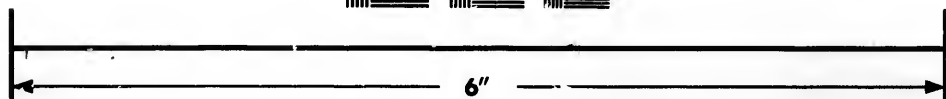
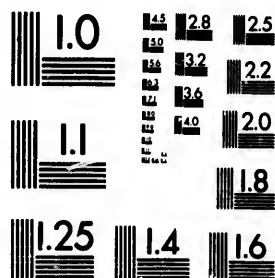


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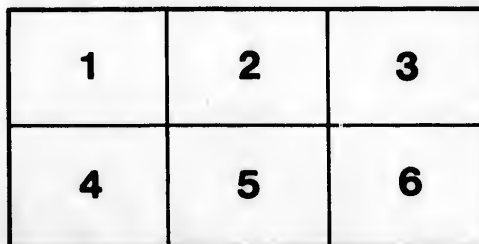
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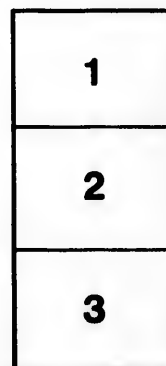
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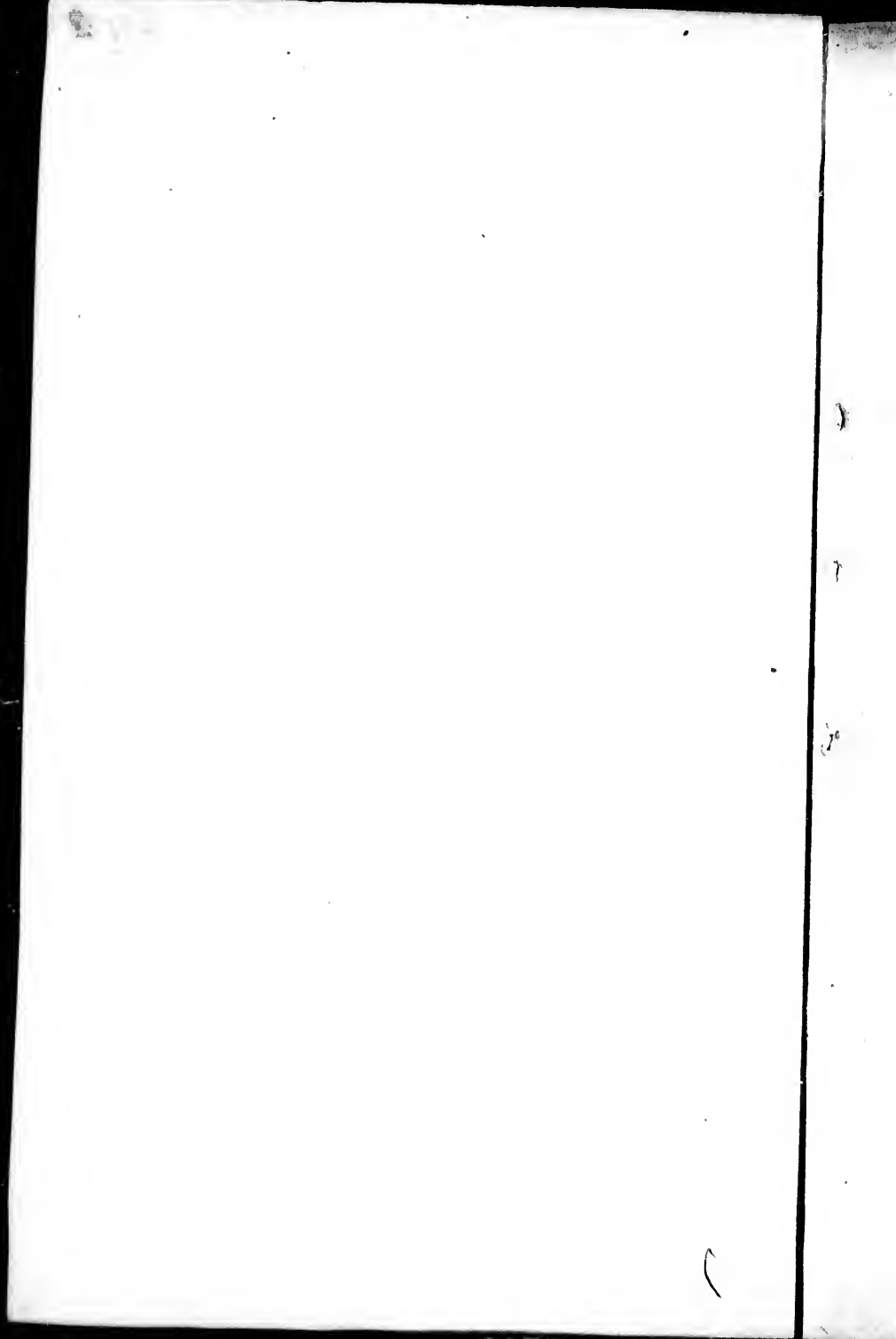
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Hampbell

AN
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE
OF
FACTS
RELATING TO THE
EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS
TAKEN AT THE
CEDARS.

[PRICE 1S.]

AN
AUTHENTIC NARRATIVE
OF
F A C T S

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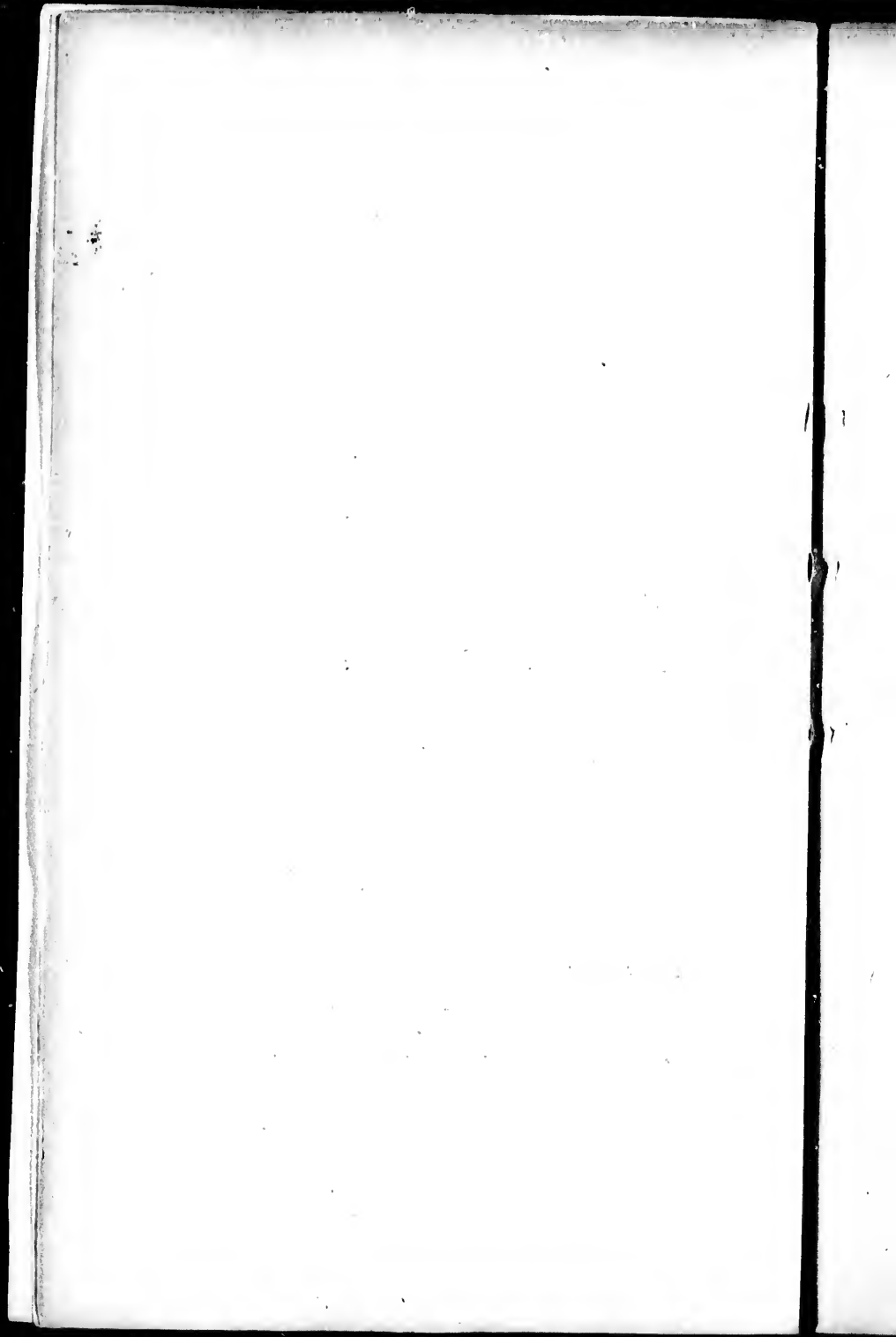
TAKEN AT THE
C E D A R S;

SUPPORTED BY THE
TESTIMONIES and DEPOSITIONS of
HIS MAJESTY'S OFFICERS,

WITH
Several ORIGINAL LETTERS and PAPERS.

TOGETHER WITH
REMARKS upon the REPORT and RESOLVES of the
AMERICAN CONGRESS on that SUBJECT.

L O N D O N:
PRINTED FOR T. CADELL IN THE STRAND,
MDCCLXXVII.



THE unnatural rebellion of the North American Colonies against the parent state, must afford great concern to every sensible mind, feeling for the prosperity of the British empire, or the distresses of mankind. How grateful to be employed in reconciling private differences! how glorious in preventing, or in terminating national ones! How detestable then must those appear in the eyes of every good citizen and faithful subject, who catching at the murmurs of discontent, instead of soothing and reconciling, collect the embers

bers of faction and ambition to increase the flames of public discord! The cap of liberty (like the serpent in the Wilderness) has been held up for the weak and credulous to gaze at, while the artful and designing have endeavoured to support the airy phantom, by piles of false and inconsistent publications, created to amuse and misguide the people to their ruin.

How far they have succeeded is well known; how much farther they may go is uncertain; but surely it becomes the duty of every good member of the state, to exert his endeavours to terminate the painful contest.

Upon this principle only, the compiler of the following sheets thinks it incumbent on him to lay them before the Public, thereby to shew the people, how grossly they have been abused by a few factious leaders of the American Congress, who justly merit their utmost indignation: to convince mankind that Britons cannot be cruel, and to justify the conduct of the king's servants from the foul aspersions cast on them by the reports and resolves of the Congress, stated to the Public*,

* Vide Public Advertiser, Monday, December 23d, 1776.

with

with the sole view of supporting and increasing the flames of civil war.

The rebels, during the last winter, were in full possession of the whole province of Quebec (the town of Quebec only excepted), where (particularly at Montreal) they plundered and oppressed the people in a manner painful to relate†, notwithstanding which, the following proclamation was issued immediately after their defeat.

† The compiler wishes the Public to believe, that he speaks in general of the rebels conduct in the province of Quebec; some individuals conducted themselves towards the people in a manner which will ever be remembered to their honour. Colonels D'Haas, Allen, and Ritzmar, of the Pennsylvania troops, gave many convincing proofs of their acting upon honourable, though misguided principles; they exerted themselves publicly to prevent tyranny and oppression, and by their manly conduct much oppression was prevented.

It is also with pleasure remarked, that the common soldiers of the rebel army conducted themselves much more to the satisfaction of the inhabitants of Montreal, than could reasonably have been expected from men under such unprincipled leaders.

By his Excellency GUY CARLETON,
 Captain General, and Governor in Chief of
 the Province of Quebec, and the territo-
 ries depending thereon, Vice Admiral of
 the same, Major General and Commander
 in Chief of his Majesty's Forces in the Pro-
 vince of Quebec, and the Territories
 thereof, &c. &c. &c.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N.

“ WHEREAS I am informed, that many of
 his Majesty's deluded subjects of the neigh-
 bouring provinces, labouring under wounds
 and diverse disorders, are dispersed in the ad-
 jacent woods and parishes, and are in great
 danger of perishing for want of proper assist-
 ance. All captains, and other officers of mi-
 litia, are hereby commanded to make dili-
 gent search for all such distressed persons, and
 afford them all necessary relief, and convey
 them to the general hospital, where proper
 care shall be taken of them. All reasonable
 expences which may be incurred in complying
 with this order, shall be repaid by the receiver-
 general.

“ And lest a consciousness of past offences
 should deter such miserable wretches from re-
 ceiving

ceiving that assistance which their distressed situation may require, I hereby make known to them, that as soon as their health is restored, they shall have free liberty to return to their respective provinces.

“ Given under my hand and seal of arms, at the castle of St. Lewis, in the city of Quebec, this tenth day of May, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

GUY CARLETON.

By his Excellency's command,

H. T. CRAMAHIE.

GOD save the King.”

The preceding proclamation does not mark any intention in General Carleton to have the rebels treated with severity ; on the contrary, it evidently shews his determination to convince them, by every act of humanity, that they were regarded as the King's misguided subjects, and as such would be treated with tender compassion. The leading members of the Congress, dreading the effects which

such unexpected lenity might produce on the minds of the people, laboured the more to enrage them. To this end, they gave the following fallacious account of what happened at the Cedars, where their troops had been defeated.

In Congress, July 10, 1776.

“ The Committee, to whom the cartel between Brigadier General Arnold and Captain Forster, and the several papers thereto relating were committed, having had the same under their consideration, and made diligent inquiry into the facts, have agreed to the following reports.

“ They find, that a party of three hundred and ninety continental troops, under the command of Colonel Bedel, was posted at the Cedars, about forty-three miles above Montreal; that they had there formed some works of defence, the greatest part of them picquetted lines, the rest a breast-work, with two field-pieces mounted.

“ That on Wednesday the 15th of May, Colonel Bedel received intelligence, that a party of the enemy, consisting of about six hundred regulars, Canadians and Indians, were within nine miles of it; that Colonel Bedel thereon

thereon set out himself for Montreal to procure a reinforcement, whereupon the command of the Cedars devolved on Major Butterfield.

" That on Thursday a reinforcement under the command of Major Sherburne marched from Montreal to the Cedars, while a larger detachment should be getting ready to proceed thither with Brigadier General Arnold.

" That on Friday the 19th, the enemy under the command of Captain Forster, invested the post at the Cedars, and for two days kept up a loose scattering fire; that Major Butterfield proposed from the first to surrender the post, and refused repeated solicitations from his officers and men to permit them to fall cut on the enemy. 174

" That on Sunday afternoon a flag being sent in by the enemy, Major Butterfield agreed to surrender the fort and garrison to Captain Forster, capitulating with him, whether verbally or in writing does not appear, that the garrison should not be put into the hands of the savages, and that their baggage should not be plundered.

" That at the time of the surrender, the enemy consisted of about forty regulars, one hundred Canadians, and five hundred In-

dians, and had no cannon; the garrison had sustained no injury from the fire, but the having one man wounded; they had twenty rounds of cartridges a man, thirty rounds for one field-piece, five for another, half a barrel of gun-powder, fifteen hundred weight musket ball, and provisions sufficient to have lasted them twenty or thirty days. Major Butterfield knew that a reinforcement was on its way, and moreover was so near the main body of the army, that he could not doubt of being supported.

“ That immediately upon the surrender, the garrison was put into the custody of the savages, who plundered them of their baggage, and even stripped them of their cloaths.

“ That Major Sherburne having landed, on Monday the 20th at Quinchien, about nine miles from the Cedars, and marched on with his party, consisting then of about one hundred men, to within about four miles thereof, was there attacked by about five hundred of the enemy; that he maintained the ground about an hour, and then being constrained to retreat, performed the same in good order, receiving and returning a constant fire, for about forty minutes; when the enemy finding means to post advance parties in such a manner

manner as to intercept their further retreat, they were also made prisoners of war. That they were immediately put under the custody of the savages, carried to where Major Butterfield and his party were, and stripped of their baggage and wearing apparel: That two of them were put to death that evening, four or five others at different times afterwards; one of them, even of those who surrendered on capitulation at the Cedars, was killed on the eighth day after that surrender: That one was first shot, and while retaining life and sensation, was roasted, as related by his companion, now in possession of the savages, who himself saw the fact; and that several others, being worn down with famine and cruelty, were left exposed in an island naked, and perishing with cold and hunger.

“ That while Major Sherburne was in custody of the enemy, Captain Forster required of him and the officers to sign a cartel, stipulating the exchange of themselves and their men, for as many of equal condition of the British troops in our possession; and further, that, notwithstanding the exchange, neither themselves or men should ever again bear arms against the British government; and for the per-

performance of this, four hostages were to be delivered, which they being under the absolute power of the enemy did sign.

“ That on Sunday the 26th, the prisoners were carried to Quinchien, where it was discovered that General Arnold was approaching, and making dispositions to attack them: That Captain Forster having desired Major Sherburne to send by a flag, which he was about to send to General Arnold, for confirmation of the cartel, carried him into a council of the Indians then sitting, who told him, that it was a mercy never before shewn in their wars, that they had killed so few of their prisoners, but they should certainly kill every man, who should hereafter fall into their hands: That Captain Forster joined in desiring, that the bloody message should be delivered to General Arnold, and moreover, that he should be notified, That if he rejected the cartel, and attacked him, every man of his prisoners would be put to instant death.

“ That General Arnold was extremely averse from entering into any agreement, and was at length induced to it, by no other motive than that of saving the prisoners from cruel
and

and inhuman deaths, threatened in such terms as left no doubt it was to be perpetrated; and that he did in the end conclude it, after several flags received from Captain Forster, and a relinquishment by him, of the unequal article, restraining our soldiers from again bearing arms.

“ That the prisoners so stipulated to be given up to the enemy, were not in possession of General Arnold, nor under his direction, but were at the time distributed through various parts of the continent, under the orders of this house.

“ That four hostages were accordingly delivered to Captain Forster, who were immediately plundered and stript by the savages; and on his part was delivered, one major, four captains, sixteen subalterns, and three hundred and fifty-five privates, as specified in a certificate of Captain James Osgood and others, of whom no specification by their names or number has yet been transmitted; That he retained twelve Canadians, alleging in his justification, express orders so to do; and that living in a military government, they were to be considered even in a worse light than

than deserters from his Majesty's army; these he carried away in irons, but afterwards released: That he permitted the Indians to carry into their country several others, natives of the United States, for purposes unknown: That during the time of their captivity, not half food was allowed the prisoners; they were continually insulted, buffeted, and ill-treated by the savages; and when the first parties of them were carried off from the shore, to be delivered to General Arnold, balls of mud were fired, and at the last parties, musket balls."

Whereupon the Congress came to the following resolutions:

"That all acts contrary to good faith, the laws of nature, or the customs of civilized nations, done by the officers and soldiers of his Britannic Majesty, by foreigners or savages taken into his service, are to be considered as done by his orders, unless indemnification be made in cases which admit indemnifications; and in all other cases, unless immediate and effective measures be taken by him or his officers, for bringing to condign punishment, the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of the act.

"Resolved,

Resolved, That the plundering the baggage of the garrison at the Cedars, stripping them of their cloaths, and delivering them into the hands of the savages, was a breach of the capitulation on the part of the enemy, for which indemnification ought to be demanded.

Resolved, That the murder of the prisoners of war was an inhuman violation of the laws of nature and nations; that condign punishment should be inflicted on the authors, abettors, and perpetrators of the same; and that for this purpose it be required, that they be delivered into our hands.

Resolved, That the agreement entered into by General Arnold, was a mere sponson on his part, he not being invested with power, for the disposal of prisoners, not in his possession, or under his directions; and that therefore it is subject to be ratified, or annulled at the direction of this house.

Resolved, That the shameful surrender of the post at the Cedars, is chargeable on the commanding officer; that such other of the prisoners as were taken there, shewed a willingness to fight the enemy; and that Major Sherburne and the prisoners taken with him, although

although their disparity of numbers was great, fought the enemy bravely, for a considerable time, and surrendered at last, but on absolute necessity; on which consideration, and on which only it is resolved, That the said spon- sion be ratified, and that an equal number of captives from the enemy, of the said rank and condition, be returned to them, as stipulated by the said spon- sion.

“*Resolved*, That previous to the delivery of the prisoners to be returned on our part, the British commander in Canada, be required to deliver into our hands, the authors, abettors, and perpetrators, of the horrid murder committed on the prisoners, to suffer such punishment as their crime deserves; and also to make indemnification for the plunder at the Cedars, taken contrary to the faith of capitulation; and that until such delivery and indemnification be made, the said prisoners be not delivered.

“*Resolved*, That if the enemy should commit any farther violence, by putting to death, torturing, or otherwise ill-treating the prisoners retained, them, or any of the hostages put into their hands, recourse be had to retaliation, as the sole means of stopping the progress of human butchery; and that for
that

that purpose, punishments of the same kind and degree be inflicted on an equal number of the captives from them in our possession, till they shall be taught due respect to the violated right of nations.

“ Resolve, That a copy of the foregoing report and resolutions be transmitted to the commander in chief of the continental forces, to be by him sent to Generals Howe and Burgoyne.

By order of the Congress,

(Signed) JOHN HANCOCK, President.”

From this report, which has been partially stated to the Public by the pretended friends of America, mankind would naturally conceive orders had been given, and measures pursued, for the destruction of the provincials; while, on the contrary, every officer of the crown has, notwithstanding the repeated instances of ill-treatment which they have received, endeavoured to distinguish themselves by acts of generous humanity, inseparable from the character of a British soldier. General Carleton, after receiving the grossest personal insults, and regardless of their ineffectual endeavours to create a jealousy between

tween him and General Burgoyne *, gave the following public orders immediately after receiving this shameful report.

Quebec, August 4, 1776.

“ The commanding officers of corps will take especial care every one under their command be informed, that letters or messages from rebels, traitors in arms against the king, rioters, disturbers of the public peace, plunderers, robbers, assassins, or murderers, are on no occasion to be admitted; that should emissaries from such lawless men again presume to approach the army, whether under the name of flag of truce-men, or ambassadors, except when they come to implore the king's mercy, their persons shall be immediately seized, and committed to close con-

* The Congress ordered the copy of their report and resolutions to be sent General Burgoyne, although the second in command, instead of General Carleton, the commander in chief, hoping thereby to create a jealousy between those gallant officers; and the enemies of the constitution have, since General Burgoyne's return to England, industriously propagated a report, that they had disagreed. A report, which the compiler can, and does take upon him to declare, void of truth; and it is with satisfaction he can assure the Public, that the king's service has been conducted with the utmost unanimity and cordiality between those two generals.

finement

finement, in order to be proceeded against, as the law directs; their papers and letters, for whomsoever, even for the commander in chief, are to be delivered to the provost martial, that, unread and unopened, they may be burned by the hands of the common hangman. At the same time, the commander in chief expects, that neither the assassination of Brigadier General Gordon, nor the late notorious breach of faith, in resolving not to return the troops and Canadians taken at St. John's, in exchange for those rebels, who fell into the hands of the savages at the Cedars and Quinchien, purchased from them at a great price, and restored to their country on those express conditions; be imputed to the provincials at large, but to a few wicked and designing men, who first deceived, then step by step misled the credulous multitude to the brink of ruin; afterwards, usurped authority over them, established a despotic tyranny not to be born, and now wantonly and foolishly endeavour to provoke the spilling the blood of our unhappy countrymen of this continent, in hopes of covering their own guilt, or confirming their tyranny by the general destruction of their country. Let their crimes pursue these faithless bloody-minded men,

C

who

who assert that black is white, and white black. It belongs to Britons to distinguish themselves, not less by their humanity than their valour. It belongs to the king's troops to save the blood of his deluded subjects, whose greatest fault, perhaps, is having been deceived by such men, to their own destruction. It belongs to the crown, it is the duty of all faithful servants of the crown, to rescue from oppression, and restore to liberty, the once happy, free, and loyal people of this continent. All prisoners from the rebellious provinces, who chuse to return home, are to hold themselves in readiness to embark at a short notice. The commissary Mr. Murray shall visit the transports destined for them, and see that wholesome provisions, necessary cloathing, with all possible convenience for their passage, be prepared for these unfortunate men. They are to look on their respective provinces as their prison, and there remain, till further enlarged, or summoned to appear before the commander in chief of this province, or any other commander in chief for his Majesty, for the time being, which summons they shall obey. General Howe will regulate their place of landing.

In

In consequence of these orders, the rebel prisoners were soon embarked and sent to New York, highly satisfied with the unexpected treatment they had met with; after their arrival, they exerted themselves in favour of the King's subjects detained by the rebels, and particularly for the wife and family of Mr. Livius, Chief Justice of Quebec, whose liberty they procured, and sent them to Halifax; and it is not doubted, but they earnestly solicited the Congress to fulfil the cartel entered into for their preservation.

The epithets given by General Carleton in the preceding order, have been thought harsh and severe; there is no doubt, but he did violence to his own inclinations, when he found himself necessitated to use them. The people of Montreal had been publicly and generally plundered; many of the principal inhabitants carried prisoners to the other colonies; the cartel entered into for exchanging the prisoners taken at the Cedars and Quinchien, publicly broke; and General Gordon, when riding by himself, where he might have been taken without a shadow of risque, inhumanly and wantonly murdered. These acts of oppression, violence, breach of

faith, and cruelty, closely following each other, had greatly enraged the soldiery; hence it became necessary for General Carleton, to mention them in his public orders, with a view to take off the edge of their resentment from operating to the destruction of the misled multitude, directing it, where it ought to fall, on their faithless leaders. That the Congress, in drawing up their report and resolves, were guided by motives, in which truth, justice, or the good of their country, had no share, will evidently appear from the simple narrative, drawn up and signed by the gallant officers employed in reducing the rebel force at the Cedars and Quinchien, whose bravery and humanity will be remembered to their honour, as long as bravery and humanity shall dignify the name of man.

Their narrative is now given to that Public, whose servants they are, lamenting the necessity of exposing the artful and fallacious conduct of men once deserving the name of fellow-subjects, but now so warped by the spirit of rebellion, as to be capable of creating the most palpable falsehoods, to injure private characters, and provoke (using their own words) human butchery.

“Understanding that the Continental Congress have refused to return the troops who are prisoners in the provinces, in exchange for the rebels, who fell into the hands of the savages at the Cedars and Quinchien in May last, according to an express agreement, made between Captain George Forster, of his majesty’s eighth regiment, who, at great expence to government, brought them from those savages; and Mr. Benedict Arnold, who commanded the rebel army. And that, in order to colour this violation of faith, and further to deceive their unhappy countrymen, they have given public reasons, which have no foundation in truth, accusing his Majesty’s faithful servants and loyal subjects, with the most inhuman acts of unfeeling cruelty. Hence we think it a duty incumbent upon us, who were present and well acquainted with the whole transactions, to disabuse our fellow-subjects, by stating the following narrative of what happened on the occasion.

“Captain Forster commanding the garrison of Oswegathie, having formed a design to relieve the citizens of Montreal, from the oppressive tyranny of the rebels, did, on the 12th of May last, begin his march, with one

captain, two lieutenants, two serjeants, two corporals, one drummer, and thirty-three private soldiers, of his Majesty's eighth regiment; and eleven English and Canadian gentlemen volunteers, and one hundred and sixty savages of different nations. On the 14th, we got to St. Regis, and were there joined by fifty-four savages of that village, from whence we marched on the 16th, in the afternoon, and that night encamped at the upper end of Lake St. Francis, about nine miles from St. Regis. On the morning of the 17th, we set forward, having received information of the number and strength of the enemy, posted at the Cedars, which greatly discontented the savages. About three o'clock in the afternoon, we halted at Point Baudet, and there received an express, advising of General Carleton's having driven the enemy from before Quebec, which had caused great consternation amongst the rebels; thus encouraged, the savages marched with great spirit, hoping to arrive in time to attack the rebels at the Cedars by break of day; but when we got to the mouth of the Lake, fifteen miles from the enemy's post, it was late, and the savages being unacquainted with the rapids, encamped there, except
about

about fifty who accompanied us to Point Diable, about seven miles from the rebels, where we encamped.

“ The morning following, being joined by the body of our Indians, we fell down the St. Laurence, to within three miles of the enemy, and there lodged our batteaux and canoes in security; from thence we sent a party of Indians to attack the rebels on the left, while the body advanced on the right. The detached party soon sent us one prisoner and a scalp; the rebel scalped, would not have been killed, but for his obstinately refusing to surrender to two savages, when it was not possible for him to escape. Captain Forster now summoned the enemy to surrender, while it was yet in his power to save their lives. Fearing that should they not do it immediately, the savages could not be restrained by the small numbers of his troops, from committing acts of cruelty. In reply, they requested three hours to consider, which was granted. Within the time they sent a flag, demanding permission to quit the place with their arms, which was refused; and hostilities again commenced. We soon after received intelligence from Quinchien, which is about nine miles below the Cedars, of a reinforcement, with provisions, being landed

there from Montreal, under the command of a Major Sherburne; who, upon a report of the garrison at the Cedars being taken by us, had again retreated to the island of Montreal.

“ On the 19th, in the morning, we advanced, under the cover of some houses, to within one hundred and fifty yards of the enemy's breast-work, where, having no cannon, we kept up a fire of musquetry, whenever there appeared any object for its direction. About ten o'clock, we were joined by a Canadian gentleman Monsieur de Montigny, with thirty Canadians; and about noon, we received information, that Mr. Sherburne's party was again advancing from the island of Montreal, upon which Monsieur de Montigny was sent back with his party, to watch their motions, and harass them on their march. About this time, a flag appeared from the enemy, offering to surrender, if their lives could be secured from the savages; which Captain Forster, by entreaty, got them to promise, contrary to a resolution they had formed, on the rebels rejecting the first offer made them. Their consent was conveyed by a letter from Captain Forster, conceived in the following words :

MAJOR

MAJOR BUTTERFIELD,

SIR, Camp at the Cedars, May 19, 1776.

" I have, by entreaty, overcome the resolution formed by the savages, of allowing no quarters, on your refusing my offer to you ; and am happy to assure you and your garrison personal safety : As the disposition of savages is not very certain, I would fain take the advantage of their present favourable turn, and grant you the following terms ;

" I. That the fort shall surrender at discretion in half an hour, securing to you your lives and the cloaths which you have on.

" II. That all the stores, &c. shall be delivered on good faith, to a proper person appointed to receive them.

" III. To prevent any insult to the garrison, Captain Forster will only march in with his company, and six Indian chiefs, to take possession."

" The above terms being accepted, Captain Forster marched into their lines with about fifty men, at four o'clock in the afternoon, and at five, we marched the prisoners out, fearing they should be insulted by the savages, being obliged to let them come within the lines,

to

to take the plunder which belonged to them; after which they retired, and we brought the prisoners back, and lodged them in their barracks; their officers strongly soliciting an exchange of prisoners, which could not then be attended to. Here it is necessary to be observed, that notwithstanding the garrison had only been promised the cloaths on their backs, each person had made up a pack to carry off with them, which Captain Forster observed, might discontent the savages, and be the cause of insults, which he could not prevent; at the same time, two Indian chiefs did say, without consulting the rest, they might take them, and thereupon they did take them. The other savages dissatisfied, did that evening, before the prisoners were lodged in the barracks, strip them of some watches and money, and perhaps of a laced hat or two; but we do verily believe of nothing else, nor did they receive any other insult. We now received advice, that Mr. Sherburne, with his party, consisting of one hundred and twenty men, was landed at Quinchien, in consequence of which, a detachment of one hundred savages, under the command of a Canadian gentleman Monsieur Lorimer, was ordered to the assistance of Monsieur de Montigny's party. By nine o'clock

o'clock the next morning, Monsieur Lorimer had collected and marched with forty. He was soon after followed and joined by forty more. Those eighty savages, aided by eighteen Canadians, under the command of Monsieur Maurer, attacked Mr. Sherburne's party about noon, killed five or six, and made ninety-seven prisoners. The surrender of this party was so sudden, that Monsieur de Montigny could not possibly come up before their defeat; during the day, several other prisoners were taken by the savages. It is here to be remarked, that they were made prisoners by the savages without any stipulation, and that savages ever deem their prisoners as the private property of those who take them, and have generally, in former wars, sacrificed their prisoners to the manes of their deceased friends.

"In this situation, it was natural for Mr. Sherburne and his people to join those before taken in soliciting an exchange of prisoners. The savages who remained at the Cedars, had been very unruly, and notwithstanding every effort to prevent them, did strip some of the prisoners, and threatened to revenge on them the loss which their engaged friends might sustain. About two o'clock,

o'clock, being prior to our knowledge of the success of our party at Quinchien, word was brought us of their defeat, and of the rebels advancing towards us. This determined the savages to put the prisoners to death, fearing they would revolt during any attack which might be made, and it was with the utmost difficulty they were prevented. The arrival of the prisoners dissipated their present fears, but having in the action lost a principal chief of the Senecas, with three others of different nations wounded, they were still greatly enraged, and insisted on putting those to death who had been taken in the engagement, to prevent which, every effort was exerted by Captain Forster and his party. Individuals were bought from them at high prices, and presents to a considerable amount given to the friends of the deceased and wounded Indians. All our endeavours proved ineffectual with some of the savages, who would not relinquish their prisoners, yet they were but few, having lodged ninety-seven of them in the barracks, with the other prisoners, and of the few so retained, we afterwards got a part. The whole number of our prisoners amounted to four hundred and eighty-seven, who being all lodged together, and the savages insisting on their right

to

to pillage the prisoners taken at Quinchien, they could not be prevented from entering the barracks for that purpose, and we do fear they pillaged the prisoners indiscriminately, but they did not otherwise injure them.

“ On the afternoon of the 21st, we marched forward with our prisoners to Quinchien, hoping there to be joined by a body of Canadians, sufficient to enable us to drive the enemy from Montreal; but, on our arrival, were only joined by Monsieur de Montigny, with fifty Canadians, and about an equal number of savages from the lake of the two mountains.

“ On the 22d, in the evening, it was thought advisable to possess ourselves of a post in the island of Montreal, and Monsieur de Montigny was sent, with fifty Canadians and twenty savages, to take possession of his own house, situated at the end of the island.

“ The morning following, being the 23d, two hundred and fifty of the prisoners were sent over to him, and we soon followed with our whole party, except thirty Canadians left to guard the remaining prisoners. The rebel officers were this day sent to the Lake of the Two Mountains, as to their prison, under

under the care of Messieurs Detarlie and Mathevet, two priests of that parish.

“ On the morning of the 24th, it was thought expedient to proceed to Point Clare, about eighteen miles from Montreal, where it was said the body of the Canadians would join us, and thence march to attack the enemy, under the command of their Brigadier General Arnold, posted at Le Chine, about nine miles from Montreal. On our arrival at Point Clare, our numbers consisted of troops, Canadians and savages, about five hundred men, with whom we advanced to within three miles of Le Chine, where we received advice from our friends at Montreal, that the rebels had six hundred men, with six pieces of cannon, entrenched at Le Chine; that two hundred Rifle-men, had marched with two pieces of cannon to reinforce them; that they were calling in all their out-posts, which would by the evening make their numbers fifteen hundred, and the day following would augment them to twenty-five hundred men. Upon receiving this information, a council of war was held, and it was unanimously determined, to retreat to Point Clare, and there we thought it advisable to repass the river to the Cedars. On our arrival there, we found our numbers diminished

minished to about eighty, caused by most of the Canadians having returned home through fear, and the fickle disposition of the savages, who wandered as their fancy led them. It was found on the morning of the 25th, that we had been misinformed respecting the force of the enemy at Le Chine, and we were re-joined by a part of those who had left us. It was now judged expedient to negotiate with the rebel officers, a cartel for the exchange of prisoners, in compliance with their former solicitations, depending on their good faith for fulfilling any engagement they might enter into, seeing their own personal well-being was so immediately consulted, and intimately concerned. To facilitate this business, an officer was sent to them at the Lake of the Two Mountains, there to settle the conditions on which they should be exchanged, and there the following cartel was agreed upon :

“ After the maturest deliberation on the customs and manners of the savages in war, which I find so opposite and contrary to the humane disposition of the British Government, and to all civilized nations; and, to avoid the inevitable consequences of their customs in former wars, (which, by their threats

threats and menaces I find is not changed), that of putting their prisoners to death to disencumber themselves, in case of being attacked by an enemy ; I have, therefore, in compliance with the above disposition in government, and the dictates of humanity, thought fit to enter into the following articles and agreement with Major Henry Shelburn, and the under-subscribing officers, in the name of the power they were employed by, and of the officers and soldiers who shall be released by this agreement, and whose rank and numbers shall be indorsed on this cartel.

“ I. That there shall be an exchange of prisoners faithfully made, returning an equal number of his Majesty's troops, and of the same rank with those released by this agreement, as soon as possible, within the space of two months, allowing a moderate time for casualties that may render the performance of this article impracticable.

“ II. That those prisoners taken in opposing Government, shall not, on any pretext whatsoever, hereafter take up arms against the Government of Great Britain.

“ III. That they shall be conducted in safety, with all possible convenience and dispatch that circumstances will permit, to the
south

delivered, for which the hostages are not to be answerable.

"It being our full intention to fulfil the above articles, we mutually sign, and interchange them as assurances of performance, signed at Vaudriël, this 26th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six.

" By order of Cap- tain George For- ster, commanding his Majesty's for- ces at Vaudriël.	}	AND ^W . PARKE, Lieu- tenant in the King's or 8th regiment of foot. CHEV ^R . LORIMIER, PER ^D . DE MONTIGNY.
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HEN^R. SHERBURNE,

ISAAC BUTTERFIELD,

THEODORE BLISS,

DANIEL WILKINS,

JOHN STEVENS,

EBEN^R. SULLIVAN.

The cartel had indorsed on the back,

Two majors	-	-	2
------------	---	---	---

Nine captains	-	-	9
---------------	---	---	---

Twenty-one subalterns	-	-	21
-----------------------	---	---	----

Four hundred and forty-three privates	443
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Total 475

390
475
483

Brought over	475
To whom let us now add,	
Hostages remaining at Montreal	4
Canadians released	8
Prisoners who remained with, and were afterwards bought from the savages, and are now at Montreal	8
Yet remaining with the savages	2

Thus do we account for 497
prisoners, being the full number who fell
into the hands of the savages.

“ On the 25th, Monsieur de Montigny found it necessary to move the prisoners who were under his care to an island in the St. Lawrence, about a mile from his house. The morning following they joined the other prisoners at Quinchien, to which place we had returned on the preceeding day. Here it was reported, that a prisoner had been shot by a savage, for refusing to embark from the island, while Mr. Arnold's party was approaching it; but, on making the strictest inquiry, we could not find any person who saw this act of cruelty, nor could any of the prisoners name the person so said to have been killed; and we do declare, the prisoners were in every respect treated with all possible attention which humanity could suggest, and

our situation admit; they were daily victualled with good provisions (of which we had plenty) and that in the same proportion, which is allowed to the king's troops, and of which allowance we never heard them complain.

“ About noon, on the 26th, we perceived a party advancing to attack us, which proved to be about six hundred men, sent for that purpose under the command of Mr. Arnold. In the evening they made a descent on our post, with their whole party, in fifteen batteaux and three canoes, but were repulsed. Now the savages seemed more than ever determined to disencumber themselves of their prisoners, from whom they had much to dread, being double our numbers. To frustrate their inhuman purpose, a flag was sent to Mr. Arnold, desiring a safe-conduct for the boats to pass to the south side of the river, with the prisoners, as stipulated by the cartel, a copy of which was sent him, with a request that he should sign it. He returned for answer, he would have nothing to do with it, on account of the inequality of the second article; which, to remove all difficulties, was immediately given up by Captain Forster, as the only means to avoid the destruction of the prisoners.

On

“ On the 27th, Mr. Arnold signed a fresh cartel, the same as the former, excepting the second article which was left out, and a suspension of hostilities for four days was agreed upon. This evening five batteaux with prisoners were sent off, but the wind blowing contrary, the batteaux could not return, and it was the 30th at night, before all the prisoners were sent away. Here let us observe, there was not the least insult offered to any prisoner, after the cartel was signed, nor before, except as before related; it is true, that on the 30th, in the evening, while they were embarking, the savages amusing themselves by the water side, did fire several musquets, but without the least intention to injure them, nor were any of them injured.

“ In the night of the 30th, after embarking the prisoners at Quinchien, we quitted that post, and set out for Oswegatchie, the savages covering our retreat, as far as St. Regis, where, and afterwards at Oswegatchie, most of the prisoners who remained with the savages, were bought from them, at a considerable expence, and are now at Montreal; they were during the time of their captivity with the Indians treated more like children than prisoners; and we have reason to be-

lieve, those who yet remain in their hands,
do so by choice.

“ Thus have we faithfully stated the truth,
and nothing but the truth, lies and perfidy
being the refuge of knaves and fools. Let
those who have sense and leisure to analyze
and search to the bottom, compare this
simple narrative, with the flagitious and con-
temptible report and resolves of the con-
gress, whose violation of truth, marks the
weakness of their cause.

ANDREW PARKE, captain in the King's
or eighth regiment of foot,

J. MAURER, L. R. Yorkers.

HUGH MACKAY, A. D. C.”

Montreal, 6th Sept. 1776.

“ I have perused the foregoing sheets, and
so far as I was an eye-witness to the transac-
tions related, I know them to contain the
truth, and nothing but the truth. As to the
transactions of the detached parties, they are
clearly stated as reported to me.

GEORGE FORSTER, captain
in the King's or 8th regiment of foot,”

Montreal, 27th Sept, 1776.

It may naturally be asked, what became of
the hostages given for the due performance
of

of the cartel, so violated by the congress. They too have been sent home; and, with sentiments of indignation against their leaders, as will appear by a letter wrote by one of them, a Captain Ebenezer Sullivan, to his brother John Sullivan, a general in the rebel army; which letter he wrote immediately upon the report and resolves of the Congress, being received by General Burgoyne, and sent it by the rebel officer who brought them. A corrected copy of this letter has already appeared in the public papers, perhaps the following literal one taken from the duplicate of the original, signed by Mr. Sullivan, may be thought to bear stronger marks of authenticity.

*To the honourable General Sullivan at Durbam,
Colony of New Hampshire, near Portsmouth.*

“ Dear Sir, Montreal, Aug. 14. 1776.

“ I am permitted by his Excellency, (which is a favour I did not expect to obtain) to inform you I am well, as are the hostages that are with me. I am much surpris'd to hear, that the Congress, instead of redeeming us according to the cartel, have not only refused to do it, but have demanded Captain Forster to be delivered up to answer his conduct, in what they are pleas'd to term the

massacre of the Ceaders. I would fain flatter myself, that the Congress would never have thought of such unheard-of proceedings, had they not had a false representation of the matter. Do not think I am under any constraint, when I say, and call that God who must judge of the truth, to witness, that not a man living could have used more humanity than Captain Forster did, after the surrender of the party I belonged to; and whoever says to the contrary, let his station or rank in life be what it will, he is an enemy to peace, and a fallacious disturber of mankind. What reason they can give for not redeeming us, I cannot conceive; if they are wrongly informed, that the act of the Ceaders was a massacre, why do't they rather fulfil the cartail, than let these hostages remain in the hands of a merciless enemy, or do they regard their troops only while the heavens make them victorious? Where we in the hands of a rigorous power (as they would intimate), have they not every colour of justice, after so enormous a breach of faith, laden'd with chains, to cast us into some horrid place, and tell us to languish out our days under a sentence passed by our own people?

“ If they say there is some hidden reason, far beyond the reach of policy to find out, (for would they suppose it policy to distress his Majesty's troops, by detaining such a number of men from them ?) it would not only be the breach of there faith that would threaten them ; for consider the number of prisoners already in the hands of the British army, and also consider the chance of war, that may yet throw greater numbers into there hands ; and will people rest contented, when they find there own rulers willing to let them remain prisoners in the hands of what themselves term (though unjustly) a merciless people ? or will they not, fired with resentment for such inhuman treatment, take arms to suppress the power, that regards them no longer then while there blood is spilling in their service ? If this, which appears to be probable, should happen, consider whether those persons will not be followed by a number of their friends, which must naturally make a great division in the Colonies. Then take a view of Great Britain, and her allies, pouring on you, and let the most sanguine expector in America then judge how long the Colonies, thus divided, can stand the fury of the combat. I know your influence have been great, and for that reason have wrote, that you may,

if

if possible, yet prevent America from being branded with the name of injustice. If you suspect I write this for the sake of getting my own liberty, your suspicions wrongs me; 'tis not my own confinement, but the breach of a treaty (which even savages have ever held sacred), that causes me to write.

“ You'll be so kind as to convey the inclosed to my wife, and if ever I had so much of your love as to demand any favour of you, let this be the time that I may implore your assistance for my distressed wife and helpless orphans. May God grant I may once more see them, till when, I am,

Your affectionate brother,

EBEN^r. SULLIVAN.”

Mr. Sullivan's letter breathes the sentiments of an honest man, who had taken arms in defence of what he thought the liberties of his country, but found himself duped and betrayed by the Congress, the faithless misleaders of the credulous multitude.

After the preceding papers, and Mr. Sullivan's letter, it might appear needless to give further proofs of the falsehood and folly contained in the report and resolves of the Congress, had not Monsieur Deterlaye, one of the
French

French priests, and a man of character; under whose care the rebel officers were put, made some objections to the narrative, signed by the officers and Captain Forster; and being desired to state them in a letter to the gentleman who drew up the narrative, he accordingly did so. Hence it becomes necessary to give the Public a copy of his letter from the original, together with a translation.

“ Monsieur,

“ J’ai été très sensible à l’honneur que vous m’avez fait, de me communiquer la relation de la campagne du Capitain Forster.

“ Je l’ai vue avec d’autant plus de plaisir, que j’ai été témoin oculaire d’une partie des faites, qui y sont contenue. J’aurois desiré seulement pour l’honneur de mon village, qu’on y eût marqué que tous les Iroquois du Lac qui étoient en chasse du côté de Chegatsi on combatu sous les ordres du Capitain Forster, avec une partie de ceux de St. Regis, des Missagués, et des Cinqes Nations.

“ Je puis dire à la louange du dit commandant, qu’il a su tellement contenir ses sauvages, que je ne les ai jamais vus mieux observer les loix de l’humanité. Deux ou trois monstres, autant d’habits pris, ne valent pas la peine de se plaindre

plaindre si fort. Est-il jamais arrivé parmi les nations les plus policées, que dans un combat, les vaincus n'ayent rien perdu de leur bagage. Suivant les loix de la guerre, n'auroit-on pas mettre à mort les Canadiens qui ont été pris, les armes à la main contre leur roi ? n'est ce pas, par bonté pour les rebelles, qu'on a proposé de les échanger, pour abréger le temps de leur misère ?

“ Les officiers qui ont été au Lac, ont ils manqué de pain, de viande fraîche, & de bois de chauffage ? Il est vrai qu'on ne leur a pas donné de lits & de vêtements, parce qu'il n'y en avoit pas dans l'endroit. Mais l'officier qui étoit blessé à la cuisse, a été reçu dans la maison des missionnaires, qui lui ont fourni toutes les douceurs possibles : Que prétend donc le Congrès en refusant d'accomplir un cartel qui a été fait suivant toutes les loix de l'équité ? Il me semble qu'il a tout lieu de craindre que dans une autre occasion les sauvages ne mettent à mort tous leurs prisonniers, et qu'il sera très difficile de les en empêcher, voyant que le Congrès les a trompé.

“ Le Congrès se plaint des cruautés des sauvages. Je vous demande, Monsieur, s'il a été plus humain ? L'automne dernière lorsqu'il ayant pris au coup de Longueil deux sauvages de mon

mon village, il les a tenu au fers pendant un mois, les pieds dans l'eau dans une barque. Les troupes du Congrès sont venues en Canada, en qualité d'amis, & d'alliez ; qu'ont ils fait pour en donner des preuves ? Ils ont pris nos villes, persecuté les honnetes gens qui ne voulient point renier leur roi, piller les magazins, insulté les ministres de la religion, et les maisons qu'ils ont brulées à la vüe de mon village, sont une preuve evident qu'une nation revoltée contre son prince, est moins susceptible de moderation que les sauvages qu'elle accuse de cruauté. Le Capitaine Forster a donc eu raison d'opposer des sauvages aux troupes du Congrès ; ses succes ont repondu à la justice de sa cause ; et l'interêt seul de quelques particuliers l'ont empêché de pousser ses conquêtes jusqu'à Montreal. On lui en a imposé sur le nombre d'ennemis qui estoient dans le retranchment de la Chine, et sur leur forces, parce qu'on y avoit des ballots & qu'on ne vouloit pas sacrifier. Quoiqu'il en soit, Monsieur, la relation que vous avez en main, ne peut que lui faire beaucoup d'honneur, et les peines qu'il s'est donné, me paroissent bien dignes de recompense.

J'ai l'honneur d'etre, avec un profond respect,
Monsieur,

Votre tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur,

Au Lac ce 9 d'Oct. 1776.

DETERLAY, pretre."

TRANSLATION

" Sir,

" I am very sensible of the honour you did me, in communicating to me the narrative of Captain Forster's campaign.

" I have seen it with the more pleasure, from having been an eye-witness to part of the transactions therein related. I only wish for the honour of my village, it had been mentioned, that all the savages of the Lake who were hunting near Oswegatchie, fought under the orders of Captain Forster, with a party of those of St. Regis, Mississagues, and the Five Nations. I can say in praise of the commander, that he kept the savages in such order, that I never saw the laws of humanity better observed; two or three watches, with as many coats taken, could not be objects for such strong complaints. Did it ever happen among the most civilized nations, that in an action, the conquered lost no part of their baggage? According to the laws of war, might not the Canadians have been put to death, who were taken with arms in their hands against their king? Was it not out of compassion to the rebels, that a proposal was made to exchange them, to abridge the time
of

of their misery? Did the officers who were at the Lake, want bread, fresh mear, or fuel? It is true, they were not given beds and cloaths, because there was none in the place; but the officer who was wounded in the thigh, was taken into the house of the Missionaries, who furnished him with every comfort. What then do the Congress mean, by refusing to fulfil a cartel made according to all the laws of equity? I think they have every reason to fear, that, on another occasion, the savages will put all their prisoners to death, and that it will be exceeding difficult to prevent it, seeing the Congress have deceived them.

“ The Congress complain of the cruelty of the savages. I would ask you, Sir, if it was more humane last Fall, when having taken at the attack of Longueil, two savages of my village, they kept them in irons for a month, their feet in the water, on board a sloop. The troops of the Congress came into Canada as friends and allies, What have they done to prove it? They have taken our towns, persecuted the people of distinction who would not desert their king, plundered the warehouses, insulted the ministers of religion, and the houses which they burnt in sight of my village, give evident proof, that a nation revolted against their King, are less suscep-

tible of moderation, than the savages whom they accuse of cruelty. Captain Forster had reason for opposing the savages to the troops of the Congress, and the success has been equal to the justice of his cause; and the interest of some individuals only prevented him from pushing his arms to Montreal. They deceived him with respect to the number and strength of the enemy intrenched at Le Chine, because they had packs of merchandise which they would not sacrifice. Be that as it may, Sir, the relation which you have in hand, cannot but do him much honour, and the trouble which it has cost, appears to me, very worthy of acknowledgments. I have the honour to be, with profound respect,

Sir,

Your most humble,
and most obedient servant,

At the Lake,
Oct. 9th, 1776.

DETARLAYS, minister."

It appears from this letter, that Monsieur Detelaye was particularly desirous of having the savages of his village mentioned in the narrative, because they had been brought to action under the King's standard, and had conducted themselves with great humanity towards

towards the prisoners, notwithstanding two of their own nation had been so cruelly treated by the provincials. This seems to be the only alteration he wished to have made in the relation. He reasons justly on the imprudent conduct of the Congress, for the savages finding no faith could be put in them, were with difficulty restrained, by the humane efforts of Sir Guy Carleton, from committing acts of wanton cruelty, on the innocent and defenceless families, inhabiting the borders of Lake Champlain; and it is much to be feared, in case this painful war should continue another year, and Government be under the necessity of employing the savages, (which must inevitably be the case) that the commanders in America, with all their repugnance to sanguinary measures, will not be able to prevent that destruction, which the Congress have so wantonly provoked, by proceedings dishonourable to any cause. This set of restless and designing men, from motives of private interest, emulation, and envy, have beguiled the multitude into general animosity, hatred, and revenge against the parent state; they have discarded truth, (*the custos virtutum omnium*) and cheated the people of their liberties and

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happiness,

happiness, by leading them to believe, rebellion (the source of misery) would produce unconstrained independence. What charm then can turn this mockery, this grimace of enthusiastic liberty, into sentiments of humanity and candour; or what arguments convince the republican friends of America, how impossible it is, for the weak wiles of the wolf, to overcome the generous strength of the lion?

F I N I S.

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