

## CHAPTER IX.

WHEN General Schuyler arrived in Albany he found General Gates in no pleasant mood. He had remained in that city instead of going to the post to which Congress had assigned him, with the expectation, no doubt, of the resignation of Schuyler, and his own appointment to the chief command of the Department. His hopes were now blasted by the recent proceedings of Congress, which the supple courtier of his staff, Colonel James Wilkinson, said in a letter from Ticonderoga, baffled his penetration. "They have injured themselves," Wilkinson wrote, "they have insulted you, and by so doing have been guilty of the foulest ingratitude. How base, how pitiful, or how little deserving the name is that Public Power which individual consequence can intimidate or bribe to its purpose."\*

The action of Congress only defined Gates' position, which he had misunderstood, but he persisted in considering himself degraded. He refused to serve under Schuyler, and on the 9th of June applied to him for leave to quit the Department. It was granted, and he hastened to Philadelphia to demand redress from Congress for imaginary wrongs. He arrived there on the 18th of June, and on the same day Roger Sherman, delegate from Connecticut, informed Congress that General Gates was waiting at their door for admittance. "For what purpose?" in-

\* Autograph Letter, June 7, 1777.

quired Wm. Paca; to which Sherman replied, "to communicate intelligence of importance." He was accordingly admitted, and seating himself in an arm-chair, after some ceremonies he began to speak. William Duer, a delegate from New York, gave, in a letter to General Schuyler, the following account of the scene that occurred :

"The intelligence he communicated was that the Indians were extremely friendly, much delighted with seeing French officers in our service, and other common-place stuff, which at present I cannot recollect. Having thus gone through the ostensible part of the plan, he took out of his pocket some scraps of papers, containing a narrative of his *birth, parentage and education, life, character and behavior*. He informed the House that he had quitted an easy and happy life to enter into their service, from a pure zeal for the liberties of America; that he had strenuously exerted himself in its defense; that in some time in May last he was appointed to a command in the Northern Department, and a few days since, without having given any cause of offence, without accusation, without trial, without hearing, without notice, he had received a Resolution by which he was in a most disgraceful manner superseded in his command. Here his oration became warm, and contained many reflections upon Congress, and malicious insinuations against Mr. Duane, whose name he mentioned, and related some conversation which he said had passed betwixt him and that gentleman on his way to Albany. Here Mr. Duane rose, and addressing himself to the President, hoped that the General would observe order, and cease any personal applications, as he could not, in Congress, enter into any controversy with him on the subject of any former conversation. Mr. Paca caught the fire, and immediately moved that the General might be ordered to withdraw. I seconded the motion, observing that the conduct of the General was unbecoming the House to endure, and himself to be guilty of. Mr. Jerry Dyson, Mr. Sherman, and some others of his Eastern friends rose, and endeavored to palliate his conduct and to oppose his withdrawing; on this Mr. Middleton, Mr. Burke, Colonel Harrison, and two or three others arose, and there was a general clamor in the House that he should immediately withdraw. All this while the General stood upon the floor, and interposed several times in the debates which arose on this subject; however, the clamor increasing, he withdrew. A debate then ensued concerning the propriety of the General's conduct, and that of the members who, contrary to the rules of Parliament, contended for the propriety of his staying, after a motion had been made and seconded that he should withdraw.

"The want of candor in Mr. Sherman, who asked for his admit-



tance on the pretence of his giving the House intelligence, was much inveighed against, but he bore it all with a true Connecticut stoicism. Congress at length came to the determination that General Gates should not again be admitted on the floor, but that he should be informed that Congress were ready and willing to hear, by way of memorial, any grievances which he had to complain of. Here this matter ended. Not, as you will observe, to his credit or advantage.

“It is impossible for me to give you an idea of the unhappy figure which G. G. made on this occasion. His manner was ungracious, and totally void of all dignity; his delivery incoherent and interrupted with frequent chasms, in which he was peering over his scattered notes; and the tenor of his discourse was a compound of vanity, folly and rudeness. I can assure you that notwithstanding his conduct has been such as to have eradicated from my mind every sentiment of respect and esteem for him, I felt for him as a man, and for the honor of human nature wished him to withdraw before he had plunged himself into utter contempt. You will perhaps think it was improper in me to second the motion that he should be ordered to withdraw, but I plainly saw that he was brought in with an intention to browbeat the New York members, whom he considers as his mortal enemies, and I was determined to let him see that it was indifferent to me whether I offended him or not.

“Perhaps he may take it into his head to call me out, as he quitted the house with the utmost indignation. Should this be the case, I am determined not to shelter myself under privilege, being convinced of the necessity there is to act with spirit, to enable me to discharge, with fidelity, the trust reposed in me.”

Duane, writing to Schuyler on the same subject, on the 19th of June, said :

“He has heard from several candid members, that only one or two justified his claim to the Command, and that the rest declared that there was no room for his supposing it ever had been invested in him. He ought to feel more pain and resentment from this circumstance than from anything which fell from me. I am apt to think he does, for he has made no representation in Congress, and, instead of resigning, talks of going to General Washington’s camp. If I might guess, he expects that *you* will be elected Governor of New York, and resign your military honors, and that then he will be reinstated in the possession of what he has much at heart, the command of the Northern Department.”

To this Schuyler replied, on the 3d of July :

“I am obliged to you for the minute detail of Gen. Gates’s conduct in Congress. I wish I could believe that he has not a bad heart as well as a weak head. I do not mean to impeach his political principles in this

contest, but this insidiousness in attempting to blast the reputation of others, is shameful. The resentment Congress showed to his improper conduct gives me a double pleasure, as it must have extremely mortified him and his abettors, the Eastern people. I am well assured that he has held a correspondence with a set of people who call themselves a Convention of the new (would-be) States,\* and that he has addressed letters to them, as such."

Meanwhile, Schuyler had been putting forth all his energies in preparations against an attack from Canada. Extraordinary exertions were needed; for he found that almost nothing had been done in the department during his absence, in the way of such preparations. Gates had said to St. Clair, "Call lustily for aid of all kinds, for no General ever lost by surplus numbers or over-preparation." But very little had been done to supply Ticonderoga with provisions, and, as for the dangers threatening in the western frontier, Gates seemed not to have bestowed a thought upon them, excepting on one occasion, when Joseph Brant, the

\* This was an allusion to the recent action of the people of the "New Hampshire Grants," whose territory was still claimed as a part of New York. (See page 257, Vol. i.) They had assembled in convention, at Windsor, at the middle of January, 1777, and declared the "Grants" an independent State, with the title of Vermont. At the same time, they adopted a declaration and petition to Congress, setting forth reasons for independence, and praying that the declaration might be received, and the district described therein ranked among the free and independent American States, and delegates therefrom admitted to seats in the grand Continental Congress.

This was presented to Congress on the 8th of April. On the 30th of June, Congress dismissed the petition, by resolutions, in one of which they declared: "That the independent government attempted to be established by the people styling themselves inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants, can derive no countenance or justification from the act of Congress declaring the United Colonies to be independent of the Crown of Great Britain, nor from any other act or resolution of Congress." For a full account of this movement, from its incipient state to the admission of Vermont as an independent member of the Union, see the second volume of the published collections of the Vermont Historical Society.



young Mohawk Chief, and brother-in-law to Sir William Johnson, tried to induce his people to abandon their old abode for lands more remote from the white people and their influence. To counteract Brant's work, Gates, on the 29th of May, sent the following characteristic speech to the Mohawks, and then let the matter rest :

*“ Brothers :*

“ I believe I am almost as old a warrior as any here present. When I cast my eyes around, I see many whom I remember at the beginning of the last war to have been little boys. It is now eight and twenty years since first I came from England to Chebucto. I say not this from boasting or vanity, but only to convince my brothers that I have travelled far, and seen much. Warriors of long experience in council and in the field will be heard with attention in this solemn assembly. As I love my brothers of the Six Nations, I wish them to open their ears, that the advice I am going to give may sink deep into their hearts.

*“ Brothers :—*With grief I remark it has been acknowledged in this Council that certain warriors have been permitted to cut off the feet of the Virginians upon the Ohio. Brothers: if you are wise, command that bloody hatchet to be instantly buried. The great Governor and Council of Virginia will oblige any of their subjects to atone for the injustice they may have committed. There is no need to do more than to make the injury appear, and punishment and redress will directly follow.

“ The villainy of a few should not cause two mighty nations to go to war.

*“ Brothers :—*The war with England is drawing to an end. News which you will soon hear from G. W. will convince you of this truth.

*“ Brothers :—*The United States are now one people ; they offer to take you to their bosoms, and consider you equal to their own children. Suffer not any evil spirits to lead you into a war which must end in your misery. America and France are firmly united ; then strive not to prop a ruined building, lest it crush you with its fall.

*“ Brothers, of the Mohawks :—*You have long tasted the sweets of peace and society. Do not let any wicked men tempt you to remove from the happy lands your ancestors planted so many hundred years ago. Believe me when I prophesy,—You will be no more a people from the hour you quit your ancient habitations. If there is any wretch so bad as to think of prevailing upon you to leave the sweet stream so beloved by your forefathers, he is unworthy to be called a Mohawk. He is your bitterest enemy.

“ Before many moons pass away, the pride, injustice and power of

England will be laid low. Then, when your American brothers have no enemy to contend with, how happy will it make you to reflect that you have kept your integrity, and preserved the neutrality so earnestly recommended to you from the beginning of the war.

*“Brothers, of the Six Nations :—*The Americans well know your great fame and power as warriors, and the only reason why they did not ask your help against the cruelty of the King was that they thought it ungenerous to desire you to suffer in a quarrel in which you had no concern.

*“Brothers :—*I am sorry to be obliged to say a hatchet has been struck into the heads of some Bostonians, at Sabbath Day Point. Order that hatchet to be thrown immediately into the middle of the great lake. Sink it deep enough, for should it again be found, it may fall in vengeance upon the heads of those who were so wicked as to strike the Bostonians.

*“Brothers :—*Treasure all I have now said in your hearts, for the day will come when you will hold my memory in veneration for the good advice contained in this speech.”

Fortunately for the cause, Schuyler had now better health than he had experienced for two years, and the amount of labor that he performed was prodigious. His eyes were everywhere, and his voice and pen were hourly calling forth help that no other man could have commanded. He sent General St. Clair to take command at Ticonderoga, assisted by General Fermoy. Recruits were slowly augmenting the strength of the garrison there, which, at the middle of June, amounted to about two thousand five hundred, rank and file, including the sick, many of whom, from New England, were old men and boys.

There not being a sufficiency of troops in the department to command all the extensive works on both sides of the lake at Ticonderoga, Schuyler directed St. Clair to first thoroughly fortify Mount Independence, for he was satisfied that it was the most defensible point of the two capable of sustaining a long siege, and a post that might be maintained by two or three thousand men, who could



secure the pass. Such, also, was the opinion of the engineers and other experts. He instructed him, also, to keep strong scouting-parties out on both sides of the lake (some in the direction of the road leading from St. John's to New Hampshire, and some in another leading to the north branches of the Hudson), and not to concentrate all the troops at Ticonderoga, for fear of disaster, in case of an attack, like that which befell Fort Washington in the autumn. He enjoined cleanliness in every department, and directed the commanders of posts to see to it that no man was allowed to mount guard who had not his hair dressed and powdered, and his arms and accoutrements in perfect order. He gave directions about cooking, so as to have the food in a condition most conducive to health; and in every way he took care for the comfort of the troops.

At the middle of June, Schuyler was disturbed by rumors of the movements of the enemy. A British spy, named Amsbury, had been caught and examined by Schuyler. He reported that General Burgoyne had arrived at Quebec, to take command of forces soon to commence an invasion of northern New York. He was to advance, with his main force, by way of Lake Champlain, while a detachment of British regulars, Canadians and Indians, led by Sir John Johnson, was to penetrate to the Mohawk Valley, by way of Oswego, place itself between Fort Schuyler and Fort Edward, and so menace Albany. Assuming the information to be correct, Schuyler called for more troops. He considered the garrison at Ticonderoga sufficient to defend that post against any force which he believed to be then in Canada, but he had no troops to meet the promised invasion from the westward. Wash-

ington, then keenly watching the movements of General Howe from the heights near Middlebrook, in New Jersey, responded to Schuyler's appeal by directing General Putnam, then in command of cantonments from Princeton to the Hudson Highlands, to procure sloops and hold four Massachusetts regiments in readiness to go up the river at a moment's warning. Judging from what Gates had told him, he could not believe there was much danger of the invasions dreaded, and so he informed Schuyler; but like a prudent commander he was ready to provide for such a possible emergency.

In the meantime General Schuyler's attention had been called to the civil affairs of his State. After the Declaration of Independence, the several colonies proceeded to form State governments, by adopting constitutions. In that business New York moved early. On the first of August, 1776, a committee of the "Convention of the Representatives of New York," as the provisional government was called, sitting at White Plains, in Westchester County, were appointed to draw up and report a constitution. The committee consisted of the following named gentlemen: John Jay, John Sloss Hobart, William Smith, William Duer, Gouverneur Morris, Robert R. Livingston, John Broome, John Morin Scott, Abraham Yates, Jr., Henry Wisner, Sen., Samuel Townsend, Charles DeWitt, and Robert Yates. John Jay was the chairman, and to him was assigned the duty of drafting the Constitution.

The Convention was made migratory by the stirring events of the war during the ensuing autumn and winter. First they held their sessions at Harlem Heights; then at White Plains; afterward at Fishkill, in Dutchess County, and finally at Kingston, in Ulster County, where they



continued from February till May, 1777. There undisturbed, the committee on the Constitution pursued their labors, and on the 12th of March, 1777, reported a draft of that instrument. It was under consideration in the Convention for more than a month after that, and was finally adopted on the 20th of April. Under it a State government was established by an ordinance of the Convention, passed in May, and the first session of the Legislature was appointed to meet at Kingston in July.

General Schuyler was first apprised of the adoption of the Constitution by a letter from Robert Benson, written on the 25th of April. Preparations were soon afterward made for the election of State officers; and on the 2d of June John Jay, Charles DeWitt, Zephaniah Platt, Michael Cantine and Christopher Tappen united in issuing a circular letter from the hall of the Convention, at Kingston, recommending General Schuyler for the office of Governor, and George Clinton for Lieutenant Governor. He declined the honor because he considered the situation of affairs in his Department too critical to be neglected by dividing his duties. The elections were held in all the Counties excepting New York, Kings, Queens, and Suffolk, then occupied by the British, and Brigadier General George Clinton was elected Governor, which office he held, by successive elections, for eighteen years, and afterward for three years. Pierre Van Courtlandt, the President of the Senate, became Lieutenant Governor. Robert R. Livingston was appointed Chancellor; John Jay Chief Justice; Robert Yates and John Sloss Hobert judges of the Supreme Court, and Egbert Benson attorney-general.\* So it was that the government of the great State of New

\* Journals of the Convention, pp. 916, 918.

York was organized and put into operation at a time when it was disturbed by formidable invasions on its northern, southern and western frontiers.

There were personal aspirations for the chief offices of the State, but no partisan feelings yet influenced the conduct of those who participated in their election. Of course only the republicans, or whigs, so participated, for the royalists, or Tories, had no part nor lot in the matter. It was not until after the treaty of peace, in 1783, when men began to differ about the best form of government to be adopted, that political parties were formed.

General Schuyler visited Ticonderoga and Mount Independence on the 20th of June. He found the troops there miserably clad, and armed, and nothing in store for them. Many were "actually barefooted," he said, "and most of them ragged." He besought Congress to procure clothing, arms, and blankets.\* He held a council of officers, who observed, with much concern, the great lack of preparations for attack, caused by the utter inadequacy of the garrison for many months to do the work, and the want of effort on the part of Gates while in command; and when Schuyler spoke of the danger of the enemy taking a position on Mount Defiance, rising seven hundred feet above Ticonderoga, on the opposite side of the inlet to Lake George, it was the unanimous opinion of the officers that such occupation was almost impossible, owing to the rugged character of the approaches to it, and secondly, that all the troops in the department were insufficient to construct fortifications there, and to defend them and the other posts. So it was resolved to defend Ticonderoga and Mount Independence as long as possible. To

\* MS. Letter to Congress, June 25, 1777.



this end Schuyler gave St. Clair definite instructions, at the same time leaving him to exercise large discretionary powers, to meet any emergency while Schuyler was below making provisions to meet the anticipated invasion of the Mohawk country. He appealed to Washington for reinforcements, informing him that if the Americans should be compelled to evacuate Ticonderoga, and Burgoyne should make his way to the south part of Lake Champlain, he had "not a man to oppose him, the whole number at the different posts at and on this side of the Lake, including the garrison of Fort George and Skenesborough, not exceeding seven hundred men."\* He urged the necessity of reinforcements being immediately sent, and begged Washington to send field-pieces with them, as he despaired of receiving any from the eastward. He informed him that a letter just received from Mr. Deane, in the Indian country, confirmed his impression that an invasion from Oswego might be expected.†

\* Schuyler's MS. Letter Books.

† When we consider the events in the Northern Department for the six months preceding the visit of General Schuyler to Ticonderoga late in June—the deaf ear that had been practically turned upon all his entreaties for men and supplies to enable him to prepare the defences on the Lake for an inevitable attack in the spring or early summer; the taking away from Schuyler, for two months, the command of the Department, and giving it to Gates, who throughout the war was notorious for his inattention to the matter of providing for emergencies; the instructions which Schuyler gave St. Clair, and the heavy responsibilities which he had assumed in all cases, and for which he was accused of being a dictator, the following paragraph on page 361, volume ix., of "Bancroft's History of the United States," in which he speaks of the post of Ticonderoga at the time now under consideration, seems quite unaccountable: "The only good part was, to prepare for evacuating the post; but from the dread of clamor, shirking the responsibility of giving definite instructions, Schuyler returned to Albany, and busied himself with forwarding to Ticonderoga supplies for a long siege."

Schuyler then returned to Fort George, and from that point sent forward an ample supply of provisions for the garrison at Ticonderoga, and hastened back to his country seat at Saratoga, on his way to Albany, where he found that an unsuccessful attempt had been made to burn his mansion.\* There he was overtaken by a letter from General St. Clair, announcing the appearance of the fleet of the enemy on Lake Champlain.

The British, in Canada, had been making ample preparations for the campaign of 1777. The winter had been unusually mild, and toward the latter part of March, two ships which had been lying at St. John's were put into service, sailed as far south as the Isle aux Noix, and anchored near there, where they were frozen up by a cold snap of unexpected severity. It soon passed by, and a hundred new vessels were speedily built, old ones repaired, and two three-masters of twenty guns each were constructed. A floating battery mounting eighteen guns—twenty-four pounders—was put in good condition, and several new forts were built at St. John's and its vicinity.

The capital plan of the campaign was, as we have already observed, to penetrate the State of New York from the north and south simultaneously, along the valleys of the Champlain and Hudson. But it had been found extremely difficult for General Carleton, in Canada, and

\* The Tories were very vindictive, and on several occasions attempted to carry off or murder General Schuyler, and destroy his property. On one of these occasions a white man and an Indian, who had both received bounties at the hands of the general, were employed to murder him. They posted themselves at a lonely place at Saratoga, where they knew he was about to pass, and as he approached, the white man raised his gun to shoot him. The Indian suddenly struck up the musket of his companion, saying: "I cannot kill him—I have eaten his bread too often."



General Howe, in New York, to communicate with each other. To this end the former sent a deputation of Indians southward, so early as the middle of February, to obtain information of the latter's actual and intended movements. They made their way in two parties, with difficulty, by stealth, through regions occupied by the republicans, one party by the way of the Kennebeck River, and another through the wilderness west of Lake Champlain. Both parties returned with prisoners, and from these Carleton first learned of the disasters of the British at Trenton. This intelligence made the cautious Governor-General still more circumspect.

On the 6th of May, General Burgoyne returned to Quebec, from London, with the commission of Commander-in-chief of the troops in Canada. It produced a considerable excitement in military circles in that province, where Carleton was popular. Burgoyne had returned to England in the autumn, ostensibly to attend to family affairs; it was now suspected that his visit had for its object the obtaining of the chief command, more than for anything else. Carleton was let down from his position as easily as possible. It was announced that the King and ministry were well satisfied with his generalship during the last campaign, but that His Majesty had thought it advisable that the governor-general of the province should no longer command an army, but, remaining in the province, allow the general second in command to be the active leader. So General Carleton remained in Canada, with a few troops for its defence, while General Burgoyne was ordered to take command of the rest of the army, lead them across Lake Champlain into New York or New England, drive the "rebels" from Ticonderoga and Lake Sacrament (Lake

George), and open a communication with General Howe, from whom he was to receive further instructions.\*

Carleton accordingly surrendered the command of the troops destined for the invasion into the hands of Burgoyne, retaining in Canada three English regiments, forming the battalion of McLean, and six hundred and fifty Germans, together with reinforcements for a regiment whose arrival was expected.

The army under Burgoyne was composed of the English regiments of grenadiers, the English light infantry, the 9th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 27th, 53d and 62d German infantry regiments, with the exception of the six hundred and fifty just mentioned, and the whole of the artillery train. Lieutenant-colonel St. Leger, of the 34th English regiment, was, by the express order of the King, to lead an independent force for the invasion of the Mohawk country by the way of Oswego. It was to be composed of parts of his own and another regiment, three companies of Canadian volunteers, and all the Indians who had rendezvoused at Niagara. These Canadians and Indians were to be led by Sir John Johnson. It was the intention for this corps to make its way to Albany, in the rear of the main army of the Americans, and so cut off the supplies of Ticonderoga, as the advanced guard of the greater invading army that was to follow.

At the close of May, Burgoyne issued orders for the march of all the troops for St. John's, there to be in readiness for embarkation at a moment's warning, and directing all the heavy baggage and the sick to be left at Three Rivers, on the St. Lawrence. He had about as many men as he desired for the campaign. The Germans, about four

\* *Memoirs of General Riedesel*, translated by W. L. Stone, i. 97.



thousand strong, were under Major-general Riedesel, and the remainder were commanded chiefly by Lieutenant-General Burgoyne and Major-general Phillips. They were all assembled at or near St. John's before the middle of June. There, on the 12th of that month, while the chief officers, with Carleton, who came to take leave of the army, were dining with General Phillips, a messenger came from Quebec with the news that thirty-nine vessels had arrived there from Europe, bearing troops and war materials. Fifteen of them were transports, which brought eleven companies from England, together with four hundred chasseurs from Hanau, destined for Riedesel's corps. By the 18th of June, the whole of the German corps had arrived at Cumberland Head, across the bay, opposite the present village of Plattsburgh.

The entire army, under Burgoyne, were now concentrated in that vicinity, with the exception of Hamilton's brigade, which had been left behind to protect the magazines. On the morning of the 19th, Burgoyne had the whole of his force under arms, and riding along the entire front, addressed them in a few stirring words, and appointed the next day for the march. Each man was provided with rations for ten days. At dawn on the 20th, the general march was beaten on the drums instead of the reveille, and very soon afterward the army was prepared for embarkation. With much display, Burgoyne went on board the *Lady Mary*, and, at the same moment, the booming of heavy guns from the deck was the signal for the army to start. They pressed forward steadily, and by midday they arrived at the camp on Ligonier Bay. General Fraser, a gallant Scotch officer, had pushed forward with his brigade to the River Bouquet, the day before, when the last of the

Indian tribes who were to join the invaders came up, about one hundred in number. They were then feasted, and addressed by Burgoyne, and, in turn, they gave him assurances of their fidelity.

This feast was at the falls of the Bouquet, on the site of the present village of Willsborough, in Essex County, which was founded by William Gilliland a little more than a hundred years ago, and perpetuates his Christian name abbreviated.\* There were about four hundred Indians present—Iroquois, Algonquins, Abenakes and Ottawas; and to these he said:

*“Chiefs and Warriors :—*The great King, our common father, has considered with satisfaction the general conduct of the Indian tribes from the beginning of the troubles in America. The refuse of a small tribe at first were led astray, demonstrating to the world how few and how contemptible are the apostates. These pitiful examples excepted, the collective voices and hands of the Indian tribes over this vast continent are on the side of justice, of law, and of the King. The restraint you have put upon your resentment in waiting the king your father's call to arms, is the hardest proof to which your affections could have been put. The further patience of your father would, in his eyes, become culpable; it therefore remains for me, the general of one of his majesty's armies, and in this council his representative, to release you from those bonds which your obedience imposed. Warriors! you are free; go forth in might of your valor and your cause: strike at the common enemies of Great Britain and America, disturbers of public order, peace, and happiness; destroyers of commerce, parricides of the State. The circle round you, the chiefs of his majesty's European forces, and of the princes, his allies, esteem you

---

\* “Pioneer History of the Champlain Valley,” by WINSLOW C. WATSON. In this work of 231 octavo pages, Mr. Watson has given a large amount of hitherto unpublished information about the western side of Lake Champlain, drawn largely from the MSS. left by Mr. Gilliland, who had been a prosperous merchant in the city of New York. He purchased tracts of land on the west side of Lake Champlain, about the year 1765, and built him a residence there, a hundred miles from any Christian neighborhood. There, during the Revolution, he suffered heavily in person and estate, having been looked upon with suspicion by both parties in the conflict. Proofs are abundant that he was a true patriot.



as brothers in the war; emulous in glory and in friendship, we will reciprocally give and receive examples. Be it our task to regulate your passions when they overbear. I positively forbid bloodshed when you are not opposed in arms. Aged men, women, children, and prisoners, must be held sacred from the knife and hatchet, even in the time of actual conflict. You shall receive compensation for the prisoners you take, but you shall be called to account for scalps. In conformity and indulgence of your customs, which have affixed an idea of honor to such badges of victory, you shall be allowed to take the scalps of the dead when killed by your fire and in fair opposition; but on no account or pretence, or subtilty, or prevarication are they to be taken from the wounded or even the dying; and still less pardonable, if possible, will it be held to kill men in that condition on purpose, and upon a supposition that this protection to the wounded would be thereby evaded. Base, lurking assassins, incendiaries, ravagers, and plunderers of the country, to whatever army they may belong, shall be treated with less reserve; but the latitude must be given you by order; and I must be the judge of the occasion. Should the enemy, on their part, dare to countenance acts of barbarity towards those who may fall into their hands, it shall be yours to retaliate."

When Burgoyne had finished, an aged Indian chief arose and said:

"I stand up in the name of all the nations present, to assure our father that we have attentively listened to his discourse. We receive you as our father, because when you speak, we hear the voice of our great father beyond the great lake. We rejoice in the approbation you have expressed of our behavior. We have been tried and tempted by the Bostonians, but we loved our father, and our hatchets have been sharpened upon our affections. In proof of the sincerity of our professions, our whole villages able to go to war are come forth. The old and infirm, our infants and wives, alone remain at home. With one common consent we promise a constant obedience to all you have ordered and all you shall order; and may the Father of Days give you many and success."

Burgoyne's speech did not express the sentiments of the English people. Burke and Fox, in the House of Commons, denounced the employment of savages, and the latter censured the King for allowing them to enter the British camps; and in the House of Lords, when Suffolk contended that it was justifiable to use all the means which God and nature had put into British hands to crush the rebellion, Chatham invoked the most "decisive indignation

at these abominable principles, and this more abominable avowal of them." The British ministry made the false plea that if they had not employed the Indians, the Americans would have done so.

On the 24th of June the whole invading army on land and water moved toward Crown Point, and arrived there on the 26th. White men and Indians might have been seen stealthily coursing along the shores, in bark canoes, followed by three vessels, under full sail, and the radeau *Thunderer*, which had done excellent service on the lake in the last autumn. These composed a portion of the "fleet" which St. Clair's scouts had seen and reported to that General, who immediately sent off a courier to General Schuyler with the stirring news. Without a moment's delay, the latter sent expresses in every direction, calling, with the most intense anxiety, for the reinforcements so often promised and so long expected. To Washington, to the Governor of Connecticut, to the Presidents of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, the Committee of Berkshire county, and the Committee of Safety of the State of New York, he sent earnest messages, urging each to send forward men and materials for turning back the invasion. Washington was then watching the movements of Gen. Howe, in New Jersey, with much perplexity, unable to determine whether he was about to go north or south. It was evident that he was about to go somewhere, for he had broken up his headquarters at Perth Amboy, and crossed over to Staten Island, whilst his troops had struck their tents, and marched to their old camping ground on the borders of New York Bay. His ships had weighed anchor, and passed round Staten Island, and there was every indication of a general movement in some direction. It was while Washington was trying to decide the question, Whither is General Howe



going? that the stirring news came down from Schuyler. He tried to interpret the real meaning of the movements of the enemy on Lake Champlain, but it was an enigma too deep for his penetration. Was this only a feint on the part of light troops and Indians, to occupy the attention of the Americans while the main army in Canada should come around by sea and join Howe at New York? was one of the many questions which arose in Washington's mind. If Burgoyne really intended to attack Ticonderoga, and push down into the valley of the Hudson, it must then be Howe's intention to push up the river, and meet him. But until Sir William should make some positive movement, Washington dared not stir, for if he should push his force toward the Hudson Highlands to prevent the enemy from passing up the river, Howe might suddenly go southward, and secure Philadelphia; if he pushed his forces in a direction to save that city, his enemy might make his way through the Highlands, and so on to the upper Hudson. He, therefore, kept his main army quiet, while he sent two brigades, under Parsons and Varnum, to Peekskill; ordered General George Clinton to call out the militia of Orange and Ulster counties; and directed General Putnam to summon forward the militia of Connecticut, and as soon as these reinforcements should be well in hand, to dispatch four of the strongest Massachusetts regiments to Ticonderoga. General Sullivan was ordered to advance with his division in the direction of the Highlands, as far as Paterson, in New Jersey, while Washington moved his own camp and headquarters back to Morristown, to be in a position to march in either direction. "If we can keep General Howe below the Highlands," he wrote to General Schuyler on the 2d of July, "I think their schemes will be entirely baffled."