsoever  
 is prohibited in the strictest Manner & under  
 the severest penalties between the Inhabitants  
 of New York Governm<sup>t</sup> & the french of Canada  
 Contradict it self for that only relates to Ind<sup>ian</sup>  
 goods, having ever since the passing of sd Act had  
 free Liberty to Dispose of Christian Goods & very  
 considerable Quantities have been vendd to the  
 french of Canada

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That the Reasons assign'd in the preamble  
 of this Act for the passing thereof, we don't  
 Doubt but the same were very well ground-  
 since the Indians of the five Nations have often  
 applied to this Government to prohibit the selling  
 of Ind<sup>ian</sup> Goods to the french, for they affirm'd  
 that by that they were enabled to supply the  
 far Ind<sup>ians</sup> whereby they prevented them from  
 coming to trade w<sup>th</sup> the Inhabitants of this Pro-  
 vince for they had Straws so plenty that  
 they lay at Sagara as a Wall over w<sup>th</sup> the said  
 far Ind<sup>ians</sup> could not come to carry on a free Trade  
 hither, and at the same time alleg'd that the  
 great Supply the french got from hence  
 would be the Occasion that Straws would  
 become the Deader to them.

As to what they say. That besides 4 Nations  
 of Ind<sup>ians</sup> that are in the English Interest, there  
 are severally many Nations of Ind<sup>ians</sup> who are at present  
 in the Interest of the french, and who by between  
 the said 4 Nations of Ind<sup>ians</sup> in the English Interest,  
 by which we perceive they are misinformed  
 for we don't know of any such Ind<sup>ians</sup> living be-  
 tween the places afores<sup>d</sup> in Interest of the french  
 This Trade w<sup>th</sup> the far Ind<sup>ians</sup> if it could be entirely  
 brought hither would not only be of great Conse-  
 quence to his Maj<sup>ty</sup> Interest but no small Incon-  
 venient to the five Nations in general, who have  
 open'd a path & invited them to trade w<sup>th</sup> them  
 & w<sup>th</sup> Inhabitants of this Province, The more since  
 there are some Nations of Ind<sup>ians</sup> who by the Inven-  
 tion of the french are settled above Sagara  
 on Land belonging to the Hurones w<sup>th</sup> they  
 have some years since surrendr'd to his Majesty  
 being their Chief Beav<sup>r</sup> Wanting w<sup>th</sup> the said  
 far Ind<sup>ians</sup> the sd five Nations promote a Trade  
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