

lay encamped within the fort at New York city, waiting to proceed to Albany, the place of rendezvous.¹

Hopes ran high. The men at Albany and at Louisburg eagerly waited for the regulars and the fleet, since their arrival was to sound the alarm for action. The Indian allies of New York thirsted for a chance to revenge themselves. In England a fleet and many transports had been collected at Portsmouth; but after several embarkations and debarkations, the British ministry altered the destination of the English regulars, for a descent on Brittany in France.²

On 30th May, 1747, the Duke of Newcastle directed that the Americans be disbanded, save a few hundred who might be required to garrison Louisburg. In October, Shirley and Knowles issued a proclamation "that the King, finding it necessary to employ the greater part of his forces to aid his allies and to defend the liberties of Europe, had thought proper to lay aside for the present the intended expedition against Canada."³

There seems to have been no disposition of allowing the Americans to make the attempt unaided by the regulars. It does not require a stretch of the imagination to ascertain the causes. For the Duke of Bedford had opposed such proposals when the scheme was first suggested by Shirley; representing to Newcastle the imprudence of the idea, "after the experience we have had of their conduct, and principles, on account of the independence it might create in those provinces when they shall see within themselves so great an army possess of so great a Country by right of Conquest." He wished to place the chief dependence on the fleet and army to be sent from home, and "to look on the Americans as useful only when joined with others."⁴ The adoption by the home government of Bedford's policy, shows that his view was entertained by others in authority.

Thus ended a scheme which had been well-concerted, and which gave every promise of success. It had been undertaken at the expense of the mother country, and failure to execute it proved a tremendous waste.⁵

¹ There is a rather caustic criticism of Virginia in *New-York Post-Boy*, No. 190, for Sept. 8, 1746.

² *Rolt.*, vol. iv., p. 346.

³ *Chalmers' Papers*. The proclamation is also printed in *Records of Rhode Island*, vol. v.

⁴ *Chalmers' Papers*; and manuscript of vol. II of *Chalmers' Revolt of the Colonies*. Both are in New York Public Library.

⁵ An elaborate report of the respective claims by the colonies for reimbursement, dated February, 1749-1750, shows that the total sum charged was £273,139 1s. 11½d, and the amount actually paid out was £235,817 1s.—*Chalmers' Papers*.