

out of our present difficulties, or prevent the like for the future ; curb the growing power of the French, or retrieve the losses we have sustained from it ; we should sift their designs to the bottom ; prevent every step they take to accomplish them ; and oppose system to system ; the chief design of the present discourse.

The many views and designs of the French in all parts of America may be reduced to the following heads :

I. To get possession of Nova Scotia, and to annex that extensive province to Cape Breton. This seems to be their chief aim, and principal point in view ; for which they chiefly engaged in this present war with Britain. This they have had in view ever since the year 1719, when they conceived such extravagant hopes of North America, as if it was to be another Mexico and Peru ; upon which they began to dispute our limits here, and every where else in North America.

The expectations they have always had from the French that were left in Nova Scotia after the treaty of Utrecht, have always given them hopes of regaining this province some time or other. They seem to have been confirmed in those hopes by the trial they had of them in the last war, when they openly declared for the French, or secretly abetted their interest every where.

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