

relates that a sentinel placed over him had been a prisoner of the French in Nova Scotia, was doomed to be scalped by father La Loutre's orders who marked him with a knife around the forehead and poll in order to strip off the entire scalp. The sentinel recognizing him, unfixed his bayonet to run him through and was only prevented by force from bayonetting him. His rage was so intense that he was removed to England and exchanged into another corps. La Loutre remained a prisoner until the end of the war, when he returned to France.

In 1755, England and France were nominally at peace with each other, but the peace was only the calmness of expectancy before the storm bursts. French power in America was seated in Louisiana and Quebec and the government had conceived and were carrying out the bold policy of connecting these two domains by a chain of forts and trading posts by the Ohio, and west of the Alleghany Mountains, in order to confine the British Colonies to a strip of the Atlantic coast east of the Alleghanies and leave the whole southern, western and northern part of this continent for French expansion and dominion. Although the Colonies mustered a population of over a million and the French in Canada only fifty thousand, the military prowess of France was equal to this mighty scheme of Colonial conquest, if it had been directed here, but it was wasted and dissipated in continental battle fields. This was a period of great alarm amongst the frontier settlers and traders and of grave anxiety to the people of Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, who were alive to the menace to their existence by the establishment of an Indian and French power at their doors. The English government was no less conscious of the impending danger and common measures were taken with the utmost secrecy to strike at French aggressions. Four separate expeditions were planned for this purpose to capture;

- (1) Du Quesne, where Pittsburg now stands on the Ohio.
- (2) Beausejour, to destroy French power in Acadia.
- (3) Crown Point, on Lake Champlain, commanding the southern highway to Lake Ontario.

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