CONCLUSION

During this period of one hundred seventy years, there was continuous contact between European and Indian society on the moving frontier belt of North America. In Pennsylvania the groups which met were in relatively parallel political positions, as both the Province and the tribes which treated with it were self-governing bodies but were not as independent as they wished of powers which claimed suzerainty over them.

Their contact was concerned with their joint occupancy of the frontier area, which was moved westward as the white men needed and obtained the Indians' land, and with their complementary roles in the fur trade, upon which the Indians' way of life was based. Because at various times each group needed something which the other could offer, and because occasionally the existence of one or the other seemed to it in jeopardy, there were frequent official contacts between them. Despite these many councils and treaties, neither group understood the other's interests or behavior.

The Indian and the colonist saw a few of the elements of their relationship in the same light, because certain obvious facts could not be ignored and left little room for interpretation. Occasionally an individual from one society saw some aspect of the other more clearly than its own members

could because he was not intimately concerned with the events he observed. This does not mean that his judgment was free of bias, only that it was free of the particular bias prevalent among those judged.

In general, however, they did not understand each other and particularly did not understand that the relationship was not the same for both parties. Their behavior was guided by their own concerns, by the outside pressures upon them, and upon their understanding of the relationship between them. Their concerns and pressures differed, which both realized. They did not realize that their understandings of the relationship differed, and that they were essentially acting upon each other independently of the other's desires and comprehensions.

The cases examined here, and the general narrative of their dealings with each other illustrate the insulated nature of their picture of the relationship which vitally concerned both. Knowing that these viewpoints were different, and how they differed, helps us to explain events and behavior which were not understood or were misconstrued by the participants.

The history of the Pennsylvania frontier shows that two peoples can inhabit the same area, be in contact with each other, and intimately affect each other's destiny, and yet live in separate worlds.

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