

cessary to secure that ; the cause of their rash and bold attempt upon it.

This they first attempted immediately after the treaty of *Aix la Chapelle*, when they sent 500 men to the *Ohio* under *Mr. Celeron* in 1749. But not succeeding then, and being drove from it by the Indians, they have been securing their way to it ever since. For this purpose they rebuilt and strengthened the fort of *Niagara* in 1751, the key to all their designs, and especially to the *Ohio*. At the same time they gave great encouragement to all that would settle any where on lake *Erie*, and planted many of their disbanded soldiers and others there at that time. These were settled chiefly about *Detroit*, the river of the *Miamis*, and *Sandoski*, on the west end and south side of that lake, convenient to the Indians ; for a trade with whom it was imagined those places were chiefly seated. But the French court seem to have other views. Finding our people encrease and multiply daily on the river *Ohio*, they sent a party of men to take possession of that river in 1753, and cut off all our farther progress in North America, and communication with all the natives in it, by that step.

By this means they have already carried their grand point in view, and accomplished their