

whose constitution has evinced in every period of their subsequent history repugnant principles. In the American wilderness was exemplified, too, the all-grasping power of national ambition. Here, waving over the same soil, were found two hostile banners of rival nations, who were striving to wrest from each other the dominion of a country possessed and claimed by barbarians. Here also was demonstrated that code of civilized ethics, founded on the reasoning of the schools, which taught the two nations to attach to themselves barbarians opposed to each other from immemorial feuds, and to place deadly weapons in their hands. Quebec and Montreal, the French forts on the most important streams in Canada and the north-western lakes, Oswego and Niagara, Le Boeuf and Duquesne, were the strong-holds of the French power; while the English settlements, during the early period of French colonization, were confined chiefly to the country now embraced in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New-York, and New-England.

The French and English spared no pains to attach to their interests the confederates whom they found in the wilderness. On the side of the English were the *Iroquois*, and the French were supported by the race of the *Algonquins*—barbarian warriors, whose power was co-extensive with the continent and, in their customs and institutions similar, in many points, to the ancient Celtæ of Britain. They exhibited noble traits combined with savage ferocity. Clothed with the skins of wild beasts, living in their retired villages made of bark, under the overhanging boughs of the forest, cultivating little patches of prairie for their corn, and acquiring food by the chase or by fishing; whose weapons of war were the bow, the rifle, the tomahawk and the war-club; lying in their wigwams in indolence upon the banks of the streams, or shooting their canoes across the glassy lakes of the wilderness like meteors through the heavens, leaving behind them a silver track, unknown in their origin then, as now,—such men were the allies of France and England.

On the side of the English was the confederacy of the Iroquois, called by them the Six Nations. They comprised the