

alarm. The first annunciation of an Indian war is its actual commencement. In the hour of security and sleep, when your enemies are supposed to be friends, quietly employed in hunting or fishing, when they are believed to be at the distance of several hundred miles, and perfectly thoughtless of you and yours; when thus unsuspecting, thus at ease, slumbering on your pillow, your sleep is broken by the sound of the war-whoop; your house and village are set on fire; your family and friends are murdered, or hurried into captivity to undergo more protracted misery.

With these enemies the colonists had to contend from the year 1675, when the first general war, called *Philip's War*, commenced, to the year 1783. Within this period there were other wars also, some excited by Philip (who was the younger son of Massasoit, and sachem in his stead) and others, stimulated by the French colonists, in which tribes of Indians fought sometimes with, and some against the English. The war, on the part of the Indians, was one of ambushes and surprises; they seldom met the enemy in open field, but always, even if tenfold in number, fled timorously before infantry. But they were as wary as beasts of prey, skilful marksmen, and in part provided with fire-arms, fleet of foot, conversant with all the paths of the forest, patient of fatigue, and mad with a passion for vengeance and destruction; retreating into swamps and fastnesses, or hiding in the green-wood thickets, where the leaves obstructed the view of their pursuers. By the rapidity of their motions they seemed omnipresent among the scattered villages, which they scathed like a passing storm. In short, from the beginning of Philip's war until the year 1783, a period of more than a hundred years, there never was an hour in which the inhabitants of the frontier settlements could travel in the forest, work in their fields, or lie down in their beds, without some danger of the tomahawk or the scalping knife.

To revenge the wrongs done to their own people, who had been either detained prisoners, or sold into slavery

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