

Peter Gansevoort, at that time twenty-eight years of age, readily commended him for this particular service, and he, by Major-General Horatio Gates's order, on the twenty-sixth of April, was directed to proceed to Fort Schuyler and take command of it.

The intention of Great Britain to attempt on the line of the northern lakes and the Hudson River the separation of New England from the other colonies, and thereby render inoperative and ineffective the movements of the continental army, began to be practically carried out on the twenty-seventh of March, when Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne departed from London to proceed to Quebec, where he arrived on the sixth day of May. He immediately imparted to Lieutenant-General Sir William Howe, who was in possession of the city of New York, the instructions given him to effect by the way of Lake Champlain and Lake George, a junction with his forces at Albany, after the capture of such forts of the Americans as lay upon the line of his march toward that city.

"The preliminary camp [of Lieutenant-General Burgoyne] was established on the Boquet River, on the western shore of Lake Champlain, and the troops reached that station as early as the twentieth day of June. The Indians, who had been looked upon as valuable auxiliaries, were yet to be secured. In response to a well-circulated appeal, addressed to various tribes, about four hundred Iroquois, Algonquins, Abeenaquies, and Ottawas, met General John Burgoyne in conference on the twenty-first day of June, at his headquarters.

"In view of the odium which was cast upon this officer by an unwise proclamation at that time issued, it is proper to say, that in his address to the warriors who agreed to take up the hatchet for the king, he expressly stated the 'necessity of restraint of their passions, and that they must be under control, in accordance with the religion, laws of warfare, principles, and policy which belonged to Great Britain,' 'positively forbidding bloodshed, when not opposed in arms,' declaring, 'aged men, women, children, and prisoners, sacred from the knife, even in the time of conflict,' and otherwise instructing the savages, that 'the war must not be made as when they went forth alone, but under the absolute will and control of the army of the king.'

"His proclamation to the Americans, as well as his address to the Indian chiefs, assumed all that could possibly be asserted as to the guilt of rebellion; and while extremely pompous and extravagant in language, preshadowed the extreme vengeance of savage auxiliaries if resistance should be prolonged. It was extremely unprofessional, and more in harmony with the abstract political dogmas of the crown than with Burgoyne's own character. Its much ridiculed assertion of personal title, and of royal prerogative, was quite in harmony with