

to them, took up the Hatchet against us. They were headed by PONDIAH, a noted Chief, and joined by several of the Senekas. In a few months they cut off no less than eight of our outposts, and totally defeated several detachments of His Majesty's Troops that were sent against them. They also depopulated our frontiers to a great extent and ruined the Indian trade in many places. It was with great difficulty and expense, after much time and the loss of many lives, that this Insurrection was quelled. To these Insurrections we shall be continually exposed, whilst the Indians are unprincipled and unsettled as at present. They will be ever turbulent, ready to kindle the Flames of War on the slightest neglect or provocation; and the inconveniences arising from such Insurrections are too glaring to require a particular delineation. Besides the injury to Trade, the obstruction to Population, which they must occasion, and the lives that will be lost before they can be suppressed; *one* of those Insurrections may put the Crown to greater expense than would be sufficient to support for several years the measures proposed to convert and civilise the Indians; by which they would *forever* become peaceable Subjects, and useful Members of society. Let me add that the Indians, who are very numerous, will always have it in their power to distress our Trade and Frontiers much; nor will they be at a loss for means to enable them to carry on those hostilities. Besides the resources they can have for Ammunition, Arms and Clothing from the Spaniards by way of the Mississippi, or secretly from the French of Canada; there are many in our Colonies, who, for love of lucre, would supply them with whatever they wanted. This has been already done, when the British Empire in America was in the greatest danger, and several of its Provinces reeking with the blood of their inhabitants. The utmost vigilance of Government cannot put a stop to this; and there is no reason to imagine our Virtue and public spirit are increased, or will increase, so far as to prevent it entirely. I may venture to affirm that it is more necessary now than ever to cultivate a friendship with the Iroquois, and secure their fidelity. The success of our arms against Canada has raised the jealousy of almost all the Indians. They are apprehensive that their liberties are now in great danger, as the English, (of whom the western tribes knew little before, and whom the French taught them to despise,) have gained such an ascendancy in North America. They observe our progress with a jealous eye, and will seize every opportunity of combining to oppose and distress us. Against such combinations the Iroquois would be a sufficient barrier and security, were they by proper care fixed in our interest.

To these Considerations others of great weight, and to the same purpose might be added respecting the French, in case of any design on Canada. I shall not repeat what has been already said on this head, but content myself with observing, that all human affairs are very fluctuating and subject to great Revolutions. Our possession of Canada is a proof of it. The time may come when things will take a different turn, and the friendship of the Indians be of great consequence to us. No person can reasonably doubt, however peaceable and satisfied the Roman Catholic subjects in that Province may appear at present; that they still retain a strong affection for their former Government, and for their countrymen, whose Religion, Manners, and Language are the same with their own. Their Indian converts are still fixed in their interests, and daily increasing. The encroachments of the French on the Iroquois, by which a spirit of animosity was formerly kept alive between them, and the latter were inclined to us, are now at an end. Their animosity will naturally cease with its cause; and this again will pave the way for proselyting the Iroquois to the Romish faith, by which their affections will be withdrawn from us. Now can any circumstance be more alluring than these to put the French on regaining what was torn from them by the chance of War; or promise more success to such an attempt? If that enterprising Nation, in order to perplex us, and divert our arms, could send a Pretender on so hopeless an errand as the conquest of Brittain; can we imagine they will not avail themselves of such advantages to become