

edged the subjection of the Iroquois to the English; for the English interpreted it to mean that it gave them jurisdiction, not only throughout the lands actually occupied by the confederacy, but that it established the English rule over all the regions west and south, where the Iroquois warriors had driven its occupants. This claim was made on the plea that such territory was conquered territory of the Iroquois, and included in the surrender of the confederates. Shortly afterwards Spotswood of Virginia started on a reconnaissance that boded no good to the French. He led his knights of the Golden Spur over the mountains, and his merry company shouted and sang in triumph on the slopes of the Great Valley. It was the hindered spirit of the Virginians let loose, and nowhere else, along the imposing barrier from the Catskills to northern Alabama, was there a path over the passes so easy and unentangled as this which Spotswood had found. It was thus by the valley of the Shenandoah that the songs and footfalls of rollicking Virginians mingled with the splashes of the upper affluents of the Tennessee, and the way was opened for the coming occupation of the region south of the Ohio by the Anglo-German and Scotch-Irish pioneers from the valley of Virginia. The men of New York were not far behind. They planted a post at Oswego, and began to intercept the traders from Quebec. The French attempted a flank movement by establishing posts on Lake Champlain and at Niagara; but the purpose of the English