

were obscure, and escaped detection. They were, however, not the less active, a fact attested by the immediate dissemination of the proclamation of d'Estaing and La Fayette's address.

The fact of so many applications for passes for the west, totally in excess of the requirements of the trade, which owing to the war had greatly diminished, created suspicion that supplies, of which they were in much need, were being conveyed to the congress troops. The avowed design was to obtain furs and Indian commodities, in exchange for rum and goods sold at exorbitant rates. The preservation of the country formed no part of the ethics of the trader. Haldimand felt it his duty to limit the number of licenses. It was represented to him by those interested in the applications that the restriction would alienate the Indians; a result which, in carrying out his policy, he endeavoured to avoid.

The consequence was, that letters were immediately sent to lord George Germain complaining of Haldimand's policy as mistaken, and attributable to his want of judgment, and to his personal partialities. It was the ordeal through which all had to pass who were placed in official relationship with Germain. He encouraged subordinate officers to write to him, and to regard him as alone being the source of patronage whence advancement could be obtained. It may safely be said, that writers of such letters never commit unpleasant tidings to paper. As their correspondence is suggested by the benefit which they themselves will derive from it, so they contrive to shape their text to the form most agreeable to its recipient. To such a height was this carried that Haldimand felt called upon to appeal to Germain on the subject.*

* This protest retains its teaching for men in Germain's position. "I have therefore to hope that your lordship will communicate to me without reserve all representations, whether civil or military, that may be made to your lordship from the Province, that do not reach you through the channel of my command, and likewise that your lordship will not give your countenance, particularly in the present situation of affairs, to any applications that may otherwise approach you (for if designing or interested men, and such there are without a possibility of your lordship knowing them) find they are permitted to state circumstances and offer