

slip out of our Hands, and arm the Hands of our Enemies against us. Nor must this be looked upon as only meer Speculation, or raising Phantoms of improbable Danger. The Pertinacity, with which the *French* Crown insisted on the Restitution of the Island of *Cape-Breton*, when taken from them in the War before the last,—the enormous Sums expended in fortifying it for, and defending it in the last War,—and the Reluctance with which they gave up their Claim to it, after it had been again taken from, and was evidently impossible to be recovered by them, prove, beyond a Doubt, their Conviction of the Importance of this Country, for keeping in their own Hands the Command of the Navigation to which, as well as for the Support of their Encroachments upon us in the *Newfoundland* Fishery, these Fortifications were built, and defended; as our unvaried Experience of their political Faith, and Regard to Treaties sufficiently shews their Intention in the Infringements already made by them upon the Bounds set them by the Treaty of *Paris*; and must open our Eyes to what we are to expect, whenever they shall find a favourable Opportunity for setting up a Claim of Right to what they shall get hold of by such Infringements.

The best Means therefore of obviating such Intentions, are the proper Objects of our present Consideration; as the Efficacy of those Means will best appear from a Representation of the present State of our Commerce with that Country.