

refuge among those Indians, in order to avoid the persecution and ill usage of their countrymen, and being kindly received, were in a manner incorporated with them.

Through this intermixture, the Indians became more expert in military matters, and of course more formidable : but unhappily for the character of the Refugees, many cruelties which they could not prevent, were committed by the Indians in those expeditions wherein they bore a part, and were often by their incensed countrymen attributed to their instigation, or laid directly to their charge.

The determination was now taken by Congress, totally to destroy this Indian nation. No other measure appeared sufficient to give security to the settlements on the frontiers ; where the inhabitants had lived in constant alarm ever since the beginning of hostilities ; and had lost all activity in the prosecution of their domestic improvements.

The intelligence of the preparations that were making against them, was received by the Indians with great courage and firmness. They resolved to act upon this occasion with the utmost boldness and spirit. They collected all their strength ; and marched with all speed to those parts, where they expected the Americans would begin their operations, in order to anticipate them, and seize those passes of which the possession would enable them to act with advantage.

They took accordingly a strong position in the most woody and mountainous part of the country ; which they fortified with great judgment. They raised a breast-work in their front, of large logs of wood, extending half a mile. Their right was covered by a river, and their left by a hill of difficult access. In this posture they waited the approach of the American army.

General