

In the matter of the trade passes Haldimand vindicated himself from the charge of partiality, and sustained his view of the necessity of the regulation by the report of colonel Sinclair, the governor of Michillimackinac.* Sinclair wrote that half of the merchandise sent up would purchase all the furs, and that £40,000 worth of goods remained unexchanged. The traders were unwilling to submit to any restraint, and it was perfectly easy to forward supplies to the congress troops by lake Superior and the Mississippi.

In June, 1779, reports had reached Canada of an intention to invade the province at Detroit to the west; at the same time by the Mohawk river to Oswego, a force would descend the Saint Lawrence; while a third would follow the Saint Francis to eastern Canada. Further anxiety was created, owing to the intelligence of these contemplated hostile proceedings being known throughout the parishes before it had been communicated by the agents of the government. In connection with these reports, it was foretold that a French fleet would ascend the Saint Lawrence to carry all before it. The story was so pertinaciously repeated that it was everywhere believed. The sympathy of many of the French Canadians was shewn by their anxiety concerning the vessels which arrived. From the general expression of feeling at this date, extracted from Haldimand's letters, there was one common opinion that if any serious reverse had been experienced by the British the whole country would have risen in arms against the government; an opinion, added Haldimand, not founded upon distant and precarious intelligence, but upon a precise knowledge of the general disposition of the habitants.

What made the situation more trying was the exhausted condition of the salt provisions. On the 15th of June, there

opinions without communicating them first to me, it will not only be a source of continued Trouble to your lordship, but create and encourage discontent here already too easily Fomented."

[Haldimand to Germain, 28th January, 1780. B. 54, p. 272.]

* [Can. Arch., B. 97.2, p. 356.]

was not
arriving.
French
into com
deserted
was not
privateer
ing the C
and there

A pair
John Sti
of captai
gang in a
a seaman
London.
Hervey's
on the v
event cau
upon to i
Stiles' arr
he surren
modified.
slaughter.
the prison
the judge
impress in

The th
described
tee for th
Weakly g
threatened
Canadians
years prev
and the h
sympathis
sides, there
Those cha