

gress troops had taken Philadelphia, that they had beaten the English at Monmouth, that the French fleet had put the English fleet to flight, and that they had captured several frigates and all sorts of ships.

The French king had entered into a treaty with the Americans; he had sent his fleet to their aid, and an ambassador to represent him at Philadelphia; that the king desired to join Canada to the thirteen states, and had promised succour to the Canadians.

The French flag had triumphed in the British channel.

He had heard that they were attached to the English, and that they had been deceived by falsehood. They had now to return to their ancient feeling to give aid to France, and remain the friends of their father the king.*

This address was rapidly distributed throughout Canada and in the west, especially in the country of the Illinois and of the Miamis. It found its way at the same time to the neighbourhood of Detroit. The promised appearance of the French operated on the sentiment of many of the tribes, so that they refused to join in expeditions when their service was called for. With the hope of increased presents and greater consideration, they anxiously looked for the re-establishment of French power, and a large majority would have joined a French detachment immediately it appeared.

This changed feeling of the Indians led Haldimand to look with great suspicion on the greater demand for passes to carry on the Indian trade. At this date the agents of congress were exceedingly busy; many were known, for they had become prominent from their activity. Vanity, and a sense of personal importance in several cases, led to a display of their sentiment, and disclosed their co-operation in the intrigues into which they had entered. The fact must be remembered in the examination of the arraignment of Haldimand for his arrest of the few active partisans of congress who obtained notoriety by their conduct. It is a matter hereafter to be specially considered. Many of the minor agents

* [18th December, 1778. Can. Arch., Q. 161, p. 105.]

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