

to cause alarm. French commissaries were forming magazines of provisions on the frontier. It was stated that a brigade of French troops was on the march towards Albany. The Canadians were to be armed as the troops entered the province. Simultaneously with these operations the upper posts were to be attacked from the valley of the Mohawk, an army from New England was to proceed against Halifax, and a powerful force was to ascend the Saint Lawrence. To meet these dangers Haldimand had not 3,000 men under his command.

The year however passed away without these dreaded operations having been attempted. As measures had been taken to assure the safety of the province as far as possible, the season likewise furnished hope that its severity would deter any attempt from being made. The winter came to an end without the tranquillity of the province having been disturbed. Spring opened with its warmth and freshness; the ice no longer bound the rivers and the lakes. The Saint Lawrence became again navigable and the season had arrived when the projected invasion was feasible. The first ships, however, brought neither men nor arms. On the 25th of April, 1783, news was received of the cessation of hostilities, and that the treaty of peace would, in a few weeks, be definitely signed: a peace by which, of the vast continent of America, Canada remained the only part under the British flag. The southern provinces had parted company with the mother country, henceforth to be known as the United States.

A charge has been made against Haldimand that he systematically opened letters and carried on his government by a system of *espionage*. He opened one letter and received a reproof from lord George Germain, who never lost the opportunity of being insolent to those who were not his creatures. The facts of the case were, that seeing a letter from Guy Johnson to Germain marked "On His Majesty's Service," sent to Quebec to be forwarded to England, Haldimand opened it, and wrote to Guy Johnson that he had so acted, as all letters upon public business should be trans-

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