

was not sufficient for a month's supply. No vessels were arriving. Any large body of troops entering the province in French uniforms would have thrown the whole of Canada into confusion, and the government was in dread of being deserted by the entire population. The news from Halifax was not more cheering. It was known that there were several privateers in the gulf, strongly manned and armed, threatening the Canadian fisheries and all vessels not under convoy, and there was no naval force to oppose them.

A painful event took place on the 22nd of May, 1779. Mr. John Stiles, master of H.M.S. "Viper," under the command of captain Augustus Hervey, when engaged with a press-gang in a scuffle which took place, had the misfortune to kill a seaman on board the "Retrieve," from Jamaica, bound to London. Stiles, who was in command of the "Viper" in Hervey's absence, refused the admiralty marshal admission on the vessel, and made his escape down the river. The event caused much excitement, and Haldimand was called upon to intervene. Active steps were immediately taken for Stiles' arrest, and on the officer with the warrant meeting him, he surrendered and was confined. Public feeling became much modified. On his trial, Stiles was found guilty of manslaughter. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, the prisoner not having been actuated by private malice, and the judges having authoritatively declared the king's right to impress in the time of war, Haldimand granted him a pardon.

The threatening aspect of events, as they have been described at the commencement of 1780, offered little guarantee for the continuance of Canada as a British province. Weakly garrisoned in the sense of capacity to resist attack, threatened both from the west and the east, the French Canadians no longer entertaining the loyal feeling which two years previously had been so strongly displayed by the clergy and the higher class, numbers of active and unscrupulous sympathisers of congress scattered through the country on all sides, there was ground for dread of an approaching calamity. Those charged with the defence of the province were made to