

west of the apalachian mountains; the English never had either forts or factories in those places, nor had the court of London formed even a project of any settlement on that side; nor was there the least mention made of this country, either in the negotiations which had preceded the treaty of Utrecht, or in those which had given occasion to the peace of Aix-la Chapelle.

From the settling this commission, and the mutual engagements which had preceded, it was imagined that the court of London would issue to the governors of the English colonies in America, such orders as were agreeable to the stipulations made in Europe: It was of the greatest consequence to the tranquillity of both nations, to put an early stop to these petty desertions, which in time might give rise to differences of a more serious nature. We shall here take a short view of the disputes, which had preceded the appointment of commissaries. M. Mascarens, an English commander wanted to compel the French Inhabitants of the River St. John, to swear fealty to the king of England. These people intimidated by menaces, made applications to the count de la Galissoniere, who in order to remove their fears, sent an officer with a small detachment of soldiers, and of the milicians of Canada. M. de la Galissoniere, had after that not only complained by letter to Mr. Mascarens of this attempt; but also endeavoured

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