

delivery of letters there and thereby avoid having those directed to New Paterson go wrongly to Paterson as had frequently happened.

The necessity of having defensible places of refuge for the settlers' along the western frontier of New York becoming more and more apparent to the provincial authorities, Governor Charles Hardy, on January 13, 1756, transmitted to the General Assembly a message calling its attention to the need of the frontier settlements and advising the construction of a number of block-houses along the remote borders of Orange and Ulster counties from Maghaghkemeck northward.

At that time, Philip, the third son of Major Jacobus Swartwout, was residing with his wife and three small children in a log farm-house, standing on the east side of the Mine Road, immediately east of the site of the village of Huguenot, where an unused well still marks the locality of his early home. On February 23, that year, a band of depredating Indians made a sudden descent upon the settlers at Maghaghkemeck, and left many evidences of their barbarity and rapacity to be viewed thereafter by those who had fortunately escaped massacre and captivity. Intelligence of this distressing affliction having been conveyed to Governor Hardy, he, on March 2, sent to the General Assembly a message in which he particularized some of the afflictive acts of the savages :

“ On Tuesday last, about noon, a party consisting of thirty or forty Indians attacked and burnt the house of Philip Swartwout, in Ulster County, murdered five of the people, took a woman prisoner, and destroyed the cattle. \* \* \* \*

“ I therefore earnestly recommend to you to make provision for supporting a sufficient force to drive off the enemy, and pursue them even to the places of their residence or retreat, and thus reduce them to the necessity of desiring peace.”<sup>1</sup>

Many of the sorrowful and impoverishing afflictions which the French and Indian War brought upon the people of the frontier settlements are still unchronicled, and many of the harrowing particulars which tradition long recalled to remembrance have now been forgotten. The capitulation of the city of Quebec, on September 18, 1759, and the surrender of Montreal to the British forces before it, on September 8, 1760, finally closed the sanguinary struggle of France and England for the possession of North America.

<sup>1</sup> English manuscripts in the General Library of the state of New York at Albany, vol. lxxxii., pp. 83, 99.