CHAPTER VI.

THE treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, as we have observed, was practically only a contract for a truce. The treaty of Utrecht, made in 1713, guaranteed to England all Nova Scotia included in ancient Acadie, and to the Five Nations of Indians, subject to Great Britain, the peaceable enjoyment of all their well-defined rights and privileges. But so indefinite were the terms of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, notwithstanding the treaty of 1713 was held as its basis, the real difficulties which gave rise to the last war remained unsettled. The agreement that boundaries should remain as before the war was so vague in terms, considering the fact that for almost thirty years those very boundaries had been a subject for contention, that interpretation was difficult. As early as 1721, France had erected Fort St. Frederick on Crown Point, within territory always claimed by Great Britain and the Five Nations ; and before the signing of the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, the French had constructed almost twenty forts and several stockades and trading places on soil claimed by the British crown. France, at that time, was putting forth all her energies in carrying forward schemes of aggrandizement at various points in the Mediterranean, the East and West Indies, and in North America. She doubtless intended the peace to be only a truce, so that whilst England was inactive she might strike deeper the roots of her dominion, especially in the New World, for

her Jesuit priests, with the banner of the cross in one hand and the truncheon of secular enterprises in the other, had penetrated the wonderful vallies of the Great West, and revealed their boundless wealth to their nation.

At the time we are considering the French in America were not more than one hundred thousand in number, and scattered in trading settlements for nearly a thousand miles along the St. Lawrence and our immense lakes, and also at points on the Mississippi and its tributaries, and the Gulf of Mexico; whilst the English numbered more than a million, and occupied the Atlantic seaboard, in the form of agricultural communities, more than a thousand miles in a line eastward of the Alleghany Mountains and far northward toward the St. Lawrence, from the St. Mary's in Florida to the Penobscot in Maine.

The trading posts and missionary stations of the French, deep in the wilderness, at first attracted very little attention, but when, after the capture of Louisburg, in 1745, they built strong vessels at the foot of Lake Ontario, and commenced the erection of a cordon of fortifications more than sixty in number between Montreal and New Orleans, the English perceived the necessity of arousing to immediate and vigorous opposition. Disputes soon arose, and these resulted in hostile action. The territorial question was revived, and both parties appeared to be in a mood to settle it by a passage at arms. A peaceful company of speculators brought the matter to issue in this wise:

In 1749 King George of England conveyed, by grant, six hundred thousand acres of land on the southeast bank of the Ohio river to an association composed of London merchants and Virginia speculators, giving them, at the same time, the exclusive privilege of trafficking with the Indians. The association was called *The Ohio Company*,

and, anxious to bring their domain into market, they sent surveyors to explore and settle the boundaries of it. At the same time English traders penetrated the country northward of the Ohio, as far as the Miami villages, to traffic with the willing Indians. The jealousy of the French traders was aroused, and at Piqua, an Indian village, a skirmish ensued between traders of the two nationalities, when the first blood was shed in the cruel war that ensued.

In 1753, the governor of Canada detached twelve hundred French soldiers to occupy the Ohio valley, to the exclusion of the English. They built a fort, first on the south shore of Lake Erie, near the village of that name, then on the Venango (French Creek), near the present village of Waterford, and a third at the junction of the Alleghany river and French Creek, at the village of Franklin. *The Ohio Company* complained of this intrusion, and as their land lay within the chartered limits of Virginia, the lieutenant-governor of that province, Robert Dinwiddie, felt called upon to espouse their cause. He resolved to first try diplomacy, and accordingly, in the autumn of 1753, he sent George Washington, then a young man less than twenty-two years of age, to confer with Le Gardeur de St. Pierre, the commander of the French troops, and to present to him a letter of remonstrance against his occupancy of English soil.

It was late in autumn when Washington, with only two or three attendants, departed upon his perilous journey of full four hundred miles towards Lake Erie, though a dark wilderness and many tribes of savage men. Ice, snow, floods, all lay in his path, yet he accomplished his undertaking to the satisfaction of those who sent him. His mission, however, seemed unfruitful. St. Pierre received him courteously, treated him hospitably four or five days,

and then gave him a written answer to Dinwiddie in a sealed envelope. Washington had heard the important fact of the hostile designs of the French from the lips of officers made incautious by a free use of wine, and with this information, and a knowledge of the strength and position of the French posts, he returned to Williamsburg with St. Pierre's letter to Dinwiddie. That letter simply informed the Virginia magistrate that the commander of the French was acting under the orders of the Marquis Du Quesne, the governor-general of Canada, and that he should not withdraw his troops from the Ohio country, as Dinwiddie demanded.

Dinwiddie was a wrong-headed, avaricious Scotchman, and had already made the Virginians restive under royal rule. He was concerned in the *Ohio Company*, and resolved to make war upon the French intruders, but when he evoked the civil aid of the province, in giving sanction to an expedition and providing means for its support, he found powerful opposition in the Legislature and among the people. Their patriotism was appealed to, and at length the Legislature voted fiftv thousand dollars for the support of troops enlisted for an expedition. The other colonies were invited to coöperate, but none responded affirmatively except North Carolina, from whose bosom, on the recommendation of her Legislature, four hundred volunteers were soon on their way toward Winchester. A few volunteers from South Carolina and New York hastened toward the seat of war, while in Virginia a regiment of six hundred men was formed, with Colonel Joshua Fry as commander, and Major Washington as his lieutenant. These rendezvoused at Alexandria, and, with Washington at the head of the advanced corps, marched toward the Ohio at the beginning of April, 1753.

In the meantime the *Ohio Company* had sent thirty

men to construct a fort at the junction of the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers. They were attacked and driven away by some French troops, who completed the fortification and named it Du Quesne, in honor of the governor of Canada. Washington was within forty miles of that point, with the advanced guard, when intelligence of the event reached him, with the information that a strong force of the enemy were on their way to intercept him. He fell back to a place called the Great Meadows, and there erected a stockade, which he named Fort Necessity. While it was in progress he sent out a party to attack the advanced guard of the French. They were successful. At the dead of night the Virginians fell upon the sleeping Frenchmen, and Jumonville, their commander, and nine of his men were slain. Of fifty who formed the detachment only fifteen escaped.

Two days after this event Colonel Fry died, and the command of the expedition fell upon young Washington. With about four hundred men he proceeded toward Fort Du Quesne. He had not advanced far when he was informed that a brother of the slain Jumonville, with at least a thousand Indians and some Frenchmen were marching to avenge the death of his kinsman. Washington immediately fell back to Fort Necesssity, where he was attacked by fifteen hundred foes. After a conflict of ten hours he was compelled to capitulate, on the 4th of July, but on honorable terms, and he and his men returned to Virginia. Thus was inaugurated the FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR, which afterward raged vigorously in northern New York.

While these military operations were in progress, a civil movement of great importance was seen at Albany, the residence of Philip Schuyler. It was the meeting of the

representatives of seven of the Anglo-American colonies, to consult upon a plan for a federal union, so as to oppose a strong front to the common enemy seated upon the St. Lawrence and the lakes. This was really the primal object of the members of the convention; a secondary and important one was to strengthen the bond between the English and the Six Nations.

The necessity for such union, and such friendship with the Indians, had been felt for some time, yet the home government, when it proposed the convention by a circular letter addressed by Lord Holderness to all the colonies, did not contemplate a permanent political union; only a temporary confederation in time of danger against a menacing enemy. In that letter his lordship declared the chief design of the convention to be the renewal of treaties with the Six Nations.

Only seven of the thirteen colonies responded to the call, namely, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Delegates from these provinces assembled at the old City Hall, in Albany, on the 19th of June, 1754, and the convention was organized by the appointment of James De Lancey, the lieutenant governor of New York, as their president.* Chiefs of the Six Nations had come with tardy steps, and only one hundred and fifty were in attendance. Hendrick, the great Mohawk warrior, who was slain

* The following are the names of the commissioners from the several States: *New York.*—James De Lancey, Joseph Murray, William Johnson, John Chambers, William Smith. *Massachusetts.*—Samuel Welles, John Chandler, Thomas Hutchinson, Oliver Partridge, John Worthington. *New Hampshire.*—Theodore Atkinson, Richard Wibird, Mesheck Weare, Henry Sherburne. *Connecticut.*—William Pitkin, Roger Wolcott, Elisha Williams. *Rhode Island.*—Stephen Hopkins, Martin Howard. *Pennsylvania.*—John Penn, Benjamin Franklin, Richard Peters, Isaac Norris. *Maryland.*—Benjamin Tasker, Benjamin Barnes.

in battle near Lake George the following year, was their principal speaker.

De Lancey opened the business of the convention by a speech to the Indians, interpreted by Colonel Myndert Schuyler, one of the commissioners, and was responded to by Hendrick. That powerful, white-haired warrior, a noble specimen of his race, arose with grave mien, and advancing a few steps, held up the chain belt which had been given him by the lieutenant-governor and the chief magistrates of other colonies, and said: "We return you all our grateful acknowledgments for renewing and brightening the covenant chain. We will take this belt to Onondaga, [the federal capital of the Six Nations,] where our council-fire always burns, and keep it so securely that neither thunder nor lightning shall break it. There we will consult over it, and we hope when you show this belt again, we shall give you reason to rejoice at it. In the meantime we desire that you will strengthen yourselves, and bring as many into this covenant chain as you possibly can." Then, his eyes flashing indignation at the remembrance of the past, when the French swept down the Hudson valley to Saratoga, and there were no forts to impede their progress, he said:

"You desired us to open our minds and hearts to you. You have asked us the reason of our living in this dispersed manner. The reason is, your neglecting us these three years past." Then casting a stick behind him, he continued: "You have thus thrown us behind your back and disregarded us, whereas the French are a subtle and vigilant people, ever using their utmost endeavors to seduce and bring our people over to them. Look at the French! They are *men;* they are fortifying everywhere. But, we are ashamed to say it, you are like *women*, bare and open,

without any fortifications. It is but one step from Canada hither, and the French may easily come and turn you out of doors."

Through this neglect during the political strife in the province, that had raged violently for several years, the Six Nations had become extensively disaffected. Full one half of the Onondagas had withdrawn and joined a settlement near the site of Ogdensburgh, at the mouth of the Oswegatchie, under the protection of the guns of the old French fort *Presentation*. Even some of the Mohawks uttered loud complaints, but through the influence of Hendrick, and one or two others, they were retained as fast friends of the English.

While the business of the convention was in progress, that body, responding to an invitation of the Massachusetts delegates, took into consideration the expediency of forming a federative union of the colonies. The subject was referred to a committee consisting of one member of each delegation present.* Several plans were proposed, when Dr. Franklin, whose fertile mind had conceived the necessity of a union and the form of a confederation, arose and submitted a draft of a scheme for the consideration of the convention. The subject was debated "hand in hand." Franklin observed, "with the Indian business, daily, for twelve consecutive days;" and at length a report, as substantially drawn by him, was adopted, the Connecticut delegates alone dissenting.

Franklin's plan of union, having, in many respects, a remarkable similarity to the Federal Constitution formed by himself and others thirty-three years afterward, proposed

* The committee consisted of Hutchinson of *Massachusetts*, Atkinson of *New Hampshire*, Pitkin of *Connecticut*, Hopkins of *Rhode Island*, Smith of *New York*, Franklin of *Pennsylvania*, and Tasker of *Maryland*.

a grand council of forty-eight members—seven from Virginia, seven from Massachusetts, six from Pennsylvania, five from Connecticut, four each from New York, Maryland, and the two Carolinas, three from New Jersey, and two each from New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The number of forty-eight was to remain fixed, no colony to have more than seven nor less than two members; but the apportionment to vary within those limits, with the rates of contribution. This council was to have the general management of civil and military affairs. It was to have control of the armies, the apportionment of men and money, and to enact general laws in conformity with the British Constitution, and not in contravention of statutes passed by the imperial Parliament. It was to have for its head a president general, appointed by the crown, to possess a negative or veto power on all acts of the council, and to have, with the advice of the council, the appointment of all military officers and the entire management of Indian affairs. Civil officers were to be appointed by the council, with the consent of the president.*

The seat of the proposed federal government was to be Philadelphia, then a central city in the colonies, and where, it was alleged, the representatives would be "well and cheaply accommodated." It was also suggested that if the whole journey to the seat of government had to be performed on horseback, (much of it could be accomplished by water,) "the most distant members, namely, the two from New Hampshire and from South Carolina, might probably render themselves at Philadelphia *in fifteen or twenty days!*"†

The plan of union was doomed to a singular fate. Franklin was greeted at New York, when he went down

* Pitkin's *Political and Civil History of the United States*, i. 143.

† *Life and Writings of Franklin*, iii. 42.

the Hudson from the council at Albany, with every demonstration of joy as the mover of American union, but the several colonial assemblies, viewing it with the jealous eye that watched over the individual liberties of the colonies, rejected it as too aristocratic—too much *prerogative* in it—partaking too largely of the centralization of power; while the Lords of Trade, to whom it was submitted, did not approve of it nor recommend it to the King, because it was too democratic. Perhaps some minds among them may have been sagacious enough to perceive the danger it might work to the integrity of the British realm.

The Board of Trade had already proposed a plan of their own:—a grand assembly of colonial governors and certain select members of their several councils, with power to draw on the British treasury, the sums thus drawn to be reimbursed by taxes imposed in the colonies by the British Parliament. This proposition found no favor with the colonists, and Massachusetts gave her agent in England special instructions "to oppose everything that should have the remotest tendency to raise a revenue in America for any public use or services of government."

The capacious mind of Franklin conceived, at this time, an empire more magnificent than the one contemplated in the union of the then existing colonies. The convention ordered the committee charged with the preparation of a plan of union, to report a representation of the affairs of the colonies. This able paper, it is believed, was drawn by Franklin, for it embodies the ideas expressed by him in a communication made to Governor Pownall not many years afterward. It proposed "that the bounds of those colonies which extend to the South Sea, (the Pacific Ocean,) be contracted and limited by the Alleghany or Appalachian mountains, and that measures be taken for set-

tling, from time to time, colonies of his Majesty's Protestant subjects westward of said mountains, in convenient cantons to be assigned for that purpose." But the war just kindling prevented, for the time, putting into execution Franklin's grand idea of a federal and expanding Union.

The convention at Albany had just closed its labors, when a cry for help was raised along the New England frontier. The Indians, incited by the French, commenced murderous depredations there; and those in the Ohio country, inflamed by French emissaries, lifted the hatchet and lighted the brand for a war of extermination against the advancing English settlements. Clouds of danger were thickening on every hand, and yet some of the colonies were tardy in their preparations for the impending storm. Governor Shirley, of Massachusetts, put forth all his energies and accomplished much, while in Virginia disputes about precedence between the regimental officers and the captains of independent companies ran high, and in a degree paralyzed efforts for the public good; and Governor Dinwiddie made matters worse by his ignorance and obstinacy. The assembly of New York, awake to the perils that threatened, voted twenty-five thousand dollars for the military service, and the authorities of Maryland voted thirty thousand dollars for the same. The British government sent over fifty thousand dollars for the use of the colonies, and, to allay discontents, appointed Governor Sharpe, of Maryland, commander-in-chief of all the provincial troops. Yet the year 1754 closed without any efficient preparations for a conflict with the French.

The British government, meanwhile, had perceived that a very severe contest was about to be commenced between their colonists in America and those of the French, and re-

solved to extend aid to the former, notwithstanding the two nations were at peace. When the British ministry called the attention of the French court to transactions in America, the latter expressed the most pacific intentions and promises for the future, while its actions were in direct opposition to its professions. The British resolved no longer to be diverted by this duplicity, and at the close of 1754, sent General Edward Braddock, a brave but haughty and self-sufficient Irish officer, with two regiments, commanded by Colonels Halkett and Dunbar, to assume the chief command in America and coöperate with the provincials as circumstances might require. He arrived in the Chesapeake in February, 1755, and, at his request, six of the colonial governors met him in convention at Alexandria, in April following, to assist in arranging a vigorous campaign against the French.*

Three separate expeditions were planned—one against Fort Du Quesne, at the forks of the Ohio, to be led by Braddock in person ; a second against fort Niagara, at the mouth of the Niagara river, and Fort Frontenac (now Kingston), at the foot of Lake Ontario, to be commanded by Governor Shirley ; and a third against Fort St. Frederick, at Crown Point, on Lake Champlain, under General William Johnson, of the Mohawk region, where he had acquired great ascendancy over the more eastern nations of the Iroquois confederacy. A fourth expedition had already been arranged by Governor Shirley, and Governor Lawrence, of Nova Scotia, designed to drive the French out of that province and all other portions of Acadie. The im-

* Shirley, of *Massachusetts;* Dinwiddie, of *Virginia;* De Lancey, of *New York;* Sharpe, of *Maryland;* Morris, of *Pennsylvania;* and Dobbs, of *North Carolina.* Admiral Keppel, commander of the British fleet that bore Braddock's thousand men to America, was also present.

perial government sanctioned these extensive preparations, and when the flowers first bloomed upon the New England hills, in the spring of 1755, the colonies began to glow with the warmest enthusiasm.

James De Lancey, a man of great energy and large fortune, was now acting governor of the province of New York. He had been the uncompromising political adversary of Governor Clinton for several years, and, as we have before observed, their quarrels interfered seriously with the public welfare. Clinton had become extremely unpopular. "Easy in his temper, but incapable of business," says a cotemporary, "he was always obliged to rely upon some favorite. In a province given to hospitality he erred by immuring himself in a fort, or retiring to a grotto in the country, where his time was spent with his bottle and a little trifling circle, who played billiards with his lady and lived upon his bounty. He was seldom abroad; many of the citizens never saw him; he did not even attend divine worship above three or four times during his whole administration."* At length, thoroughly wearied with the defensive warfare which he was compelled to continually wage with his opponent, he resigned his commission and returned to England in the autumn of 1753.

Clinton was succeeded by Sir Danvers Osborne, brother-in-law of the Earl of Halifax. He had lately been bereaved of his wife, whom he passionately loved, and with a heavy heart he crossed the Atlantic. On his arrival he was received with acclamations, but he soon learned that the people were, in a measure, arrayed against the government on the subject of taxes, and that his situation as the representative of the crown would be a most uneasy one. On the 10th of October he took the oaths of office, and

* *History of New York*, by William Smith.

with the shouts of welcome for himself he heard execrations of his predecessor. "I expect like treatment before I leave the government," he said, sorrowfully, and retired to his lodgings more gloomy than ever.

Osborne had received from the city council an address, in which they said "We are sufficiently assured that your excellency will be as averse from countenancing as we from brooking any infringements of our inestimable liberties, civil and religious." This implied jealousy distressed him, and when, on the following day, he communicated to his council his instructions from the King, first to inform the assembly that they were required "to recede from all encroachments upon the prerogative," and then to insist upon their affording permanent and indefinite support to the government, while all public money was to be applied by the governor's warrant, with the consent of the council, and the assembly never to be allowed to examine the accounts, he was informed that the latter would never comply. He sighed, turned about, and reclining against the window frame exclaimed in plaintive voice, "Then what have I come here for?" And to De Lancey he said, "I believe I shall soon leave you the government; I find myself unable to bear the government of it." He went home in a mood of deepest melancholy, and towards morning he hanged himself upon his garden fence. Thus were the reigns of government left in the hands of De Lancey.

De Lancey's position was a delicate one. He had been the leader of the opposition in the assembly, and he was now compelled to become a Janus—rebuke the assembly publicly for not obeying instructions in granting required supplies, and to confederate with them privately in measures directly opposed to the will of the crown. The assembly, in turn, lauded the governor for his virtues and

abilities, boasted of their attachment to the crown, and declared that nothing should be wanting to promote the King's service and render his administration easy and happy. At the same time they firmly resisted every movement in the way of taxation without their consent, while De Lancey, with well dissembled zeal, joined Shirley and Dinwiddie, Sharpe and Morris, Braddock, Dunbar, and Gage, in urging the British government to put in action a scheme of general taxation in America by act of Parliament. Thus urged, the imperial government resolved to assert its full authority in the American colonies, and to raise funds for American affairs by a stamp duty and a duty on products of the foreign West Indies.

While politicians in and out of the New York Legislature were playing disreputable games, in which the best interests of the commonwealth were more or less involved, the people at large, alarmed by the kindling war, became clamorous for measures that should provide defenses against the foe, both inland and upon the sea. These clamors became so loud and importunate that, on the advice of his council, De Lancey issued a proclamation on the 10th of January, 1755, directing the Assembly to convene on the 4th of February following, almost six weeks earlier than the time to which they had adjourned. In his message he stated that preparations for war against the French in America were absolutely necessary, and that he should expect them to make all proper provisions for putting the province in a suitable state of defense. He informed the assembly of the armament on the way under General Braddock ; urged them to strengthen the fortifications at New York, and to take immediate measures for erecting others at the northward. "Our northern frontier," he said, "demands your most serious attention. The city of Albany

is in such a condition as draws a reproach upon us from our own Indians at the same time that it greatly discourages them." He urged them to take care to secure that city against the foe, for if it should be once taken, nothing, he thought, could prevent the enemy penetrating into New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also desired them to provide for the building of a strong fortification higher up on the Hudson; to adopt more compulsory regulations for bringing the militia into active service; and concluded by saying, "I flatter myself you will not risk losing your all by an ill-timed parsimony."

The Assembly took prompt action, for there was great alarm abroad. Utterly disregarding the royal instructions, which prohibited the further issue of paper money by the colony, unless bills for the purpose were submitted to and approved by the crown, they authorized the emission of £45,000 in bills of credit, to be sunk at short intervals by a tax. They also subjected the militiamen to such duties and penalties as the executive should prescribe; authorized the levy of eight hundred men and the impressment of artificers; prohibited the exportation of provisions to the French colonies, and provided funds for arming the troops, and for making presents to the Indians to secure their co-operation.

It was at this juncture that Shirley sent out his envoys to arouse the colonies to a war of extermination against the French, or at least to achieve the conquest of Canada. His envoy to New York was Thomas Pownal, who afterward became governor of Massachusetts. He appeared at about the middle of March, and soon afterward the assembly passed bills for levying eight hundred men for the proposed expedition against Crown Point, under William Johnson. The patriotism of the young men of the colony

was appealed to, and then, for the first time, Philip Schuyler, who had lately attained to his majority, appeared in the arena of public life, under the sanction of the following commission :

"To PHILIP SCHUYLER, ESQUIRE:

"Whereas, by an act of the Legislature of this province, passed on the third of May instant, provision is made for raising and subsisting eight complete companies of volunteers, to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, four sergeants, three corporals, one drummer, and eighty-nine private men, to be employed in building one or more forts on his Majesty's lands to the northward of Albany, in conjunction with the forces to be raised by the other governments; the whole to be commanded by William Johnson, Esq., Major-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said forces. And as an inducement to officers and men to engage in this service, the following pay and other advantages are granted by the act: To every captain who shall raise such a complete company, to be paid on the first muster thereof, one hundred pounds. To each able-bodied man a bounty of thirty-two shillings and sixpence, a blanket, a good lapelled coat, a felt hat, one shirt, two pair of Oznaburg trowsers, one pair of shoes, and one pair of stockings. To captains eight shillings per diem, lieutenants six shillings, sergeants one shilling and eightpence, corporals one shilling and sixpence, drummers one shilling and sixpence, and each private man one shilling and threepence per day. And you being represented to me as a person able to raise such a company and fit to be employed in this service, I have therefore thought fit to authorize, and I do hereby authorize and impower you to beat up for volunteers, and to raise such a company within this province, whom you are to enlist according to the directions herewith given you, on the completion and muster whereof you shall receive my commission to command such company, and from thenceforth to be entitled to pay. And all officers, civil and military, are required to give you all due encouragement. And for your so doing this shall be your warrant.

"Given under my hand, in the city of New York, this fifth day of May, 1755. "JAMES DE LANCEY."

Young Schuyler set about the business of recruiting immediately, and very soon the full complement of one hundred men responded to his call. They were chiefly young men, belonging to the most respectable families in

Albany and its vicinity. Some of them became distinguished militia officers in the army of the Revolution twenty years later. Schuyler reported himself to General Johnson's adjutant-general, and soon afterward received the following commission from acting governor De Lancey:

"To PHILIP J. SCHUYLER, ESQUIRE, GREETING:

"Whereas the several governments of the Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and this province, have respectively raised a body of men to be employed in an expedition for erecting a strong fort or forts on his Majesty's lands near Crown Point, and for removing the encroachments of the *French* in that quarter, the said forces to be commanded by the Honorable William Johnson, Esq., Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the said expedition; and reposing especial trust and confidence in the care, diligence, and circumspection, as well as in the loyalty, courage, and readiness of you to do his Majesty good service, I have nominated, constituted and appointed, and do, by virtue of the powers and authorities to me given by his Majesty, hereby nominate, constitute, and appoint you, the said Philip J. Schuyler, to be *Captain* of the company raised by you for the service aforesaid, in the regiment of the province whereof William Cockcroft, Esq., is colonel. You are therefore to take the said company into your charge and care as captain, and duly to exercise both the officers and soldiers of that company in arms. And as they are hereby commanded to obey you as their captain, so are you likewise to observe and follow such directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from me, or any other your superior officer, according to the rules and discipline of war, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you; and for so doing this shall be your commission.

"Given under my hand and seal-at-arms, in New York, the fourteenth day of June, in the twenty-eighth year of his Majesty's reign, Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five.

"JAMES DE LANCEY.

"GEO. BANYAR, Secretary."