

sity and that giving them presents is both suitable and proper." This principle was affirmed by resolution of the Congress in the same words on Dec. 2nd of the same year, nor was any reproach even then hinted at the British commanders. On Nov. 8th, 1775, Arnold writes to Washington from his camp at Point Levi, that "he had been joined by forty savages." On May 25th, 1776, "a number of deputies from four of the Six Nations" were reported to Congress as "arrived in town." On the same day a resolution was passed "that it is highly expedient to engage the Indians in the service of the United Colonies." On May 31st, the number of Indians to be taken into pay was fixed at 2,000. On June 10th, Congress "authorized General Washington to offer the Indians a reward of —dollars for every commissioned officer, and —dollars for every private soldier of the King's troops they shall take prisoners in the Indian country or on the frontier." And yet with all this before them, that same Congress had the hardihood to charge against the King, upon the 4th of July, "that he has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions." The failure to reduce Quebec, the dissatisfaction of Canadians under "free institutions" and the consequent certainty of an invasion from Canada, had completely altered their views as to their dusky "Brothers."

Returning now to the summer of 1775 we find that Congress had prepared an army under Schuyler, and resolved upon the invasion of Canada. This would have been an impossibility had the great confederacy of the Six Nations been hostile. New England had in vain attempted to gain their assistance, the next best move was to secure their neutrality. Colonel Guy Johnson was Royal Commissioner to the Confederacy, and made no secret of his profound contempt for the self-constituted "Committees of Safety," of Tryon County, in which he lived. He was suspected by all the Revolutionary Committees of inciting the Indians against the colonists. In those days men were seized and imprisoned by improvised political bodies for very slight offences against the dominant party, and rumors were very rife of plots to secure the person of a man who wielded so enormous a power over the Indians. Of such conspiracies Johnson affirmed

that he had the most certain information, and the Mohawks who lived near kept watch over him until he left for Canada. He declared, moreover, that he had used his best efforts to keep the Six Nations neutral. This is probable in itself, because in 1775 most of the middle colonies were confident of a final reconciliation with the King, and this feeling was especially strong in the Province of New York. It was moreover confirmed by the Mohawk Sachems in the grand council at Albany on August 23rd, where the chief men of all the Six Nations met Schuyler and the Commissioners of Congress, and pledged the whole Confederacy to neutrality. Johnson convoked a meeting of the tribes at Oswego during the month of July, out of the reach of colonial politics, and Schuyler was anxious to know what hostile influences he had exerted there. But the Sachems assured him with all the dignity of Iroquois Chiefs that Guy Johnson had advised them to be neutral, as the quarrel did not concern them, and that the council at Oswego was a council of peace. Johnson's first authority from the King to employ Indians was dated in London on August 2nd, and enclosed in a despatch to General Gage at Boston. It could not have reached him before the end of September. Whatever faults moreover of fickleness and cruelty may have been charged against the Indian nations they have never been charged with public falsehood in solemn councils. After the council at Oswego, Johnson went to Montreal. An American emissary, the well-known Major John Brown, with four assistants, was then in Canada, obtaining information about the disposition of the Canadians and Indians. He writes to Governor Trumbull on August 14th that Johnson had arrived at Montreal with a party of 300, mostly tenants, and some Indians. It is not likely that Johnson attempted to engage the Indians in any alliance before he arrived at Montreal. He was a King's officer, and had no authority from England to do so for many months after. The skirmish at Lexington had irritated more than aroused the English Ministry, who supposed the insurrection was nothing more than an exacerbation of the chronic insubordination of the Boston people. If Johnson had attempted to stir up an Indian war in the back settlements of New York and Pennsylvania, he would have interfered with the negotiations with the other colonies and would have done serious injury to the King's cause among the many loyalists who resided