

this their situation that made them take that otherwise desperate step to secure the river Ohio in 1753, and has made them so successful in it. For this they began to prepare themselves immediately after the treaty of *Aix la Chapelle*, by securing and fortifying *Niagara* that leads to that river ; and by strengthening and settling themselves at *Sandofki*, the river *Miamis*, and *Detroit*, about lake *Eric* ; and gaining an interest with the natives there, which support and command the river *Ohio*. All those settlements they had to back and support them there, and about fort *du Quesne*, when they seized that place ; while we had only some straggling settlements on the *Ohio*, with a small fort building there, but hardly garrisoned, at a great distance from our other more secure settlements, and separated from them by the mountains. By this means they could hardly fail to secure the river *Ohio*, by one stroke, as we see they did.

By that step they set down between us and all the natives of North America, who reside only upon those our frontiers : and by means of fort *du Quesne*, and *Niagara*, they intercepted our communication entirely with all the natives of that continent, except a few *Iroquois* and *Cherokees*, by which they have all the Indians of that whole continent in a manner to join with them, and support them, who have done us more mischief than the French them-