

X For 1637-1675 see H.W.
THIS IS ALSO IN H.W. / 226-245

CHAP. LXXIV.¹

- X *A further continuation of the narrative of the troubles with the Indians in New England, from April 1677 to June 1680.*

AN attempt was made against our Indian enemies, by way of a diversion, in the spring of the last year, 1677, by treating with the Mohawks or Mawques Indians, partly to secure them to be our friends, as hitherto they had been, and partly to see if they could not be induced to prosecute their inbred antipathy against our Indian enemies, with whom they have had a long and deadly feud heretofore. Something was done that way by the help and advice of Major Andros, the Governor of New York; and probably the fear thereof was the only thing that awed the Indians about Pemaquid into a stricter correspondency and more ready compliance with the English; but the truth of this will be judged by the event hereafter.

A long, troublesome, and hazardous journey was undertaken by the Hon. Major Pinchon, of Springfield, and Mr. Richards, of Hartford, in behalf of those two Colonies: they were followed with as much success as they could expect. The Mawque Indians made a great shew of cordial friendship to the English, and bitter enmity || against || the Indians that have risen against them, making large promises of pursuing their quarrel against them, to the uttermost of their power; but distance of the place, and difficulty of the journey, hath prevented any great matter of effect in that kind, as was expected.

For though some of them armed themselves and came down² within the territories of those Indians that have of late so much infested the English Plantations, yet the distance between their own place and that of the other Indians was so great, that they did little execution upon their own ||³ and || our enemies. The most good it is hoped they did, was by the rumor of their coming down upon the backs of our enemies; it being known to be their natural temper to be very fearful of any evil while it is

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¹ LXXIII in the MS.—H.
the neighborhood of Merrimack, N. H. on March 22d, 1676-7, causing no small alarm to the friendly Indians. See N. H. Hist. Coll. iii. 100; Farmer's Belknap, p. 80; Williamson's Maine, i. 548.—H.

² Fifteen of them appeared in

far off, and very stupid and blockish whenever it actually falls upon them.

Some of the country were not well satisfied in the design, as questioning the lawfulness of making use of their help, as they were heathen ; but the General Court, and the most considerate of the country, apprehended it lawful to make use of any advantage Providence put into their hands, whereby to weaken or abate the force and power of their enemies.

Abraham entered into a confederacy with the Amorites, among whom he sojourned, and made use of their assistance to assist him in the vindicating of the quarrel of his kinsman, Lot, and recovering of him and his family out of the hands of the common enemy of them all. That which was now done by the General Court of the Massachusetts was no other. And this further benefit did redound to them thereby, that Blind Will, a sagamore at Pascataqua, that was a secret enemy of the English, and one [that] contrived much of the mischief that was done by the Indians of those parts against the English, was killed by those Mohawks or Mawques, as they ranged through those woods in the beginning of the year 1677, which the English much rejoiced in, although they knew not well how to put him to death themselves, because he pretended a kind of friendship towards them, without provoking the other Indians, his neighbors, against whom they had no such cause of exception.¹

But to return to the other part of the narrative, concerning the further mischief acted by the Indians eastward against the English in those parts.

It was hoped in the beginning of that year, 1677, that the warfare of New England had been accomplished ; but it appeared by the sequel that the storm was not yet over, nor were they as yet called to put on beauty for ashes, or the garments of praise for heaviness. For early in the spring that year, the country was alarmed with the uncomfortable news of the slaughter of nine of the garrison left before winter at Kennebeck, who, going securely to Arowsick Island to inter some of the English, that were left unburied before winter, and not having

¹ See Farmer's Belknap, p. 80 ; Williamson, i. 548.—H.

seen an Indian stir for many weeks together, were apprehensive of no danger till they fell into the same; for, as they went to perform the funeral obsequies to their Christian friends, they were suddenly surprised by a number of Indians that intercepted them, before they could recover their boat, and so all cut off but three or four that hardly escaped by some other way than they came; which doleful accident put the Governor and Council upon a resolution to fetch off the rest of the garrison, not accounting it worth the while to run so much hazard to secure it; so that poor remnant returning back, arrived at Boston with Captain Hunting, who was sent for them, April the 19th, 1677.

The soldiers being thus drawn off from the garrison, more mischief was done by the barbarous enemy in scattering parties down lower towards Pascataqua, for April 6th three were killed at the town of Wells, and April the 12th¹ two more, the one named John Weld, the other Benjamin Storer.

About the same time a man and a boy were fowling in the marshes, and suddenly the boy espied seven Indians coming near them, while the man was mending his flint; but at the notice, suddenly rising, he presently scared them away by holding out his gun and saying, "you rogues, I have been looking for you."

About April the 7th six or seven men were slain by the Indians near York, while they were at work two miles from the town, whereof one was the son of Lieutenant Smith, of Winnisimet, near Boston, a very hopeful young man, who went in his brother's room, yet his brother's turn is to come soon after. April the 14th Simon and Andrew, the two brethren in iniquity, with a few more, adventured to come over Pascataqua River on Portsmouth side, when they burnt one house² within four or five miles of the town, and took a maid and a young woman captive; one of them had a young child in her arms, with which not willing to be troubled they gave leave to her that held it to leave it with an old woman, whom the Indian Simon spared because he said she had

¹ 13th, says Williamson, i. 549.—H.

² The house of "Edward Weymouth, at Sturgeon Creek," says Drake's Book of the Indians, iii. p. 111.—H.

been kind to his grandmother; yet one of the two captives escaped from their hands two days after, as did the other¹ April 22d, who giving notice of the Indians, (being not so narrowly looked to as they used to do others,) thirty soldiers were sent in that pursuit into three places, by one of which the Indians that had done the mischief were to pass, but discovering the English at a distance they escaped away through the woods.

Soon after three more were slain in those woods near Portsmouth, whereof one was riding to give notice of the danger to others in the outparts of the town, which himself it seems could not escape. Two of the men slain were very much lamented, being sober, active young men; but the sword, when it hath its commission, will devour one as well as another.

April 29 an Indian discovered himself near Wells, on purpose, as was judged, to draw out the English into a snare. Lieutenant Swett, that commanded the garrison at that time left for securing the town, sent out eleven of the soldiers under his command to lie in wait in some convenient place; but as they passed along they fell into an ambush of the Indians, who shot down two of *them* and mortally wounded a third. The Lieutenant hearing the guns, sent with all speed upon the enemy, and shot down five or six of them; but was prevented of doing any considerable spoil upon them by the folly of an Irishman that was in his company, who gave the notice of the Lieutenant's approach, by calling out aloud, "here they be, here they be;" for upon that alarm they presently ran all away out of sight, and too fast to be pursued.

May 16 another party of the enemy resolved to try their valor once again upon the garrison at Black Point, not doubting but to carry the place with a bold onset, which they made with much resolution and courage, for they assaulted the garrison three days together, in which space of time they killed three of the English and took one prisoner, whom, as is said, they miserably tormented. The garrison, on the other hand, as stoutly defended themselves, by the courage and valor of Lieutenant Tip-pin, that commanded them, and at last made a successful shot upon an Indian, that was observed to be very

¹ "A young woman from Rawling's house," says Belknap, p. 81. —H.

busy and bold in the assault, whom at that time they deemed to be Simon, the arch villain and incendiary of all the Eastward Indians, but proved to be one almost as good as himself, who was called Mogg, that had been an author of much mischief the year before. The slaughter of him much damped the courage of all his companions, so as they soon after quitted the siege, flying away in eleven canoes towards the eastward; yet five paddled their canoes down towards York, where they killed six of the English and took one captive, May 19 following; and May 23, four days after, one was killed at Wells, and one taken by them betwixt York and Wells; amongst whom was the eldest son of Lieutenant Smith forementioned: his younger brother was slain in the same town not long before; so as their father might well mourn, as Ephraim did of old, for the evil that befell his house, the memorial of which was signalized by the name Beriah, in remembrance thereof, given his next succeeding child.

May 28¹ six Indians that were of the English side, having drunk too much strong liquor, [it] made them sottish and also careless of their lives, so as that next morning they were taken prisoners by the enemy Indians, who carried them twenty miles up into the woods, where they let them loose again, for fear of the Mohawks, whose very name is a terror and dread to them.

Yet still, their malice against us being implacable, they ranged from one town to another, observing where they could do any further mischief; for June 13 two men, upon a surprize, were suddenly shot down, that belonged to Hampton, above two miles distant from the town; for two sprightly young men of the place, hearing guns, mounted their horses and presently made to that place, to see what the matter was, but not looking about them so carefully as they should, were both mortally wounded, whereof one was called Edward Colcot, a sober and well disposed young man, much lamented at his death by all that knew him. He died soon after, if not the next day, of his wounds.²

¹ 27th, says Belknap.—H. ² “The names of the four persons killed, according to the Town Records of Hampton, were *Abraham Colcord*, Jun., *Abraham Perkins*, Jun., *Benjamin Hilliard*, and *Caleb Towle*.” Farmer’s Belknap, p. 82.—H.

The Indians thus making daily inroads upon these weak unfenced places, the Governor and Council resolved to raise new forces, and having had good experience of the faithfulness and valor of the Christian Indians about Natick, armed two hundred of them and sent them, together with forty English, to prosecute the quarrel against those Eastward Indians to the full; but not judging aright of the number of the enemy, they much underdid their business, for besides that the number they sent of English was a great deal too small, those that were chosen this bout, to take their turns in the service abroad, were many of them young, raw, and unexperienced soldiers, who were not able to look danger, much less death, in the face, in cool blood, by which means it came to pass that the enterprise succeeded so ill; for Captain Swett, with Lieutenant Richardson, that was sent with him to command the friendly Indians, coming to Black Point June 28th, he began to try the valor and courage of his company before he had disciplined them, or had any experience of their ability to fight. The very next morning after he had landed his men, understanding by his scouts that many of the enemies were up and down upon the place, he made too much haste to fall upon them, and not mistrusting their number, while he was marching upon the edge of an hill with one party and his Lieutenant with another, the Indians, that had hid themselves in the swamp on each side of the hill, suddenly fired upon the English on both sides, which not a little discouraged his young and undisciplined company, so as they could not or did not keep their ranks, but while some were ready to run and shift for themselves, the Captain strived to keep them together, to bring off the dead and wounded men, so long that he brought himself and all the company in danger of an utter overthrow, which soon after took place; for the poor unskilful soldiers, being scattered, were shifting for themselves, while a few resolute men of courage bore the brunt of the service till they were in a manner all knocked down. The Lieutenant was killed soon after the first onset; the Captain, having received near twenty wounds, yet still held out, defending and encouraging of his men, till he was surrounded with more of his enemies than he was able to grapple

with, and so was at the last barbarously murdered by them within a little of the garrison-house. There were slain at this time somewhat above forty of the English, and twelve of the friendly Indians that assisted, very few escaping but were either killed right out or dangerously wounded. Thus was another summer spent in calamities and miserable occurrences amongst the eastern parts. Yet was not this all the miseries that the poor English had to endure this year; for after the poor husbandmen and planters had drunk their full share of the cup of affliction, that the other sort, who trade by sea, and use to follow fishing upon those eastern parts, might not take themselves to be secure, or think better of themselves than their brethren, who had suffered all the calamities forementioned, July 15th news came of several ketches that were surprised, as they lay secure in the harbors whither they used to turn in upon every occasion as they were making their fishing-voyages. There were near twenty of those fishing ketches thus surprised first and last, most of which carried five or six men apiece, but they being many of them a dull and heavy-moulded sort of people, that had not either skill or courage to kill any thing but fish, were easily taken, and had not heart enough either to make resistance when first attacked, nor afterward to make any attempt for an escape to free themselves, as some did, and so delivered themselves, with the slaughter of them that held them prisoners aboard their own vessels, when some others, that had more courage and spirit than the rest, were sadly destroyed for want of courage in them that were in their vessels, to stand by them while they were attempting to deliver themselves, which was the case of one or two of the vessels, whose companions were all cut off by that means.

But the Indians finding their inability to manage such kind of vessels, much too heavy for them to wield with paddles, grew soon after weary of that sport, and were pretty willing to return the vessels to the English, after they had pillaged out of them what was for their turn. The merchants about Salem, to whom the said ketches principally belonged, fitted up a vessel in the nature of

a man-of-war, which they had furnished with several resolute, stout hands, but they were strangely disappointed of coming up with any of the Indian mariners, so that they were forced to return without doing any considerable execution upon them.

During these troubles Major Andros, the Governor of New York, being willing to secure the interest of his Highness the Duke of York in those parts, lest, in the absence of the English, some foreign nation should take the advantage of possessing themselves of any part of the dominions belonging to our nation, timely sent a sloop¹ with a considerable number of soldiers to the parts about Pemaquid, which when the Indians, that had all this while been up in rebellion, understood, they were at the last willing to fall into a kind of amity and friendship. In the beginning of August news of this overture came to the Massachusetts, the comfort of which was not a little augmented by the certain information that came soon after of fifteen English captives returned to the soldiers of Major Andros, and hopes of a general peace; and the confirmation thereof was more increased by the news of the return of the rest of the vessels, that were taken by the enemy, into the hands of the English. In which posture were things left in those parts in the beginning of winter, and nothing of another nature was discoursed in the end of February following, nor yet in the end of June that next ensued.

But the tragical sufferings of the poor English are not as yet all accomplished in other parts of the country, for about September the 19th following, forty or fifty River Indians fell suddenly upon the town of Hatfield, about Connecticut, who were a little too secure, and too ready to say the bitterness of death was past, because they had neither seen nor heard of any enemy in those parts for half a year before. But at this time, as a considerable number of the inhabitants of that small village were employed in raising the frame of an house without the palisadoes, that defended their houses from any sudden incursions of the enemy, they were violently and sud-

¹ In August, says Belknap.—K.

denly assaulted by forty or fifty Indians, when they were in no capacity to resist or defend themselves, so as several were shot down from the top of the house which they were raising, and sundry were carried away captive, to the number of twenty or more, which was made up [to] twenty-four with them they carried away the same or the next day from Deerfield,¹ whither some of the inhabitants had unadvisedly too soon returned. One of the company escaped out of their hands two or three days after, who informed that they had passed with their poor captives two or three times over the River of Connecticut to prevent being pursued. It was said, also, that about a fortnight after the same Indians attempted to take a mill at Hadley, two miles from the town, and missing their end, pretended a kind of parley, and promised to return those they had captivated a little before; but it proved but one of their usual deceits, whereby they were wont to abuse the English; for where, or in what condition, those captives are at present, must be the subject of the reader's prayers rather than of the author's story.

Yet, since the writing of the premises, Benjamin Wait and Stephen Jennings, two men of Hatfield, whose wives were amongst the number of the forementioned captives, having obtained a commission from the government of the Massachusetts, pursued after them in the depth of winter, (though not with such a number as those with which Abram pursued after the army that carried captive his kinsman, Lot,) and overtook them about Canada, and, by the help of the French there seated, recovered their wives, with other captives, which they brought back by way of ransom, and not by force of arms.

Their adventure being attended with so many difficulties and dangers, in the depth of winter, not to be paralleled with any attempt of that nature since the English came into those parts, wherein they were surely led along by a divine *nutus*, as well as by the innate love to their wives, (which would have afforded matter for a large fiction to some of the ancient poets,) is as followeth from their own mouths. On the 24th of October,

¹ See in Drake's *Tragedies of the Wilderness*, (12mo, Bost. 1844.) pp. 60-8, the "Narrative of Quintin Stockwell, who was taken at Deerfield by a party of Inland Indians, in the year 1677."—H.

1677, they advanced towards Westfield, and from thence to Albany, where they arrived the Thursday seven-night after, distant at least two hundred miles from Boston, and instead of being encouraged and furthered in so commendable an enterprise, they were by force and strong hand, after two or three attempts to pass on towards Canada, (whither it was conceived their wives, with the other captives, were carried by the Indians,) carried back above twenty miles from Sconektoket * to Albany, where they were detained prisoners till they could be sent down to the Governor of New York, upon pretence of an order at that very time newly come from the said Governor, that none, either Christian or Pagan, should go that way to the French, but first to be sent down to him, which was about one hundred miles down Hudson's River. Being thither brought, it appeared he had little to say to them, and at last, by the intercession of Captain Brockhurst, they were sent back again to Albany with a pass. It was now the 19th of November before they recovered that stage.

And there also they met with no small discouragements, by rumors and other false suggestions, sufficient to have diverted the most constant undertakers from their purpose, had they not been carried with an invincible resolution. Thereabouts they tarried till about the 10th of December, in expectation of having the Lakes, over which they were to pass, frozen hard enough to bear them. They found no small difficulty in procuring a pilot; Captain Salisbury, the Governor there, discouraging a Frenchman which they had hired from undertaking that service, so as they were forced to agree with a Mohawk Indian to conduct them to the first Lake, which was sixteen leagues over, which he faithfully performed. It was about the 16th of December when they came thither; they found it open, but their pilot finding a canoe, fitted it up for them and drew for them a draught of the Lakes by which they were to pass. They were three days passing the first Lake, and then carrying the canoe upon their backs two miles over a neck of land, they entered the Great Lake, which, the second day, they

* Schenectady.—ED.

hoping to trust to the ice, left their canoe, but having travelled one day upon the ice they were forced to return back to fetch their canoe, and then went by water till they came to the land, being windbound six days in the interim; so as they made it about the first of January, having travelled three days without a bit of bread, or any other relief but of some raccoon's flesh, which they had killed in an hollow tree. On the 6th of January they came to Shampley,* a small village of ten houses, belonging to the French; only by the way they met with a bag of biscuit and a bottle of brandy in an empty wigwam, with which they were not a little refreshed; and in travelling towards Sorrell, fifty miles distant from thence, they came to a lodging of Indians, amongst whom was Steven Jennings's wife, by whom they understood how hard it was with the rest, yet resolved, according to advice, to give them good words, and hastened to bargain for their redemption. At Sorrell they found five more of the captives, two of which the Indians had pawned for drink; the remainder of them were in the woods. From this place they had two hundred miles to Kebeck,† which in the next place they travelled to, where they were civilly entertained by the French Governor, who at the last granted them a guard of eleven persons towards Albany, whither they began to march on the 19th of April, 1678, and arrived there about the middle of May following, having spent sixteen days upon the Lake, two days in crossing the neck of land betwixt the upper branches of Canada and Hudson's River, which they came swiftly down in two days more; the rest of the time they spent in hunting. They tarried at Albany from Wednesday, May 22d, till Monday following, from which they came on foot twenty miles to Vanterhook, where they were met with horses and men that carried them safely to Westfield, a few days after. They brought with them nineteen captives, which had been carried away by the Indians September before. Their ransom cost above £200, which was gathered by contribution among the English.

* Chamblee.—Ed.

† Quebeck.—Ed.