

Willett appears to have had 1,400 men under his command. These scenes of devastation, however they may strike the reader in peaceful times, have always been, and will be, inseparable from war. They can by no means be assigned to the mere desire of wantonly inflicting injury, their object is to destroy the resources which are being husbanded for some future expedition. The Mohawk was the basis of the operations designed against Niagara and Detroit and the western posts. In this district supplies were collected to admit the march of an attacking army, and it was in order to prevent the realization of this design that the means of carrying it into execution were destroyed. In reporting his operations, Ross is careful to state that no inhumanity was shewn to any prisoner, and that the Indians did not injure a single woman or child.* The expedition was also fortunate that the party left in charge with the provisions at Canaserago creek returned safely to Oswego. The *bateaux* used by the troops in their advance, which had been merely patched up for the expedition, were destroyed.

The prisoners taken by the congress troops were treated with great barbarity. It was made a ground of refusal by Haldimand to admit some congress officers at Montreal to parole. "We have suffered so much by forbearance," wrote Haldimand to Speth, "that self-preservation forbids the continuance of it,"† and though it was distressing to retaliate on the innocent, the officers were ordered into close confinement. It was reported to Haldimand that the prisoners of Butler's rangers who were loyalists had their wrists cut off and their arms lopped off from the shoulders, and that afterwards they were tomahawked and scalped. Butler enclosed to Haldimand a letter sent by him to Clinton, pointing out the fate which every officer and soldier on the frontier might expect by the instances he adduced. Lieutenant Henry Hare, of the Indian department, and sergeant Newbury, taken in a scout, were immediately hanged. The same

* [Can. Arch., B. 127, p. 266.]

† [27th Dec., 1781. Can. Arch., B. 131, p. 144.]