

civilization and christianization of his people, great hopes were entertained by his religious friends of his future usefulness to the church. The camp, however, is not the best university for the development of the Christian graces. Seldom has the military hero thrown aside the sword for the pen or the pulpit. Brant was always a high-minded, generous man, and, as such, set a noble example to his people. Had it not been for the counter-acting influence of his war education, no doubt his afterlife would have exhibited more of the Christian than the military hero.

In the year 1771 commenced the upheaving of those elements which terminated in the revolutionary war between Great Britain and the American Colonies. The Indians being a powerful body, both parties deemed it politic and necessary to negotiate for their services. Brant, from his attachment to his late noble patron, Sir W. Johnson, who died in 1774, determined, with his warriors, to adhere to his son-in-law, Col. Guy Johnson, and, when the Colonel fled westward to avoid American capture, Brant, with his principal men, followed. Col. Guy Johnson appointed him his secretary. After discussing the policy they should pursue, Johnson proceeded to the Mohawk with a strong body of Indians. Brant now took a decided stand in favor of the royal cause, and, through all the subsequent campaigns of this deadly strife, evinced his strong and sincere adherence to the British crown. The Six Nations lost their extensive and fertile country, now the garden of the State of New York, through this attachment.

About this time Brant was made Principal War Chief of the Confederacy. It is not quite clear how he arrived at this dignity. Hendric was the last of the Mohawk chiefs who bore the title of King. He fell under Sir W. Johnson twenty years before, and was succeeded by "Little Abraham," a supposed brother of Hendric, of whom no further mention is made, excepting that he refused to accompany Brant and Guy Johnson in their flight from the Mohawk Valley. It is likely that force of circumstances facilitated Brant's advancement, such as his military distinctions, his des-

cent from a family of chiefs, and his official connection with the Johnson family. As our Indian hero had now become a principal personage in these troublesome times, the title of Captain was conferred upon him in the Army of the Crown.

In the autumn of 1775, Brant embarked with Captain Tice on his first visit to England. The precise object of this visit does not appear. It is probable the sagacious chieftain deemed it prudent, before committing himself too far by actually taking the field, to ponder well the cause of "the Great King," lest, by an overscrupulous observance of the ancient covenants of his people, he should be leading them to certain destruction. On his first arrival in London, he was conducted to the inn called "The Swan with two Necks." Lodgings more suitable to his rank were provided; but he said, "I am treated so kindly I prefer staying where I am." During this visit he figured at a grand masquerade ball, dressed in the brilliant costume of his nation. His novel and striking appearance drew towards him much observation from the ladies. An amusing incident here happened. In the midst of the festivities, the Mohawk Chief, flourishing his war-club and raising the war-whoop, so frightened his admirers that they rushed wildly out of the room, tumbling down stairs in the greatest confusion. This visit confirmed him in his attachment to the British Crown. In the spring of 1776, he returned to America, landing secretly near New York. The disturbed state of the country rendered this precaution necessary. While in England Brant procured a gold finger-ring, with his name engraved thereon, stating he intended that the same should provide evidence of his identity in case he fell in any of the battles he anticipated. This ring he wore until his death. It was kept as a precious relic by his widow for four years, when it was lost. Strange as it may seem, during the summer of 1836, the identical ring was found by a little girl in a ploughed field near Wellington Square, while the venerable Indian Queen was on a visit to her daughter, Elizabeth, the accomplished wife of Col. Kerr.

Many efforts were used, and arguments urged, to secure Brant's neutrality, or pre-