

6th. *Ransom of American prisoners taken by the savages in the service of England.*

Some nations of the natives were at war with the Americans, long before hostilities commenced against England, many others not. When attempts were made to conquer the Canadas, the Indians beyond our territories, part by choice, and part by solicitation, came and joined us as allies, while those within the Provinces, had as great an interest in defending them, as the other proprietors of the soil. To mitigate as much as possible the horrors of war, it was expressly and repeatedly told the Indians that scalping the dead and killing prisoners or unresisting enemies, were practices extremely repugnant to our feelings, and no present would be given them but for prisoners. This, therefore, instead of becoming an article of accusation ought to have excited their gratitude, for the presence and authority of a British force uniformly tended to secure the lives of all who were defenceless, and who surrendered. It almost without exception saved the lives of our enemies, yet the American government brand us as worse than savages for fighting by the sides of Indians, and at first threatened our extermination if we did so, altho' they employed all they Indians they could. Many individuals have acknowledged their obligation to us for having been saved by the benevolent and humane exertions of our officers and troops, but no officer of rank ever had the justice to make a public acknowledgment. The eighth accusation is much the same as this, and must have been separated in order to multiply the number of articles. It is notorious that some British soldiers have been killed by the Indians, protecting their prisoners. This was the case at General Winchester's defeat and at General Clay's. The grossest exaggerations have been published. General Winchester was declared in all the American papers to have been scalped, and mangled in the most horrid manner, when he was in his quarters at Quebec. In a general order, dated at Kingston 26th July 1813, among other things respecting Indians, it is said, that the head money for the prisoners of war, brought in by the Indian warriors is to be immediately paid by the Commissariat upon the certificate of the general officer commanding the division with which they are acting at the time. Let us now see how the poor Indians are treated by the Americans, after promising that they have their utmost to employ as many Indians as possible against us. It is a fact that the first scalp taken this war was by the Americans at the river Canard between Sandwich and Amherstburgh. (1)

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(1). "The National Intelligencer," the American Government organ of the day, boastfully asserted that when the militia returned to Detroit from the battle of Brownston, they bore triumphantly on the points of their bayonets between 30 and 40 fresh scalps, which they had taken on the field. As no mercy was shown to the redskins by the trappers and borderers who constituted the militia, and as scalps were much prized spoils, it may be presumed that the number of these trophies represented fairly the number of Indians slain.—James, *Military Occurrences of the War*, vol. II, p. 6.