



some measure, & proceed amongst them as often I am forced to do  
and they are much engaged in attending upon the word of God.  
And there is one good Circumstance among the Indians in general  
evening where, they don't chuse to join in either side in this or  
that, but chuse strict Neutrality, and the white Americans don't  
seem to have their join in them, the Congress have sent out four  
missionaries among the Indians, several times and different ways  
& advise them to be Easy and Quiet, not to be concerned in the English  
War by Quarrel. My Father's Brother went about two miles Westward  
from this Place last Sept with a number of your true Brethren, and  
in your return, he tells me, he saw the Indians, altogether of different  
Tribes, and that some the advice to them from the Commissioners, and  
the Indians promised strictly to observe the Advice given them, that  
they were not to be engaged in either side, in these different Tribes not  
intermeddle with the English Contention, - When the white People  
began to bustle about here, some of our true Indians have  
been ready to assist, but the white People would not accept of them  
but insist upon the promise of the white People, but some persons  
and amidst other all their rejection, Last Summer there were  
some white people wanted to have others to go in their Room, and  
our Indians offered themselves, but when the Colo<sup>l</sup>. who had care  
of our, saw them, he turn'd them back as a gain. But the King  
of our, some of them, I hear, have been using their influence  
to engage the young Indians on their side, I wish the King of  
great Britain would command all his officers in North  
Carolina, to let the peaceable Indians alone, & what have we  
to do with your Contentions? - The young Indian, I heard he was  
among the Indians some part of last Summer, but to have he is  
now, from nothing. - These sad Contentions have reach'd our all this  
Summer, and School Masters among the poor Indians I heard  
there was Money enough in the Hands of the Host English Society  
and they did not know how to buy it out, I wish they had considered my  
Case, & my most Compassionate Sir, interceded with them for me,  
I wish them last winter, but I have had no Success, if I should write  
you perhaps my Letters will never reach them in these times.  
I beg the Continuance of your servant Prayers for me and mine  
and for all the poor Indians, This with most grateful Respects to  
you and to your Dear Family is from

your most Obedient  
affectionate and loving Son  
Samuel Decatur

To (by return Jan. 6. 1777.)  
John. Thornton Esq  
at Rappahannock

London

Wm. M. Smith  
Jan. 6. 1777.  
to Thornton  
at Rappahannock