

A LETTER from Colonel Johnson, to Mr. Arent Stevens, the Indian Interpreter for the Province.

ACCORDING to the Instructions given to General Braddock, by his Majesty, he has been pleased to entrust me with the sole Direction and Management of Indian Affairs, to wit. for the Six United Nations and their Allies; you are therefore to give Attention, and follow the Orders you shall receive from me on that Head.

I send you this Letter by James Clement, with two Belts of Wampum, both for the Five Upper Nations, which you are to give them in my Name, and acquaint them, that the Troops who are now on their March, and those who may march hereafter for Chauaguen, are to reinforce that Garrison, and to protect it against any Act of Hostility from the French, who said, that it belonged neither to us, nor to the Six Nations, and that they would pull it down.

At my first Arrival, I sent a String of Wampum; but lest that should not be sufficient, I now send this Belt. If you find that the Indians are disquieted, and alarmed at the March of these Troops through their Country, should it proceed from their Jealousy, or the deceitful Insinuations of French Emis-saries, you shall assure them in my Name, that they are destined for the Safety and Advantage of the Six Nations, and their Allies. You shall exhort them to give no Heed to any Lies which the French might tell them on that Account, whose Aim and Desire is, to take both us and them, while we are asleep, to cut us off from the Face of the Earth; that they know very well, the only Means to obtain their Desire, is to trouble and destroy the brotherly Love and Confidence which have so long and so happily subsisted between us. You shall make use of Arguments to that Purpose, or such like, as Circumstances will require.

The other Belt which I send you, is to inform them of the Commission which the King their Father, has given me, granted at their repeated Instances; and that in Execution of General Braddock's Orders, by this Belt I invite and call the Six Nations to come to me, together with their Allies; that I have kindled at my House, a Fire of Council and Friend-