

take the bold and difficult task of defending themselves against the armies and fleets of England. The remaining colonies have now nearly the same population as those that revolted; but the people have not had the training of their forefathers; and, beyond all doubt, neither they, nor the present race of Americans, would be able, however much their passions might be enlisted, to exhibit any such progress to sustain, with similar steadiness, the shock of regular troops, or effect the same extraordinary results. It was in these campaigns that Washington, and the majority of his efficient officers, took their first lessons in the art of war. To their honour too it must be admitted, that most of the creditable achievements were effected by the provincials alone, or when only slightly assisted by the King's troops, and that success receded from the English armies, in proportion as they assumed the conduct of affairs, or attempted enterprises unaided by colonial forces.

The first inter-colonial war commenced on this continent by an attack, made by a combined force of Indians and French, on the