

Our Ministry were the more vigorous in their Measures from certain Informations that the *French* were fitting out a formidable Armament at *Brest*, on Board of which were to be embarked 4000 Land Forces, destin'd for *America*.

Their Vigilance was no less conspicuous in preventing the *French* Fleet from being victualled with Beef and Pork from *Ireland*, where 6000 Barrels, ready to be shipped off, were seized, and an Embargo laid to prevent any from being exported; which was certainly a very prudent Measure, as it retarded the Expedition from *Brest*, and obliged their Victuallers to take the Provisions out of their Merchantmen for the Use of their Men of War.

Here it will be proper to take Notice of their Politic Management through the whole Course of this Affair. Ever since the Peace of *Aix la Chapelle*, Disputes had subsisted concerning the Limits and Boundaries of the *English* and *French* Territories in *North America*. In order to settle and adjust these Differences Commissaries had been appointed on the Part of *Great Britain* to meet at *Paris* and confer with the *French* Ministry, in order to examine the Pretensions on both Sides and settle Things in an amicable Manner. These Conferences were carried on, at Times, for upwards of two Years, and great Hopes were conceived of a happy Conclusion without coming to Blows. The *French*, however, were far from having any such Design. For at the very Time, and during this long Negotiation, they were constantly sending Supplies to *Canada*, to enable their People there to proceed in and make good their Encroachments upon the *British* Plantations, as they actually did. One Squadron of their Men of War was sent out under Pretence of chastizing the *Algerines*, but in a short Time slipt away for *America*; besides many single Ships that stole away imperceptibly for the same Quarter, full freighted with Provisions and Forces for the same laudable Purpose. Thus while they were amusing us with a Treaty, they were actually extending their Frontiers, and daily encroaching upon our *American* Settlements, and planning Schemes to drive us entirely from that Continent.

At length their Designs were so manifest, that a Man must be stark blind, or shut his Eyes against the plainest Evidence, who could not see through them. The Danger that threatened on all Sides, at last alarmed our Ministry, and put them upon the most vigorous Measures to repel it.

The