

“ For my part I wait events without disturbing myself (*sans m'inquieter*) as I was not sent here to give effect to Acts of Parliament, nor to the ridiculous pretensions of a spoiled and ignorant people. I shall remain a quiet spectator of their follies, until the civil, after having made use of all its power, shall demand the assistance of the military, which I shall grant them with all the precautions required by the constitution.”

Whilst this was the state of affairs in the east, the licentiousness of traders and the encroachments of settlers had roused the Indians, some of the white men were tried for violation of the law with respect to Indian lands; murders of Indians were not unfrequent; and a feeling of complete unrest seemed to have taken possession of the minds of the people over the whole country, the new arrivals speedily entertaining more exaggerated ideas of independence than those held by the men born in the country.

In May, 1774, Gage arrived in Boston to take the command, it being considered inadvisable that in a struggle which was evidently beginning to assume large proportions, any one but a natural born subject should be at the head of the military force. Great preparations were made for Gage's reception, who, however, said that less ceremony and more obedience would have pleased him better. Haldimand's own belief appears to have been that the moderate and constitutional, but firm assertion of authority at the first would have preserved order and that now (December) that all hope of restoring order except by force seemed at an end, the whole of the ports from Georgia to Halifax should be blockaded and that measures should be taken with the smugglers the prime source of all the disorders (*source première des tous nos désordres.*) The loud talk of the Bostonians he, however, believed to be less dangerous than the attitude of the Philadelphians. In a letter from Robertson, D.A.G., apparently written in May, 1774, a very vivid account is given of the state of terror in which the men of property and character lived; they proposed to meet to frame an address to the newly arrived Governor, “ but Adams rules absolutely in the Senate and in the streets and threatens to have the addressers tarred and feathered.” The correspondence is full of details of the events as seen from the British side; but for these the volumes themselves must be consulted. An intercepted letter from John Adams to the Hon. James Warren, dated at Philadelphia, on the 24th July, 1775, shows the violence of the means he advocated. He says that a month ago every friend to Government on the continent should have been arrested, and towards the end of the letter asks: “ What sort of magistrates do you intend to make? Will your new legislative and executive feel bold or irresolute? Will your judicial hang, and whip, and fine, and imprison without scruples?”

During Haldimand's stay in Boston, where he had been called by Gage, his house in New York was broken into, his property destroyed or carried off, his horses stolen and his carriages broken up, so that on leaving for London, which he did in the summer of 1775, only the wreck of his former establishment was left.