

apply themselves to agriculture and the arts, and also that many Indian youths, who have discovered superior talents, are now receiving advantages of a higher degree, fitting them as teachers amongst their brethren.

BRANT'S SCHOOL-DAYS.

It will be remembered that Sir William Johnson having observed the promising character of young Brant during several campaigns of the war against the French, placed him at school in Lebanon, Connecticut, to receive an English education, in 1760.

The account of his introduction into the school is found in a narrative by Rev E. Wheelock, the principal.

“The Honorable Scotch commissioners, in and near Boston, understanding and approving of the design of sending for Indian children of remote tribes, to be educated here, were the first body or society who have led the way in making an attempt for that purpose, which because of the newness and remarkable success of it, (I suppose it may not be disagreeable if I am a little particular in my account of it); while I was in Boston they passed a vote to this purpose, May 7th, 1761: That the Rev. Mr. Wheelock be desired to fit out David Fowler, an Indian youth, to accompany Mr. Sampson Occom, going on a mission to the Oneidees, that said David be supported on said mission for a term not exceeding four months, and that he endeavor, on his return, to bring with him a number of boys not exceeding three, to be kept under Mr. Wheelock's care and instruction, and that £20 be put into Mr. Wheelock's hands to carry this design into execution, and that when said sum be expended, he advise the Treasurer of it and send his accounts for allowance.

“Pursuant to this vote I clothed and furnished said David with Horse and Money for his long Tour into the wilderness, which he set out on June 10th, in company with Mr. Occom, by the way of New York; in which Journey he rode above a thousand miles, and by the Advice, Direction and Assistance of Sir W. Johnson, obtained three Boys of the Mohawk Nation, who were willing to leave their friends and country and come among Strangers of another Language and quite another Manner of Living, and where, perhaps, no one of their Nation then living had ever been; and among a People of whom their Nation have been of a long time inclined to entertain Jealousies. Their names were Joseph,

Neyges, and Center. They arrived here August 1st, 1761, but had so much Caution in the extraordinary Enterprize, that they brought each of them an Horse from their own Country. Two of them were but little better than naked, and could not speak a word of English. The other being of a Family of Distinction, was considerably clothed, *Indian-fashion*, and could speak a few words of English. Joseph, accompanied by Mr. Kirtland, who was learning the Mohawk language of him, returned home Nov'r 4th, and back again on the 27th inst, bringing two Mohawk lads with them viz: Moses and Johannes, by whom Sir Wm. Johnson informed me that he expected to be able to send the Rest when they came in from hunting.

Sir W. Johnson writes in 1761 to the Rev. E. Wheelock:—

FORT JOHNSON, NOV. 17, 1761.

REVEREND SIR,—

* * * I am pleased to find ye Lads I sent have merited your good opinion of them. I expect they will return, and hope will make such progress in the English Language, and their Learning, as may prove to your satisfaction and the benefit of the Indians, who are really much to be pitied. * * * I have given in charge to Joseph (Brant) to speak in my name to any good Boys he may see, and encourage 'em to except the Generous offer now made them, which he promised to do, and return as soon as possible, and that without horses.

(Signed,)

WM. JOHNSON.

The other letters concerning this time are of later date:—

Extract from Mr. Smith's letter to Sir W. Johnson, dated Lebanon, Jan. 18th, 1763.

“I propose next Summer to take an excursion into the Mohawk Country as a Missionary; and, being a stranger to the Indian Dialect, I must of consequence improve an Interpreter; having spent some time here as a Schoolmaster, (with that worthy gentleman and eminent friend of Indians the Rev. W. Wheelock) I have contracted an intimate Acquaintance with Joseph, who I understand is high in your affection and esteem, and has the Wisdom and Prudence to resign himself to your Direction and Conduct—as He is a promising youth, of a sprightly Genius, singular Modesty, and a Serious Turn. I know of none so well calculated to answer my End as He is—in which Design, He wold very Willingly and cheerfully engage should