

FRENCH POLICY. 27

seducing the *Indians*, our Allies, into their Interest; and the prodigious Progress their perfidious underhand Dealings meet with, is apparent from the following Letters, dated at *Stockbridge*, *August 31, 1751*.

The Contents of the first Letter are to this Effect: "We have had credible Information from the *Mohawks*, that the *French* are now gone from *Canada* with an Army of 600 Men, 400 *French* and 200 *Indians* (intending to augment their Army to 1000 as they go along) into the South-western Parts of *North America*, in order to strengthen their own Interest, and ruin ours in these Parts; particularly to destroy the Nation of the *Towawach-towaws*, that are very friendly to the *English*; and to kill a certain *Virginia* Trader, who, by his honest Dealings with the *Indians*, has lately gained the Affections of many, and greatly drawn their Trade that Way; and that *J. C.* having had Intelligence of this, by a *Frenchman* who deserted from the Army, and various other Ways, had sent a Belt of Wampum to all the six Nations, to give them Notice of it, and to excite them to oppose the Designs of this Army."

The other Letter runs in these Terms: "God in his Providence seems now to be opening the Door for introducing the Light of the Gospel among the Nations (*i. e.* the six *Mohawk* Nations) wider than ever. And if we, the *English*, don't fail of doing our Part, there is a Prospect of great Things being done; and it looks as if the present Season was now or never. 'Tis evident the *French* are now exerting themselves in an extraordinary manner, to draw all these Nations over to them, and engage them in their Interest. The King of *France* has lately made extraordinary Provisions for them, that very large and liberal Presents may be made them in *Canada*. And they are indefatigable in the Endeavours they use, in the Labours of their Emissaries, and all Ways they can devise. They are building Forts in all the Parts of *America* to the West of us, in the Carrying-places between the Lakes and the Rivers, and in all the most important Places, where they have the greatest Advantage to bring the *Indians* into Dependence, and to draw their Trade. Colonel *Johnson* and Major *Lydius* (who probably are best acquainted with the State of these *Indians*, of all the Subjects of the *British* Crown) said in the Time of the