

ber of ships taken by those of the french. The affairs of North America wore the same gloomy aspect that distinguished the appearance of its mother country in Europe.

There the french were still victorious, at least they were quite successful in their plan of operations in that country, which was by any means to secure to themselves the sole trade and navigation of all the great lakes and rivers, on the back of the english settlements: to effect this, they had already made very great advances; they had usurped all the immense tract of lands on the river Ohio, and secured it for the present by the important fortress of du Quesne; they had secured another tract by building the fort at Crown Point, and fort Cohasset; they had erected a multitude of small forts on all the passes of the lakes to awe the indians and command their trade, those of Niagara and Frontenac, were the most considerable; the frontiers of the Carolina's were awed and curbed by fort Condé, besides many other forts of less consequence singly, but of great importance all together, as they connected the chain, which commanded all the frontiers of the english settlements, from Nova Scotia to Georgia. And what added greatly to the strength and formidableness of the french in North America, was the divided state of the english colonies, whereas those of the french were all connected in one general government, under the absolute military controul of the governor general of Canada. It was under these great and manifest disadvantages, that the new year, 1756, was opened in North America.

General Shirley still continued commander in chief. I left him at New York, having settled with the grand council held there, the plan of operations, which the reader may remember in my 4th chapter; he set out for Albany and arrived there the 7th of may, and continuing his preparations till the 25th,