

## Letter from Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood About Educating Indians, 1711

### Transcription

[VIRGINIA. Nov. 17th, 1711.

To the Council of Trade:

MY LORDS:]

.... The delivering their Children as Hostages will not only prove the most effectually Security for their Fidelity, but may be a good step towards the Conversion of that whole Nation to the Christian faith, and I could not hope for a more favourable Conjuncture to make this Demand than now when they are under great apprehensions of our Resentment for the late Barbarities committed in Carolina, and the impressions made on them by the appearance of so great a force as I then showed them. I took this Occasion to renew a Proposal I formerly made to our Tributary Indians for sending some of their Children to be brought up at the College, and though it has hitherto been judged a matter so impracticable that the Governors of the College have thought it in vain to attempt it, and have chosen rather to be at a great expence for buying Indians of remote nations taken in war to be educated in pursuance of a Donation left for that purpose by Mr. Boyle, yet I have prevailed so far by offering to remitt their whole Tribute of Skins as long as they kept their Children at the College, that the King of the Nansemonds has already sent his son and Cousin, The Nottoway and Meherrines have sent each two of their Chief men's Sons to be brought up to Learning and Christianity, and the Queen of the Pamunkey, upon seeing how well those Indian Children are treated, has engaged to send her Son and the Son of one of the Chief men upon the same Foot, and I also expect another Boy from the Chickahominys. As the remitting their tribute is one of the Conditions for keeping their Children at the College, and I believe a strong motive to engage their Compliance, So, if it should happen to be disapproved and revoked by succeeding Governors because it lessens their Income, it may occasion their Recalling their Children and consequently prove a Discouragement to the design of their Conversion....

*Citation: Excerpt from Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood to Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, Nov. 17, 1711, Colonial Office 5/1316, Public Record Office, Kew, England (available on Virginia Colonial Records Project microfilm at the Library of Virginia).*