

a letter to the Micmacs in February of the same year. Eventually all these efforts failed; the Massachusetts Congress were informed by one of their emissaries in the East, under date of July 27, 1776,* that he had worked all summer in vain, and that the tribes would remain neutral; whereupon he was ordered to pay back into the Provincial chest thirty pounds which had been given him for distribution among the Indians.

The Congress of New Hampshire adopted the same tactics. On June 23, 1775, Colonel Bailey issued an address to the Northern Indians (among whom were the St. Francis and other Canadian Indians living north of that colony,) offering them inducements to enlist, reminding them, after the style common in the Indian Addresses, that "they must all meet before God," and telling them that the "British do not think there is a God in Heaven to punish them." The addresses of Washington and Schuyler are, as might be expected from their open and manly character, free from these affectations of religion; still all are striking commentaries on the Indian clause of the subsequent Declaration of Independence. In fact, in New England there never seems to have been a symptom of hesitation as to the propriety of engaging the Indians. The Congress of Massachusetts had a special committee on Indian affairs,† which was instructed to keep its business secret. When, on May 12, a proposition to raise two companies of Indians was before the house, it was referred to this committee as a matter of course. Before a blow had been struck in the North, some Canadian Indians who applied were enlisted by them into the Continental Army, and a month's pay in advance voted by the House of Representatives, who notify General Washington of the fact, without any special explanation.‡ The Oneida Indians, while informing the New Englanders of their intention to remain neutral, add their opinion that the New England Indians ought not to be swept into the conflict; but, whatever doubts might have existed elsewhere, there were none in Massachusetts or Connecticut. Col. Ethan Allan, who had just taken Ticonderoga by surprise, writes an Address to the Canadian Indians, from which the following is an extract:—

* Thos. Fletcher to Massachusetts Congress.

† Votes of Massachusetts Congress, April 12, 1775.

‡ Vote of House of Representatives, August 21, 1775.

"Head Quarters of the Army,
"Crown Point, May 24, 1775.

"By advice of council of officers, I recommend our trusty and well-beloved friend and brother, Captain Abraham Nimham, of Stockbridge, as our ambassador of peace, to our good brother Indians of the four tribes.

* * * Loving brothers and friends: I want to have your warriors come and see me, and help me fight the King's regular troops. You know they stand all along close together, rank and file, and my men fight so as Indians do, and I want your warriors to join with me and my warriors like brothers, and ambush the regulars; if you will I will give you money, blankets, tomahawks, knives, paint and anything there is in the army, just like brothers; and I will go with you into the woods to scout, and my men and your men will sleep together, eat and drink together and fight Regulars, because they first killed our brothers and will fight against us; therefore I want our brother Indians to help us fight; for I know Indians are good warriors and can fight well in the bush."

A copy of this precious production was sent by the Colonel to the General Assembly of Connecticut, for he "thought it advisable that the Honorable Assembly should be informed of all our politics." It elicited no special remark, yet, more than a year after, these very men join in denouncing King George for being about to employ the "merciless Indian savages."

Early in May, 1775, the Second Continental Congress met. It also soon appointed a Committee upon Indian Affairs, which was instructed to keep its proceedings secret. On July 1st a public resolution was passed, "that in case any agent of the ministry shall induce the Indian tribes or any of them to commit actual hostilities against these colonies or to enter into an offensive alliance with the British troops, thereupon the colonies ought to avail themselves of an alliance with such Indian nations as will enter into the same, to oppose such British troops and their Indian allies." This resolution is very conclusive proof that up to that time the British had made no Indian enlistments or alliances. Upon Oct. 23rd, 1775, a delegation from the Continental Congress met General Washington at Head Quarters at Cambridge, and it was then "agreed that those Indians (of the St. Francis, Stockbridge and St. John's tribes) or others may be called on in case of real neces-