

Force, to have made a successful Attempt at 1756. *least* against *Niagara*, if not against Fort *Frontenac*:—One of the most essential Points in the Plan concerted by *Mr. Shirley* at *New York* for carrying on one Expedition against the *French* upon *Lake Ontario*, and another against *Crown Point* in 1756 was, that *both* Attempts should be made at the *same* Time: And *Experience* seems to have evinced how right such a Proceeding would have been in this Case.

The Defection of the *Indians* of the *Five Nations*, those of the *Mohawks* only excepted, who now make but make an inconsiderable Part of their Number, followed the Misfortune at *Oswego* so closely, that it has been looked upon as the necessary Consequence of it; and imputed to *Mr. Shirley* by those, who have endeavoured to fix the Blame of the Loss of *Oswego* upon him: It is therefore necessary for his Vindication in this Point to state the Measures, by which these Cantons or Tribes of *Indians* were lost.

After the Loss of *Oswego* the *Oneida Carry-ing-place* was, from its Situation, the principal Pass below it, not only for covering the *English* Settlements upon the *Mohawks River*, and even the City of \* *Albany* itself, but for keep-

\* The City of *Albany* is so commanded by circumjacent Hills in that Part of it, which lies next to the *Mohawks River* and *Indian Country*, that it cannot be made defensible against the Incursions of the Enemy from that Quarter.