

Five Nation Indians, (later the Six Nations) with their host of some 2,800 active warriors, made the post of Chairman of the Indian Commissioners in some degree the most essential part of his duties. In those days of small numbers and vast opportunities, this chairmanship constituted practically the control of an alliance of the separate military powers controlling the heart of the continent.

On receipt of the news of the massacre of Schenectady, consternation was the first feeling at Albany. William of Orange had just come to the throne of Great Britain after a sanguinary struggle; no Governor of his appointment had as yet reached the Province. The City of New York and with it the lower region of the Province were under the power of the usurper Jacob Leisler, who had been elected Lieutenant-Governor by a fanatical mob, and the authorities at Albany were unable to act upon their own initiative. Their portion of the Province was being managed by a simple convention of the Albany officials and in their weakness and distress following the massacre this convention felt obliged to call upon the other colonies for help. It was then that Peter Schuyler, refusing to listen to the many who were for deserting the town, pursued and attacked the invaders and devised that fundamental scheme for the conquest of Canada which was the basis of all the plans leading to final success, and departure from the lines of which was ever followed by failure and defeat. Its features were: — first, co-operation of all the British colonies; second, a fleet attacking Quebec;