

of above half the fugitives, equally in- 1755.
 effectual were threats or promises, re-
 wards or punishments. The general,
 however, sensible of the importance of
 the service, pursued his march in spite
 of every vexatious disappointment. As
 he passed their country, he called upon
 the Indians of the Six Nations, at some
 of their castles; and sent ambassadors
 to the rest, pressing them to join him,
 with assurances of his protection. But
 they seemed in general greatly disin-
 clined to our western operations. In-
 dian affairs had been too long neglected
 by the province of New York, to which
 the principal management of them has
 always been committed. Neither the
 sums allotted for presents to those sa-
 vages, were always by our governors
 fairly expended; nor the presents them-
 selves honestly distributed. And partly
 thro' repeated frauds, and the omission
 of proper measures to conciliate their
 favour, our interest with them amount-
 ed to little more than a bare neutra-
 lity. Mr. Johnson nevertheless pre-
 tending a mighty influence over them,
 was intrusted with 5000 l. sterling, in
 order to engage their assistance for the
 general benefit of his Majesty's service.
 For this purpose he held a congress with
 some of their principal sachems at
 Mount-

Six Na-
 tions a-
 verse to
 the Nia-
 gara expe-
 dition, and
 why.

Johnson
 holds a
 confer-
 ence with
 them.