

6-7 EDWARD VII., A. 1907

them and have already taken possession of the Lands on the South Side of Lake Champlain to the Boundary Line at the Degree 45.—They made no Scruple of telling me that Vermont must either be annexed to Canada, or become Mistress of it, as it is the only channel by Which the Produce of their Country can be Conveyed to a Market, but they assured Me that they rather Wished the former. They are really a hardy enterprising People, and tho' it was in my Power with the greatest ease during the War to destroy Such of them as Should Settle on Lake Champlain, it was with great difficulty that I could deter them from attempting it, and not till after by experience they found that I was determined to effectuate by force what I could not gain by Admonition.—Tho' I have heard them with Patience, I have assured them that I could not interfere in these Matters as I had the Most positive Orders from the King to do every thing in my power to Conciliate the Affections of the Subjects of the united States to those of Great Britain. The State of New York is Making Settlements in the Same Manner on the opposite Side of the Lake.—The Conduct of these People is not Justified by the Rules of War, for until the Definitive Treaty is made, the Provincial One¹ is no more than preliminaries to a Peace, but Circumstanced as I am, and Willing to Shun every thing which could be construed as an inclination to infringe the Cessation of Hostilities I have thought it best not to oppose them, tho' I foresee great and Mischievous Consequences to this Province from the Settlement which the State of New York is making near the Boundary Lines. The Americans are Settling Captain Hazen, now a Brigad^r General, with the few Canadians remaining of the Corps upon Lake Champlain, they give them Lands and a Sum of Money proportionate to their Rank and Services. As their Number is Small, the expence will be trifling, but Still these Canadians will be handsomely rewarded, and the Encouragement given to them will have considerable Influence upon the Minds of their Country Men upon Some future Occasion. It will be Totally impossible to prevent frequent Intercourse between them, and the Settlement being So Contiguous to the Boundary Line will afford a Safe and easy Aylum to the Seditious and disaffected of this Country who are very numerous in the Parishes adjoining to Lake Champlain. This Province can only be preserved by bringing back the Canadians to a regular Subordination, and by rendering them useful as a well disciplined Militia—In order to effectuate this, the Authority

The State of
N. York settling
along
Lake Cham-
plain.

bad conse-
quences that
will follow

also to the
Canadians.

The Cana-
dians to be
Governed by

¹ The provisional articles of peace were signed at Paris, Nov. 30th, 1782. British and Foreign State Papers, vol. I, p. 773. The declaration relative to the suspension of hostilities was signed at Versailles Jan. 20th, 1783. Ibid, p. 777.