

English government, and the arbitrary acts of her governors and military commandants. And when we add to these causes of dislike and alienation, the recollection that for many years a sanguinary war had been waged between France and England for the avowed purpose of gaining ascendancy in, and exercising exclusive sovereignty over, this very country—the *birth-right of the natives*, it is not wonderful that the latter should favor the people whom they viewed as friends, and take sides against the English, whom they had always considered as their worst enemies. During the period of English sovereignty over the country, this state of things scarcely changed. That period was marked by constant out-breaks, and frequent sanguinary conflicts between the whites and Indians.

At the termination of the American Revolution, the whole extent of territory lying between the Canadas, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi, was to have been surrendered to the new Republic. The formal surrender, however, was delayed on various pretexts by the English government; and many of the forts, trading posts and settlements were withheld for several years after the time stipulated for their delivery; and we can well imagine, that during this period, no pains were spared by the emissaries of the English, to keep alive the jealous feelings of the Indians, and incite them to hostilities with those whom they believed had come to expel them from their country, and destroy and exterminate them as a people. The English differed from the French in many particulars, but especially in their taciturn dispositions and unsocial habits. The character of the Americans was still more marked, and in many respects obnoxious to the Indians. They came as conquerors, and assumed the government of a country and people originally free and independent. They asserted that the country was theirs by conquest, and that the natives were but tenants at sufferance. They assumed the right to fell the forest, till the soil, and destroy the game, the sole dependence of the people who inherited this beautiful region—the gift of the Great Spirit whom they worshipped and adored.