

Extract from a letter from Governor Hunter to the Lords of Trade, dated New York, Aug. 27th, 1714.

An Act for the Treasurer's paying to his excellency a sum of money for presents to the Indians, and for his expences in going to Albany, All I shall remark upon this bill is that the sum is not sufficient to purchase the presents, those Indians now expect who are grown very uneasy for want of it. They want to have the hatche(t)s taken out of their hands, as they call it, but the truth is, that they have been hitherto so accustomed to presents from the time of their first settlement, when they were considerable, and the Province weak, that it is now grown into a sort of tribute which they most certainly expect, and the Assembly unwillingly give, so that I must either resolve to be a loser myself, or vent a disturbance on the frontiers, which cannot be for her Majesty's interest, and have accordingly appointed the 15th of Sept. for the day of meeting the five Nations as they are called, at Albany, and do not doubt but to set all matters so with them that they may be quiet and the county enjoy perfect security.