

what dependance he might have on any of their Castles joining him, on the Services he may undertake, and we might also know what Indians would join the Crown Point Expedition, the uncertainty of General Shirley's going to Oswego, before the Arrival of the Commander in Chief gave me reason to think calling them together could not interfere with the Meeting he proposed holding with them there.

As I judged it necessary for his Majesty's Service to have this General Meeting as early as possible I sent an Express to Sir William Johnson, and desired him to consult with the two Mohawk Castles and any other Indians he might have with him, and propose this meeting to them and if he found them inclined to it, and that it would not be inconvenient to the more distant Castles to send to them, and appoint the time for their coming down to Albany or Schenectady, and to give me the earliest notice that I might be up in time. By the same express I wrote to General Shirley and gave him my opinion and reasons for calling the Indians together, and desired he would consider them, and give Johnson his opinion upon it, my Express is not yet returned but since I sent him, I have received a Letter from Sir William of the twenty third May Inclosing an Extract of a Speech made him by a principal Oneida Sachem, a Copy of which I here inclose you, the latter part relates principally to a person living in your Government whose conduct I don't doubt you will enquire into, I find the Indians are full of Complaints against people of this M^cKees cast, who take great pains in going among the Indians to stir up their Jealously, forging strange Accounts, and Magnifying the strength of the French, to such a degree, that must intimidate them, Sir William Johnson acquaints me in this Letter that M^r Hawley a Missionary to the Aughquage Indians informs him "that there are a great number of Deserters from M^r Shirleys and Sir William Pepperell's Regiments who keep up and down the Susquahannah, and do a World of Mishief by their malicious lyes amongst the Indians, there are several of them among the six nations and endeavour to set them against the English, One very lately got to Oneida and not only endeavoured to enflame those Indians against the English, who he told them were determined to cut them all off, but advised them now Oswego was short of Provisions, to destroy the Communication to that Garrison, he put the Oneidas into such a ferment that Canaghquayeson (the Sachem who made the Inclosed Speech) came down to me chiefly to enquire into these matters, and to give me this Information."

I hope General Shirley upon the above representation that Johnson has made him, will offer handsome rewards to the Indians to take up and carry to the Garrisons all those desert-