

few Coal-burners and wooden shoe manufacturers whom we could from time to time see moving about like shadows round a blazing fire in the woods, we met with no one to try either our courage or our weapons.

It was then in this latter part of our journey that my travelling companion, after proper apologies for his apparent neglect of me in the former and having paid several fine compliments on the openness of my countenance, &c. &c. added that he dared to repose in me that degree of confidence which it would be imprudent in his situation to bestow on every one, and on my word of honour being given to him that I should not disclose any communications which he should think proper to make to me, he continued thus: "You must know, Sir, that I am the agent employed by the Duc de Choiseul, to carry on the communication between him and the British North American Colonies. I have made already many voyages across the Atlantic with the instructions and sums of money necessary to keep up the flame that he the Duc, has himself kindled, from the moment that he found himself in a manner compelled to yield Canada to the English. Indeed he would perhaps have continued the late war for a few years longer had he not thought that the cession of the French possessions in North America would pave the way and facilitate his grand object in view, namely, an absolute Secession between the Colonies and the Mother Countries." He entered then into further details of the Duc's plans and ways, and the greatest part of our conversation until our final separation in Paris turned on that subject.

This happened in the month of November, 1774, and my obligation to secrecy was for no longer a period than the result of the contest. Thus it is in a great measure to the insidious policy of the Duc de Choiseul that we are indebted for the French Revolution and its concomitant crimes and horrors.

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ON COLONIES.

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They were however soon awake from that lethargic state by the unnatural rebellion of their neighbours. No sooner did they hear the sound of the drum than their patriotism and their loyalty, until then dormant, were rekindled. We find the first names in the Colony amongst those who made use of the little influence they