

There were voluminous writings of Col. Daniel Claus, and a most valuable essay by his brother-in-law, Col. Guy Johnson, on the Six Nation Indians, written at the request and for the use of Robertson, the Historian of America, but not inserted in his unfinished work. The papers, numbering nearly 2,000, were carefully examined and roughly catalogued by Mr. Kerby and myself, and at my instance were purchased by the Dominion Government and placed in the public archives. One of the MSS., in the handwriting of Col. Daniel Claus, is headed 'Anecdotes of Capt. Joseph Brant, Niagara, Sept. 1778.' The following extracts may serve to elucidate the doubt as to the leadership of the Wyoming Expedition. It could not have been written with any other idea, or object, than that of stating facts *then perfectly well known to hundreds of people who would be most likely to read the statements* of Col. Claus if published.

That they were *not* published was doubtless owing to the lack of opportunity, in part, and perhaps in a greater degree, to severe criticism, which they contained, upon the course of Col. Butler in failing to co-operate cordially or promptly with Brant. The first extract refers to the battle of Oriskany, at which Col. Claus was present, and took a prominent and active part. * * * * *

(Then follow certain extracts from the MS., which I am about to read.) Mr. Plumb concludes:

"It may be that you will think the extracts of sufficient value to communicate them to your society, and I shall be very glad to have you do so. I shall write to Mr. Conover that I have sent them to you.

With kind regards, believe me, yours very faithfully,
J. B. PLUMB."

The writer sent to Ottawa and procured a copy of Col. Claus' paper entitled "Anecdotes of Captain Joseph Brant," together with the other MSS. mentioned by Mr. Plumb. It is an authentic document written by a trusted servant of the crown, possessing every facility for testing the truth of what he has deliberately recorded, and his main statements of fact are credible, notwithstanding a certain *animus* of personal hostility which the author is at no pains to conceal.