

mitted through him. He rebuked Johnson, because without communicating with him as governor, he had submitted schemes for raising corps in Canada, a measure which he ought to have known was impossible. He had forwarded the letter, and trusted that he would be spared the painful necessity of a similar communication.*

Johnson replied to Haldimand by a letter of apology, stating that he had acted through ignorance.†

In January, Haldimand had reported to Germain the unfitness of Guy Johnson for his position, as not possessing either the abilities or the temper to conduct a department of importance. He had left the province in 1775, when the whole business of his branch fell into the greatest confusion, from which it was only rescued by the unwearied attention, application, and judicious conduct of his deputy, Butler.‡

Johnson complained to Germain that Haldimand had opened his letter, and the consequence was the official rebuke of Haldimand, but, even when administering it, Germain admitted Guy Johnson's inefficiency.§

It is from this circumstance only, that the charge has been

* Haldimand to Guy Johnson, 10th February, 1780: "I was more surprised than I can well express to find that an officer at the head of a department under my command, should so far forget his duty as to propose to the king's ministers schemes for raising corps, in and upon the frontiers of the province of which I am governor, to serve in an army of which I am commander-in-chief; but still more so, that he should venture to mislead the minister by recommending as an eligible measure what he ought to know is impossible to accomplish." "Sir John Johnson, although empowered to raise two regiments, had not been able in the course of four years to complete the first. Lt.-Col. McLean had not been more successful. Major Butler had attempted completing the corps of rangers, to eight companies. His own rank as lieutenant-colonel, that of his son as major, had depended upon his success, but he had been unable to raise them." [Can. Arch., B. 107, p. 72.]

† [26th April, 1780. Can. Arch., B. 107, p. 74.]

‡ [29th January, 1780. Can. Arch., B. 54, p. 271.]

§ Germain to Haldimand, 8th August, 1780. [Can. Arch., B. 44, p. 46.]

"I have to acquaint you that it is the king's express command that you do not detain or suppress any letter whatever that may come to your hand addressed to his secretary of state, nor upon any pretence break it open if it be sealed.

"But I agree so far with you in colonel Johnson's unfitness to conduct the business of the Five Nations."