

with the eastern Indians. The remainder of this year was chiefly spent in repeated representations to the ministry, of the dangerous situation of the British provinces; with the absolute necessity of a powerful assistance from Britain to baffle the designs of the French.

## C H A P. II.

*Naval transactions. Defeat of general Braddock, with other American affairs. Transactions in Europe till the year 1756.*

**I**N the beginning of the 1755 both nations were vigorously employed in naval preparations. And indeed the British were more forward by sea than by land, that being their natural element; and, if that nation would more confine its military views by land, and extend them more by sea, they would soon convince their neighbours how impolitic it would be to break with them. The French laid a general embargo on all the ports of France, to man with the utmost expedition, a strong squadron, and a number of transports to carry troops to America; this they did, as well to support the encroachments they had made, as to make larger and more considerable ones. Notwithstanding these preparations were actually making, and the sequel discovered that this was the view; yet did the French ministry, with the most unparalleled effrontery, at this time positively assert, that no preparations were making, and that no hostility was intended by them against Great Britain or her dependencies. The preparations, however, became so notorious, that they could be no longer concealed: Mirepoix, the French ambassador, was upbraided at St. James's with being insincere, and the proofs of his court's double dealing was laid before him. He appeared to be struck with them, and complained bitterly of his being imposed upon; he went in person over to France, and reproached the ministry for having made him their tool. They referred him to their king, who ordered him to return to England with fresh assurances of friendship; but he had scarcely delivered them, when

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