

the Governour's hanging him, and what for fear of the Indians killing him brought mee to this sad condicion, but blessed be God hee came in very well, with the losse of a very few men; never was known such a fight in Virginia with so few men's losse. The fight did continue nigh a night and a day without any intermission. They did destroy a great many of the Indians, thanks bee to God, and might have killed a great many more, but the Govern^r were so much the Indians' friend and our enemy, that hee sent the Indians word that Mr. Bacon was out against them, that they might save themselves. After Mr. Bacon was come in hee was forced to keep a guard of soldiers about his house, for the Govern^r would certainly have had his life taken away privately, if hee would have had opportunity; but the country does so really love him, that they would not leave him alone any where; there was not any body against him but the Govern^r and a few of his great men, which have gott their Estates by the Govern^r; surely if your brother's crime had been so great, all the country would not have been for him, you never knew any better beloved than hee is. I doe verily believe that rather than hee should come to any hurt by the Governour or any body else they would most of them willingly loose their lives. The Govern^r has sent his Lady into England with great complaints to the King ag^t Mr. Bacon, but when Mr. Bacon's and all the people's complaints be also heard, I hope it may be very well. Since your brother came in hee hath sought to the Govern^r for commission, but none would be granted him, so that y^e Indians have had a very good time, to doe more mischief. They have murdered and destroyed a great many whole families since, and the men resolving not to goe under any but yo^r brother, most of the country did rise in Armes, and went down to the Govern^r, and would not stirr till hee had given a commission to yo^r brother w^{ch} hee has now done. He is made Generall of the Virginia Warr, and now I live in great fear, that hee should loose his life amongst them. They are come verry nigh our Plantation where wee live.

Mr. Bacon's acct of their troubles in Virginia by y^e Indians, June y^e 18th, 1676.

By an Act of State it was pvided for y^e better security

of the country, That no Trade should be held with y^e Indians, notwthstanding w^{ch} our present Govern^r monopolized a trade wth y^e Indians & granted licences to others to trade wth y^m for w^{ch} hee had every 3rd skinne, which trading wth y^e Indians has proved soe fatall to these pts of y^e world, y^t I feare wee shall bee all lost for this commerce having acquainted y^e Indians o^r neighbours, but most inveterate Enemy wth our manner of living and discipline of warr; has also brought them generally to y^e use of o^r Fire Arms wth such dexterity, y^t o^rselves often hire y^m to kill Deare; & they have almost lost y^e use of their bowes and arrows, & every body through connivance have for luc^{re} sake supplied y^m wth ammunition (though a prohibited commodity) y^t they have been in a condition to punish us.

Things standing in this posture, they have entered into generall bloody warr wth all these pts of y^e world, y^e murders and depradations they have committed here are horrible and continuall, laying a great part of y^e country desolate, and forcing the inhabitants to fly from their dwellings to their ruine; y^e Govern^r (who from y^e Neighbour Indians receives this Tribute & benefitt by y^e trade) still p^{te}cting y^m for these many years ag^t y^e people, & tho. y^e complaints of their murd^{rs} have been continuall yett hee hath connived at y^e great men's furnishing y^m with ammunition (w^{ch} by y^e Law is death), and y^e sad effects thereof. Now y^e Govern^r having placed mee here in a place of trust, I thought it my duty to discharge my conscience in it, by introducing a looking after y^e wellfare of the people here, they being poor, few and in scattered habitations on y^e Frontiers & remote pt of y^e country, nigh these Indians, who falling upon us (as well as other pts) & killing amongst y^e rest, my Overseer and laying desolate a plantation of mine to my great lose of cattle & all my crop: I sent to y^e Govern^r for a commission to fall upon y^m, but being from time to time denied, and finding y^t y^e country was basely for a small and sordid gain betraied, & y^e lives and fortunes of y^e poor inhabitants wretchedly sacrificed, resolved to stand up in this ruinous gap; & rath^r expose my life and fortune to all hazards, than basely desert my post, & by soe bad an example make desolate a whole country, in w^{ch} no one dared to stirr ag^t y^e common Enemy, but came flying from y^e

Enemy and crowded together like sheep, leaving their plantations and stock a prey to y^e Enemy.

Upon this I resolved to march out upon the Enemy wth w^t volunteers I could yⁿ gett, but by soe doing found y^t I not onely lost y^e Governour's favour, but exposed my verry life and fortune at home as well as abroad; for y^t hee tho^u by mee and others often humbly requested, would by no means consent to my going out, being most unwilling y^t point should bee handled, w^{ch} had been so long concealed; but considering y^e necessity, I still pceeded, & returned wth a greater victory from sharper conflict than ever yett has been known in these pts of the world; for y^t wth about 70 men onely w^{ch} engaged and stood by me (y^e service being too hott for y^e rest) we fell upon a town of y^e Indians, consisting of 3 forts strongly mann'd, beginning our fight after midnight close at their port holes, & maintained it so all y^e remainder of y^e night, & in y^t time burnt their king's forts, & all theirin. The fight continued till y^e next day about 3 or 4 in y^e afternoon wthout ceasing, in w^{ch} time their king making a sally was killed wth most of his men, soe y^t wee reckned, wee destroyed about 100 men and 2 of their kings, besides women & children. This victory being y^e greatest & ag^t 2 of their most valiant nations gave great satisfaction to y^e people, but so enraged y^e Govern^r y^t I came home with greater danger yⁿ I went out, for being putt out of y^e Councell, I was chosen by y^e country a Burgesse, but going down in my sloop was seized on, & my fellow Burgesse putt in irons: but immediately all y^e country was in armes for my relief, such an appearance as has not been known in Virginia, threatening y^e ruine of all if any thing were done to my prejudice, who had so freely stood up in their defence, upon w^{ch} by y^e importunity of my cousin, & to shew my cleannesse from any ill intencons as also to reconcile y^e people and the Govern^r, who found my party too universall, & himself left wth none but his Councell, y^e people generally disaffecting his pceedings, hee resolved imediately for England; unlesse I to salve his hon^r would submitt, & doe soe generous an Act (as my cozen formed it) as to acknowledge y^t my actions were unjust & unwarrantable, to beat up drums wthout y^e Govern^r's leave, w^{ch} if I should doe, all should be well; whereupon I followed his advice not suspecting y^e pfidious hatred of y^e

Govern^r, who yett restored mee upon this to y^e Councell, granted mee his pardon as fully as any ever was granted, and by one of the Burgesses proclaimed mee Generall to satisfy and disperse y^e people, who were so satisfied here-wth y^t they all retired peaceably, but hee brok his word, & refused to signe my comission, w^{ch} y^e people highly resented, expecting y^e pformance of his word, & univ^sally resolving to goe und^r no other man; & thereupon all y^e country immediately up in arms & their heat increasing by y^e repetition of y^e sad and bloody murthers just at o^r doors for wee are surrounded wth nations of Indians on all sides, except y^e seaboard side of Virgin^a, so many y^t none can guess at their number, who are now if not all a vast numb^r of them confederated, & have for some time been in open wars wth us: y^e stage and seat of y^e war being now, & has for some time, nigh my doors, for you know S^r I have formerly intimated my vicinity to them, & y^t as others did so I also had a mind to look into y^e gainfulnessse of trading wth them. Till I saw into y^e fatall consequences thereof to y^e country, w^{ch} made mee become y^e Indians' Enemy, who have only use y^e trade to furnish themselves wth instrum^{ts} to destroy vs; you would wonder to see y^e sad condition wee are in: y^e Indians being every where seen, y^e houses & plantacons Deserted, and all left a prey to y^e Enemy, till wthin 3 miles of my dwelling, yet no man dared to stir or endeavor to destroy y^e Indians because some of y^m whom y^e Govern^r and those licensed by him trade wth, are under his ptection, tho^u we find y^m all alike, neither can we distinguish this fatall undistinguishable distinction of y^e Govern^r, who only for y^e gain sake has bridled all people, y^t no man dare to destroy y^e Indians, even in y^e psuit of murder untill I adventured to cutt y^e knott, w^{ch} made y^e people in generall look upon mee as y^e countries friend; for y^t no man could pceive in my manner, Estate, or manner of living, how any indirect end, as levelling or rebellion, could make me desirous to exchange my fortune for worse; altho by the Govern^r & some other of his creatures, such terms were putt upon mee, and y^e Govern^r being much incenced, and jealous of y^e people's inclinations to mee, resolved after y^e people were quietly dismissed, not only to deny my comission, but to take mee; and for the former, upon my serv^{ts} report y^t he saw an Indian in y^e way, y^e Govern^r caused

him to bee imprison'd & endeavoured to psuade y^e house y^t this report was only a plott to amuse y^e people, & tho y^e house gave little credence to y^e Govern^{rs} story, yet he took occasion from hence, not to signe my commission, upon w^{ch} I desired his permission to goe home, & took a civill leave, but hee taking y^e advantage of my late departure, caused mee to be besett both by water, and land, wth a designe to murder mee, w^{ch} a friend of mine acquainted mee wth. I took y^e next horse, and went away alone. I was noe sooner gone but psued and searched for. They feeling the very beds for mee, seized on my Servants in Town, imprisoned them, but finding y^t I was gone they were dismissed. Vpon my return home without a comission, this strange disappointment of y^e people, putt all in armes again, in w^{ch} posture they went down to Town to expect y^e pformance of y^e Govern^{rs} promise, who then confirmed to y^e people their desire, and has sent to England to acquaint his Ma^{ty} of y^e reasons and grounds of our distraccons & of his being now satisfied of my intentions, as you will further understand by his letter directed to his Ma^{ty} from y^e Governour and grand assembly. How long this fair weather will last I cannot tell, but doe earnestly desire wee may have so fair a representation in England, as y^e countries complaints may be audited, either by agents from hence to England or there by comm^{rs} from thence: & his Ma^{ty} & y^e world will quickly pceive how y^e case stands between the Governour, and the country.

S^r I am at present engaged in providing for safety of y^e country, in all pts, having y^e care of y^e warre upon my hands; therefore I hope you will please to pardon my manner of Writing &c^a.