

1708. end to war by such means, and I wish all men thought as I do on the matter."¹

Pitre Schuiler was a very worthy man, and here expressed only his real sentiments; but he was sufficiently aware of all that had occurred during the last fifty years in that part of America, to know that it was the English who drove us to the stern necessity of letting our Indians act as New England did theirs. He could not be in ignorance of the horrors to which the Iroquois had gone at their instigation during the last war; that even at Boston the French and Abénaquis held as prisoners were treated with an inhumanity little inferior to the cruelties of which he complained so bitterly; that the English had more than once violated the right of nations, and capitulations signed in the best forms, while the prisoners of that nation received none but good treatment from us and our allies.

It was also easy to prove that neither the French nor their Indians had ever resorted to the cruelties he reproached them with except in retaliation; and that before determining to resort to this means to stop the barbarities used by the Iroquois to our officers, our missionaries and our settlers, and the ill-treatment to which the Bostoners subjected our allies, and our own people, the most illustrious in New France, had long been allowed to shed unavailing tears. But what was inexcusable on his part, was that at the very moment that he was endeavoring to disarm the Christian Iroquois, he was employing every possible means to induce the pagan Iroquois to take up arms against us, although he could not doubt that the latter would carry much further than the former, the very furies he detested.²

¹ Peter Schuyler to Vandreuil, 26 Sept. O.S., 7 Oct. N.S., 1708. N. Y. C. D., ix., p. 818. The letter is very plausible, but sounds queer coming from the very man who initiated the use of Indians against whites in war. At this very time his object was to break up the neutrality sought by

the French, and plunge New York into an Indian war. The N. Y. MSS. Eng., vol. 53 p. 80, have '1709, May 23, Commission. Col. Peter Schuyler to command all the Indians in the Expedition against Canada.'

² On May 6, 1708, Francis de La-