

head of the Western department in place of Monckton, who had been summoned to New York. The principal incidents at the posts were frequent conferences with the Indians concerning English prisoners, some hundreds of whom were yet in the hands of the savages; and the arrival and departure of traders, who, seeking licenses from the military officers, were soon on their way to the tribesmen whose custom they had so long desired. Nothing more was now heard from Mackinac and the far Western posts, save that two tribes came to Detroit in December in a starving condition for want of ammunition. The change of political ownership was, however, slowly creating distrust and dissatisfaction. The methods of English traders were not as conciliatory as those of the French, although their prices were often more satisfactory; the British officers were less experienced than their predecessors in dealing with the red men; and the British governmental policy was parsimonious in the matter of Indian presents.

In June Capt. Donald Campbell discovered at Detroit a considerable plot to surprise the posts and capture the garrisons. This conspiracy appeared to emanate from the Seneca, but the Shawnee and Delawares readily entered therein, whereas the nations at Detroit proved adverse. Prompt measures in removing the traders' stores at Sandusky, and warning all the Ohio posts by runners, broke up the incipient revolt.<sup>1</sup>

It was now deemed advisable to send reinforcements to the upper country. The British superintendent of Indian affairs, Sir William Johnson,<sup>2</sup> deemed it wise to hold a treaty at De-

<sup>1</sup> For the documents concerning this conspiracy, see *Mich. Pion. and Hist. Colls.*, xix, pp. 78, 81-90.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> Sir William Johnson was a native of Ireland (1715). Coming to America at an early age, he settled in the Mohawk valley, and having been adopted by the Iroquois became the most noted and successful Indian agent in the British colonies. During the French and Indian War he maintained the Eastern Iroquois in the English interests. Commander at the battle of Lake George (1755), he was for his success made baronet and awarded a large land grant. Throughout the war he was active in military operations and secured the surrender in