

to trace things somewhat farther back than the treaty of Aix la Chapelle.

The Ohio, otherwise called Belle-Riviere, or the Fair River, forms a natural communication between Canada, and the Louisiana, by the Lake Erie. The French who were concerned in the discovery, and the maintaining this communication, were the first who surveyed this river, of which the fleur de la Salle, a gentleman of Normandy, had visited a part in 1679. In 1712, the king, in the letters-patent for the settlement of Louisiana, comprehended the river Wabachie, which discharges itself into the Ohio; and in general all the rivers which fall into the Mississippi. Since that time, the Ohio had been frequented by the French only; and the English never laid claim to the countries which it runs through. The Apalachian mountains had always been considered as the boundaries of their colonies.

The English ministry, who never missed an opportunity of distressing the trade of France, envied her for a long time this communication which she stood so much in need of. In 1749, some English traders began to carry on a contraband trade on the Ohio, and it was discovered that they were tampering with the Indians, in order to induce them to a war with France. The count de la Galissoniere dispatched from Canada to these parts the fleur Georod, an officer of Canada, with directions

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