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1865)
From oil portrait by
n Historical Society

p. 171-3
#49

ns against the character of
 used a part of the preceding
 ed to declare that Burgoyne
 ander as had been believed;
 te General against this Can-

on great part of the winter,

It is for the sake of truth
 friend of mine. His name is
 an of the French in the last
 a leader of the Indians. He
 been formerly instrumental
 liers upon the very ground
 attitude, he was this year em-
 d practice, artful, ambitious
 d me for controlling him in
 e, it was natural to his char-
 al favor, by any censure in
 ole General. He was often
 ord George Germain); and
 not been examined here, I
 use, what this man has pre-
 ndians. I know, in private
 at the Indians might have
 charged. Sir, if to restrain
 nem, I take with pride the
 eumstance apart, I should
 : at the head of them, de-

ounded, that he had indeed
 ich the latter had declared
 er with regular troops; but
 or to have taken the meas-
 ill. In short, St. Luc had
 ave man; but he is as heavy

General Burgoyne reached

Σ, p. 1181. † Ibid, p. 1195.

de la Corne St. Luc, he replied to it by a very vigorous letter, dated at Quebec, October 23, 1778, which appeared in French, in the London papers. It produced an impression far from favorable to the cause of his accuser. In this letter, St. Luc says to General Burgoyne, that he has no right to treat him so indecorously; that his origin is as good as his own—his adversary was a natural son—that his fifty years of service were ample demonstration that he had never shrunk from the dangers of war, and that he had achieved a reputation long before he, Burgoyne, had had an opportunity to destroy one of the finest armies that had ever come into the country. He added, that if the Indians had little by little deserted the English army, it was because Burgoyne had not given them enough attention, nor taken sufficient care of them. In the affair at Bennington, August 16, 1777, when several hundred of the English were killed or taken prisoners, among whom were a good number of savages; the Indians were astonished to see, for instance, that Burgoyne sent no detachment to rally the stragglers of the vanquished body, or to succor the wounded, of whom many died.

“This conduct,” says St. Luc, “did not give them a very high idea of the care that you would take of those who fought under your orders. The indifference which you manifested as to the fate of the Indians who took part in this [Bennington] expedition, to the number of a hundred and fifty, disgusted them to the last degree with the service; for a large number of savages had perished on the battle-field with their redoubtable chief, and of sixty-one Canadians, forty-five only escaped death.”*

In the council which was held after this unfortunate affair, St. Luc informed Burgoyne of the discontent of the savages, which very soon broke out in so open a manner, that they left the English camp altogether, because Burgoyne refused them provisions, shoes, and the services of an interpreter.

“Respecting the reason for having deserted the army,” says St. Luc to Burgoyne, “you should recollect that it is you who were the cause of my departure; for, two days after the savages had left, you saw your error, and Brigadier-General Fraser had already foreseen the consequences of your conduct in regard to the savages.

* Captain F. Montague, who took part in Burgoyne's campaign, declared, when questioned by a Committee of the House of Commons, on the 1st of June, 1779, that many savages quitted the army at different times after the defeat at Bennington, which corroborates the assertion of St. Luc on this point. See *State of the Expedition from Canada*, p. 75.

You then sent for me to come to the Brigadier's tent, and you asked me to return to Canada, bearing dispatches to General Carleton praying His Excellency to treat the Indians with kindness, and to send them back to you. This I did, and I should have joined the army, had not the communications been interrupted.

"Be that as it may, notwithstanding my advanced age, sixty-seven years, I am ready to cross the ocean to justify myself before the King, my master, and before my country, from the ill-founded accusation that you have brought against me, although I do not at all care what you personally think of me."

This letter, full of noble pride, received no reply that we know of, and Burgoyne contented himself with making a soothing allusion in a speech which he made before the house of commons, the fourteenth of the following December.

While justifying himself thus completely, St. Luc at the same time revealed in its true light Langlade's conduct in this campaign; for, bound together by a close friendship, holding similar positions, they acted under the same inspiration, and had in view only the true interests of the cause for which they fought. If neither was well understood by General Burgoyne, his want of tact and justice towards them, were only too fully avenged at a later period.

The Indian allies of the English at the end of the year 1778, received orders to assemble at l'Arbre Croche, in Michigan, to reinforce Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton who was marching against the American General Clark. The latter had taken possession of the whole region of the Illinois, and it was important that opposition to further encroachments should be organized with all possible speed. His army, which was small, included two French companies; one commanded by Captain M'Carty, and the other, from Kaskaskia, by Captain Charleville.

The Indians, however, seemed not at all anxious to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of either cause. Neither the English, nor the Americans had taken means to enlist their sympathies; and they had reason to keep aloof from a war entirely foreign to their interests, and whose only effect would be to decimate them still further.

Pierre Queret, and Gautier de Vierville, Langlade's nephew, went each in turn, to attend a grand council at Milwaukee, to urge the savages to l'Arbre Croche; but they were obstinate, and would not

take up the tomahawk. Langlade then resolved to make a more successful attempt. His arguments were unavailing; but familiar with all the usages and superstitions of the savages, he availed himself of them at this juncture. He erected a lodge in the midst of the Indian village, with a door at each end; he then had several dogs killed, preparatory to the dog feast, and placed the still quivering heart of one of these animals on a stick at each opening. This done, he invited the savages to the dog feast, of which they are very fond. Afterwards he chanted a war song, and passing around the lodge from one door to the other, tasted at each a piece of dog's heart. This signified that if brave hearts beat in the bosoms of the Indians, they would follow his example, and accompany him to war. It was an ancient custom, and they recognized the force of Langlade's appeal; so one after another they chanted the old war song, and directed their steps in large numbers to l'Arbre Croche.

A grand council was afterwards held, during which heated speeches were made. The Indian force commanded by Langlade and de Vierville embarked promptly in the numerous canoes on Lake Michigan to go and join the English troops. Upon arriving at St. Joseph, Langlade learned with regret that his efforts were useless; for Lieutenant-Governor Henry Hamilton, had been obliged to surrender fort Sackville on the twenty-fourth of February, 1779, and had been taken prisoner by Colonel Clark. The Indians who had been led to hope for more than one rich trophy as a result of the campaign they had undertaken, returned to l'Arbre Croche utterly disappointed, not bringing back a single scalp.

As this was the last American expedition into the West, Langlade had nothing further to do with this war, which ended in the independence of the United States.

Langlade was always, during these different campaigns, accompanied by several lieutenants who, with rare courage, shared his good and evil fortune. Chief among these heroes was his nephew, Gautier de Vierville, who has often been mentioned in the course of this narrative. This man of tried courage gave Langlade many proofs of his entire devotion to him. He was present at Braddock's defeat, and in the terrible battle of the Plains of Abraham where he fought like a lion. He afterwards took part in the Revolutionary War, during which his courageous conduct earned him