

and be prepared with us to defend our liberties and lives. Brothers—We humbly beseech that God, who lives above and does what is right here below to enlighten your mind, &c., &c.”

There is throughout all these Addresses to the Indians a strain of devout aspiration, which, although misplaced as regards the writers, testifies that the people addressed possessed some moral qualities corresponding thereto. This Address surpassed the rest, however, in containing a theological clause. “Brothers: They have made a law to establish the religion of the Pope in Canada which lies so near you. We much fear some of your children may be induced instead of worshipping the only true God to pay his due to images made with their own hands.”

In the whirl of excitement just preceding the first actual hostilities, so tender a solicitude for the souls of youthful Mohawks is really touching. It is a relief not to meet it in the other Addresses in so painful a form; although the same vein of subdued piety runs through all. The Micmac Indians, in one of their Addresses, dated Feb. 5, 1776, are very grateful to this same Congress for “having provided them with ammunition and provisions and having permitted them to have a Priest to pray Almighty God to make them strong to oppose the wicked people of Old England.” At first sight such a permission seems hardly fair to the Micmac children; but, upon closer examination, it appears probable that the love for Mohawk souls arose from the circumstance that the emissary who carried the Address was the Rev. Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneidas. He worked zealously among the Mohawks in an underhand way; but, to do him justice, not without qualms of conscience. He writes in the following strain. He is complaining that Col. Johnson, the resident Commissioner, interferes with him.* “He,” Col. Johnson, “is unreasonably jealous of me. All he has against me, I suppose to be this: a suspicion that I have interpreted to the Indians the doings of the Continental Congress. * * I confess to you, gentlemen, that I have been guilty of this, if it be any transgression. The Indians found out that I had received the abstracts of the said Congress and insisted on knowing the contents. I could not deny them, notwithstanding my cloth, though in all

* Rev. Samuel Kirkland to the Committee of Correspondence at Albany, June 9, 1775.

other respects I have been extremely cautious not to meddle in matters of a political nature. I apprehend my interpreting the doings of Congress to a number of their Sachems has done more real service to the cause of the country, or the cause of truth and justice, than five hundred pounds in presents would have effected. If you think proper you may acquaint your Provincial Congress with the contents of this, but you must be cautious in exposing my name.” Mr. Kirkland concludes by “wishing them the blessings of peace, and that we may all be disposed to acquiesce in the Divine Government.” He does not wish his name divulged at a place so near to Col. Johnson as Albany, but during the two months previous he had with him the Address of the Massachusetts Congress who were clever enough to insert the clause about the Pope and the images to quiet his searchings of heart. Later on he writes in depressed spirits: “The pretended friendship and boasted fidelity of these Mohawks seem to turn out mere delusion and perfidy.”* He still has hopes, however, that the Caughnawagas and Oneidas will remain firm. His schemes eventually failed among the Mohawks and Caughnawagas; three hundred dollars, however, were voted to him by the Continental Congress for his expenses,† and he was appointed as missionary and political agent among the Six Nations, on a salary.

The efforts of the Massachusetts Congress among the Eastern Indians were equally early, equally promising at the commencement, and equally futile in the result. On the 15th of May, 1775, an Address was sent to the Penobscot, St. John and Micmac Indians,‡ (the latter living close to the back settlements of Nova Scotia,) offering them “such clothes and warlike stores as they might need” and, as a matter of course, praying that God might bless them and prevent their enemies from hurting them;” informing them at the same time that the Stockbridge Indians had enlisted on the side of Congress, and offering to enlist them. Deputations from these tribes promising aid were received by the Provincial Congress on June 15, 1775, and by General Washington on January 31, 1776. The General addressed

* Rev. Samuel Kirkland to Gen. Schuyler, March, 1776.

† Vote of Continental Congress, Nov. 11, 1775.

‡ Address of Provincial Congress to the Eastern Indians, May 15, 1775.