

in league with the Indians of Maine and Canada in their wars against the Colonists of New England.

Although the Indians, from their peculiar mode of warfare and their contempt for peaceful pursuits, were at all times dangerous enemies, there is reason to believe that their numbers have been greatly exaggerated. By the census of 1861 it appeared that there were in New Brunswick twelve hundred and twelve Indians, and fourteen hundred and seven in Nova Scotia, or twenty-six hundred and nineteen in all. Of these, four hundred and forty-one, most of whom reside on the St. John river, may be set down as Malicetes, so that the Micmacs of Acadie number upwards of two thousand, which would represent a force of from four to five hundred warriors. It is doubtful if their numbers were ever much greater. In 1607, when Membertou assembled all his Micmac warriors, from Gaspe to Cape Sable, to make war on the Armouchiquois at Saco, their whole number amounted only to five hundred. In 1694, when the Malicetes and Canibats, under Matakando, made their grand raid on Oyster River and the other settlements of New Hampshire, the whole number engaged in the expedition was only two hundred and fifty; and two years later, when Fort Nashwaak was besieged by the English, thirty-six warriors was the whole number that the Indian settlement of Aukpayne could spare for the assistance of the garrison. It appears from a memorandum made in 1726 by Capt. Gyles, who had resided many years with the Indians, that the number from sixteen years of age and upwards on the river at St. John, was one hundred; and at Passmaquoddy, thirty. A letter written in 1753 by Governor Hopson to the Lords of Trade, states that there were about three hundred families of Micmacs in the country; but he could not find any person who had been among them who had ever seen two hundred Indians under arms together. From these statements it may be safely inferred, that the whole force of the Micmacs and Malicetes combined never exceeded seven or eight hundred warriors, and that no material decrease has taken place in their numbers since the first settlement of the country.

Excellent reasons existed to prevent the Indians from ever becoming very numerous. An uncultivated country can only support a limited population. The hunter must draw his sustenance from a very wide range of territory, and the life of hardships and privation to which the Indian is exposed, is fatal to all but the strongest and most hardy. The Indians of Acadie were