

It being judg'd proper, at this critical Time, when we are in daily Expectation of a *French* War, to sound the *Indians*, and discover what Dependence we might have on them, in case their Aid should be wanted; an handsome Dinner was provided for their Chiefs; and after they had made an hearty Meal, and drank his Majesty's Health, the Proprietor's, and the Health of the *Six Nations*, the Chiefs gave the solemn Cry, in Testimony of their Thanks, for the Honour done them. And soon after, the Governor began, in a free Way, to enquire for what Reason the *Senecas* were not come down, since they had an equal Right to a Share of the Goods with the other Nations.—*Canassateego*, their Speaker, said, 'The *Senecas* were in great Distress, on Account of a Famine that raged in their Country, which had reduced them to such Want, that a Father had been oblig'd to kill two of his Children to preserve his own and the rest of his Family's Lives; and they could not now come down, but had given Directions about their Share of the Goods.'—The Governor express'd his Concern for the unhappy Circumstances of their Brethren of the *Seneca* Nation; and, after a short Respite, enquired if any of their Deputies were then at *Canada*, and whether the *French* Governor was making any warlike Preparations? And on their answering, *Yes*; the Governor said, with a smiling, pleasant Countenance, 'I suppose if the *French* should go to War with us, you will join them.' The *Indians* conferr'd together for some Time, and then *Canassateego*, in a chearful lively Manner, made Answer.—'We assure you, the Governor of *Canada* pays our Nations great Court at this Time, well knowing of what Consequence we are to the *French* Interest: He has already told us, he was uncovering the Hatchet and sharpening it, and hoped, if he should be oblig'd to lift it up against the *English*, their Nations would remain neuter and assist neither Side.—But we will now speak plainly to our Brethren: Why should we, who are one Flesh with you, refuse to help you, whenever you want our Assistance?—We have continued a long Time in the