

driven to take part in the war. They armed the Indians, led their expeditions, and checked the Iroquois in their tide of victory. The southern tribes sought the same assistance from their English neighbors. The war was prosecuted by alternate invasions, until finally the quarrel merged in the great contest between the trans-Atlantic powers of England and France. Thenceforward, with seasons of peace on the Eastern Continent, the war here was almost continuous.

In all this warfare, Crown Point and Ticonderoga were the chief objective points. The temptation is strong to linger over its details, for its complete history has never been written, and we have not even a list of its battles. But I cannot even refer to all the events of the twenty years preceding the peace of Paris, which are necessary to illustrate the military importance of these positions, and to understand their connection with our own Revolution.

The final contest between the two great powers of Europe, for the control of the Champlain valley, became energetic in the year 1755. The English and the colonists had learned by a bloody experience that there could be no peace here until the French were driven from Crown Point and Ticonderoga, which they held with great tenacity as the initial stations of their barbarous incursions. Gen. William Johnson, in this year, undertook their capture, with an army of thirty-five hundred New England militia. The attempt was fruitless, though the fighting qualities of the colonists secured enough successes of the British arms, near Lake George, to make their commander a baronet. Had he exhibited capacity to command, the French might have been swept from this quarter in a single campaign. It was his fault that for many years "these forests were never free from secret dangers, and American scalps were strung together by the wakeful savage, for the adornment of his wigwam."<sup>(2)</sup>

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<sup>(2)</sup> Bancroft, iv. p. 208.