

July the 25th 1692 Severn River

May it please your Excellency

Sir Since my last to your Excellency on the 18th Instant I was alarmed with a dull Piece of Paper from Major Thomas to Mr Ashman, and so to me, that the Indians had besett Capt. Richardson's house, as the said Richardson did signify to him by an Express, which Writing from the said Thomas is here inclosed and also a Letter to me dated the 20th Instant from the said Richardson, to blast the aforementioned Report with the matter of truth, by the way of a Pig, and for the better and more certain Confirmation resolved into that County, so soon as your Excellency's Commands came to my hand, which was on the 20th Instant, and the next day I went into the said County, and took the Post with me, whereby I might the sooner give your Excellency Account of the Certainty of Affairs with them, & returned again to my house last Night; which is as followeth (Viz^t) On Saturday the 16th Capt. Maxwell took eight men with him, and went to Thomas Thurston's where he expected to find that Party of Indians mentioned in the inclosed from him to me, which came to my hand in their County, but when he came there, found the Indians had hired a guide for one good Beaver Skin to convey them about sixteen Miles to One Mr. Jacob Lootons a Baltimore County Justice, where Captain Maxwell and his Party followed them on Sunday Morning, and there they found about seventy two Indian Men, and a hundred Women and Children, who had 8 Guns, and all the rest of their men well furnished with Bows and Arrows at the said Lootons house, and there they found him in his Store, and full of Indians a dealing with him for Goods, having great Store of Indian Trade therein, which is said to belong to Job Wells and Samuel Groome and that he trades under them, but I find by Captain Maxwell and some of his Men, that Looton and his Wife gave the English a very unwelcome reception for disturbing their Trade on their Market day as Looton called it: Now if these be Lootons friends, and he so well knows them (as Capt. Maxwell declares in his Letter) tis my Opinion that he is the fittestest Man to render your Excellency a true Account of their qualifications, which I hope Your Excellency will call him to Account for his Misdemeanor; and that he make appear what Indians they are, tis believed he never saw these Indians before, and for the sweet profits such traders reap by them, who value not the spoil of their Neighbours, if they get the Gains; Sir, One Thomas Jones of that County