

dence amongst them on the other, gives me a pretense to impartiality; neither side must expect to be favoured; and if I should be so happy as to point out a way for reconciliation, it will be doing my country and North America essential service.

His plan is that the Government shall give up all internal taxation of the Colonies, but place instead a tax on all American shipping to be applied to the support of the navy, which tax would not, he thinks, be offensive to the Americans but would constitute an acknowledgement of the jurisdiction of Great Britain. As an alternative he proposes, that a "congress" of the Colonies shall meet, "in order to settle their respective quotas of a modus to be offered to government in lieu of all future internal taxes" the modus to be readjusted every seven years, the proceeds to be applied to the navy, and each province being left to raise its quota in its own way. He then offers some comments upon the Quebec Act, which he considers will result in a religious war unless repealed. He concludes his book with an account of a great imposition practiced upon the Indians by some French traders who played successfully upon their devotion to the Roman Catholic church. It begins thus:—

In the summer of 1765, the Indians collected themselves together at the river St. John, in the Bay of Fundy, and came up in a body to Fort Cumberland, in order to pass over to Bay Verte, to the great terror of the English settlers in those parts. They gave out there was a French fleet arrived in an harbour in the gulph of St. Lawrence; and they made use of threatening language. I offered my service to Capt. Blundell Dalton, then commanding officer of Fort Cumberland, to go with an officer and a party of soldiers, to examine into the truth of this story. Accordingly I went with Lieutenant Handfield, and some soldiers, and searched the coast; but found not the least sign of any fleet. We came back, and quieted the minds of the inhabitants; for which service I received the thanks of governor Wilmot; but it was not till long after, that I knew the occasion of this meeting, which was on the following account.<sup>1</sup>

1. There are some very interesting contemporary references to this movement of the Indians, the causes of which Smethurst here makes plain. Thus in a letter of Nov. 25, 1765, written by James Simonds at St. John to Messrs. Hazen and Jarvis in Newburyport, it is said,—"The Indians was so late in their Voyage after the French that they made but little fall hunts. They will be better in the Spring on that acct." Again Michael Franklin writing July 22, 1765, from Halifax to

Beamsley Glasier then on the St. John River, says,—"It is thought here that the affair of the Indians will blow over, & as to the French ships, no person believes a syllable of it as the whole coast is lined with our Fishermen from whom we must have had Intelligence." Some reference to the matter, and its subsequent settlement through a visit of the Indian Chiefs to Halifax, is also in Fisher's Sketches of New Brunswick, p. 103.