

## THE INDIAN FORTS

the farmers in gathering their harvests, with his limited force during the month of July, until its abrupt termination on July 21st, we find numerous entries in his journal of detachments sent to guard the harvesters. The available soldiers, however, were certainly too few for the duties required of them, and we can readily understand the appeal for more aid during the Conference with the Indians at Easton in July, 1757, when a treacherous attack on the Governor was feared. Col. Weiser sent in haste to Fort Hamilton and Fort North for a detachment of troops to augment the town guard. This also tended to weaken, temporarily, the force at the former point.

After this the inroads of the Indians became less frequent. Continuous efforts were made to bring about peace with the various tribes, and the Delawares especially were generally won over to the British side. As a consequence it was practically determined to virtually abandon the Forts at the Minsi sink region, and, in the Spring of 1758, Lieut. Hyndshaw, then in command of Fort Hamilton, was ordered south of the mountains to Teed's Block House near Wind Gap. Hearing of this contemplated action the settlers sent the following petition to Gov. Denny:

"The Petition of the Distressed Inhabitants of Lower Smithfield Township, in the County of Northampton, most Humbly Sheweth:

That your Honours petitioners are under some apprehensions that the Company of Soldiers, Commanded by James Hyndshaw, are to be removed from their present Station, and of our being left in a Defenceless posture; That your Petitioners have had Intelligence of a Body of upwards of Three Hundred French and Indians that are coming Down to Distress the Frontiers of this province, and as this part at present seems the most Defenceless, it is very probable that we shall be the first attacked; That your petitioners have at present but 12 men allowed by the province, which we Humbly apprehend can afford us but little assistance; and further, we Humbly Conceive that in case we were attacked by so large a party we must inevitably fall an easy prey to our Cruel Savage Enemy, unless your Honour is pleased to afford us a Reinforce-

## OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

297

... which we flatter ourselves we are assured of, your Honour having Hitherto since your Succession to this province, shed a very Fatherly Care over us, for which we return most hearty thanks; and further, we being well assured next to Divine Providence your Honour is our protector. Submit our Circumstances to your Superior Knowledge for us, who as Loyal Subjects are Determined with your Honour's assistance to stand against any Enemy that attempt to invade us, and your Honour's petitioners as in and Bound Shall ever pray."

William McNab.

Edward Connor.

Robert Hannah,

Daniel McIntosh.

Michael Shower,

John Williamson,

James Garlinghousing.

John Higgins.

Isaac Flack,

Enoch Freeland.

John Drake.

Jeremiah Flenner.

Adam Snail,

Francis Delong.

(Penn. Arch. iii. p. 357.)

These alarms were unfortunately based on something more than mere rumor. The Mohawk Indians were still inclined to side with the French and in June, 1758, had formed quite a party to attack the Minsink settlement. Teedjuscung and the Delawares endeavored to persuade them from their purpose, succeeding, however, only in part. Some of the enemy adhered to their purpose, and committed depredations above the vicinity of Fort Hamilton, which then seems to have been without a garrison. To the credit of the settlers it must be said that from the very outbreak of hostilities in 1755 they showed a determination to defend themselves and not give way to the Indians, perhaps more so than at most other localities, and this too notwithstanding the fact that the protec-

526 29