

**Matthew Talbot to Clement Read, May 3, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM MATTHEW TALBOT.**

OTTER RIVER May yo. 3 1758

DR. SIR

I write this now expecting to have an opportunity to Send to you—I Recd. yours by the Revd. Mr Townshend of April 19th. which was a great pleasure to me to hear you was Setting of to Wm.burgh because I knoes you will be so Good as to Lay our deplorable Situation before his Honr. and the Council and I am in Great hopes you will be Invested with Such a power as to relieve our Poor unhappy Country on any emergant accession who without Sending to town—I Sent the Express by Majr. Smith who Promised to Contrive it with the Greatest Expedition but I as yet hear nothing of them—I do everything I can to keep a few men out on the frontiers of this County but alas I fear it will not be long they will Continue indeed it is very hard for men to be from there plantations at this time of the year when they Should be planting Corn to make bread for their families—it did not ly in Majr. Caldwell nor Capt. Duggin power to keep your men out—I Could get Some men to keep out if I would engage they Should Stay out all the Summer and So make a Crop out of their wages to maintain themselves and families (those that have any) Dr. Clem I am very uneasy about the Cherokees there was about fifteen Came through the Settlement where I Live and Spread themselves at least ten miles in breadth and went to Every plantation in their way I Cant Say they did much mischief or behaved very ill but their presence frithen the women very much So much that if they be allowed to Come

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without white men without with them I do not believe our County will Stand a month Longer there Came about nine or ten to my house they reley Seemd to me as if they Came to See what white men and negroes we have and so see what our Strength we are of, the people in general Seem to fear the return of them with more force they made for Stanton and So to Pig river which Course lies intirely open to them their being no Inhabitants or very few and Every time they Come they Still keep Lower down I Just now heard after they Got over Stanton they went to a house where there was not any body but a man and his wife and ransacked the house of every thing they thought Proper to take and I expect to hear of Some murder Committed by them when they Get to the outward Inhabitants— my Son James told me when they got about Sixty miles of Winchester they meet three Indians Comeing from thence and then there was a Council held agm among them and on the Breaking up of it one Capt. and about forty Indians would goe no farther but returnd back and that the Capt. told James the french were Good Shawnees were Good and The English were Rogues James told him the reverse he told him he was a d—md. Liar Liar and I am very apt to believe these are Some of the forty and if so what may we not Expect to be done by them So that Look which way we will we are really in a miserable Situation —

my Son Matt is endeavouring to raise men to goe out after the Indians and to lie in wait for them and tell me he is determind if it be possible to goe till he get Some of there Scalps and or Leave his he immagines to get about five and twenty men—I told him he had better Join Capt. Anthony he says no if he goes he will have none but what is Select Gunners and Gunners good woodmen I know he refuses Several who offer to goe because they are not Such he Seems to be very ambitious that way and I Cannot forbear encouraging him in it he hath Listed the Last the Last prisoner which made his escape and yesterday went to get marris Griffith and I dare to believe if Peter Luney do not wait in expectation of Majr. Smith goeing he will goe with him—he tell me he will goe as far as he Can without running so Great a hasard to no Effect he Says he wants but eight days provision and Some a[???]munition he tell me he doth not design to be in again under two months he

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will Leave his wife and Children with me or at Charles—Majr. Samll. Harris Came to my house this evening and we have agreed to Settle our affairs by arbitration at our next Court So that beg youl Send me the Copy of the Judgmt. and beg youl be So good as Contrive it without fail the Letter he hath wrote to mr. Goode to meet at that time for if I Can Settle that affair it will be of Great Content to me—Sir as I expect the rangers Daily and am at a Loss to dictate a warrant to Send them I Should take it extreemly kind of you to be so good as to form one Leaving the places Blank that they are to range and the places they are to be Stationed at—and Inclose it to me—and the favour Shall be gratefully acknowledged by him who is Dr Sir Yr very most hhble and

Affect—Sert. MATTW. TALBOT

Ps/as to yrs Relating to Chiles Negroes he Sold one to mr. Arther which with Some tobo. he let mr. Hossy have they have Compromised the matter and if their had been a Sale I would have done my utmost to Serve you I am yr

M T'

I Likewise beg Dr Sir that youl be So good as to write me Such a bond as may oblige Harris and Goode to Stand to the Settlement they make and Inclose it to me To CLEMT. READ ESQ. Lunenburgh.

A merandom of what of what we the supcribers have seen by the indins when we come to the house we saw a indin with a knife in his hand gun acting as tho he had a mind to kill us and went out and gave a hallow and then several more apeard and he returnd in again and took my gun and took site at my face and the rest Jumpt of their horses with their guns and knives dran in their hands and hallowing and runing as fast as they could to the hous and when we told them they should not doe so they with their knives opened to stab us so we maid off as fast as fast as we could and we heard them braking open the chests as we took it to be as witnes our hands

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THOMAS MORGAIN JACOB DILINN CHRISTIAN CHOAT