

Being a Scotchman he was regarded (and not without reason) with a kind of suspicion. He professed to be a follower of James III., called on the Continent the Chevalier de St. George, but the truth was that his sojourn in France, and a few peeps behind the scenes, with which he had been favoured, while there, had modified, if not changed his views respecting Jacobin Royalty; but neither family pride nor personal safety permitted his return to Scotland. Now he was obliged to profess a loyalty, which had certainly lost all its ardor, if it still existed, that he might in safety associate with the French in whose service he was engaged.

His position was not only embarrassing but dangerous, and the expedition in which he had been engaged had nearly proved fatal to his continued concealment. Had it not been for his friend Bent he would most certainly have failed to satisfy the suspicious Frenchmen, and it was considered advisable under the circumstances to make their stay at the fort as short as possible. It may be as well to explain here, at least in part, what this Bent was, for we shall have occasion to say much respecting him. We previously stated that he was an adventurer, but this by no means conveys a proper idea of his true character. He was a smuggler, spy, hunter and trader just as it suited his strange vagaries of temper and eccentricity of mind. He could speak several of the Indian dialects imperfectly, but the Mohawk fluently, and had learnt sufficient *French* to converse in a bungling way.

This man had taken a fancy to White, and by inviting his confidence had learnt not only his history, but his true sentiments with regard to his present position. He told White that the English settlers were preparing to repay with interest the recent inroads, and said that if he was disposed to join them he would assist him in doing so, but he must wait and follow his instructions.

The constant disputes between the French and English colonists respecting the boundary lines, at this period, led to the appointment of commissioners to settle this question but while these commissioners were professedly engaged upon this matter, examining maps, records and documents, the colonists were fighting for what they considered their respective rights. It was a border warfare between the English and French settlements, in which the Indians, on the part of the French, were encouraged to participate and which led to so many dreadful scenes of massacre and inhuman outrage.

The St. Francis Indians were particularly hostile and bloodthirsty to the New England colonists, and some idea may be formed of this from the fact, well authenticated, that when, in 1759, Major Rodgers with his provincial rangers attacked their principal settlement, St. Francis village, he found upwards of six hundred English scalps dangling in their wigwams.

A war party of these Indians, some forty or fifty in number, called one day at the fort, while White was out fishing; this was a marauding party that had been toward Albany, and which, among other spoils had brought two women, two little girls and a boy. After some negotiation with the commandant, they decided