

year by
contiguous to
we may well account

their designs upon that colony.

The French being possess'd of the mouth of the Mississippi, they had always free access to Louisiana; but as this could be of no avail with respect to Canada, they form'd a design of opening a communication betwixt the former and the latter, by seizing the lands along the banks of the Ohio, a river which takes its rise on the east of lake Erie, and runs a course of 400 miles thro' Virginia, &c. till it falls into the river Mississippi on the borders of North Carolina.

The vast tract of country, thro' which this communication behov'd to be opened, was possess'd by the Iroquoies or Six Nations with their subjects, who were by the treaty of Utrecht agreed to be the allies of Great Britain: the five original confederate nations are the Mohawks, Senecas Cayugas, Onondagas, and Oncedas; the Tuscarros, Missusagos, and the other tribes are since incorporated with them; therefore all the lands south of the river St. Lawrence, is the original property of the Five Nations, with their allies and tributaries; and by treaties made and renewed with the Indians, his Britannic majesty's subjects had a right of possession from lake Erie to the Chikasas on the Mississippi.

Along the branches of the Ohio dwelt the Showanongs, a very powerful people, who about the year 1685 were all either destroyed or driven out by the Twightwees, who settled in their room. As this spacious country adjoins to Virginia, Col. Wood, who dwelt on the falls of John's river in 1654, sent proper persons over the Allegheny mountains, who traded with the natives, and engaged them in an alliance with Great Britain. In 1699 the French having settled at the Mississippi, and opened a communication between that and Canada began to form the forementioned plan of joining the two colonies together, by means of the Ohio and Wabash: but notwithstanding this project, the English continued their commerce with the Indians.—And col. Spotswood, governor of Virginia, in 1716, form'd a design of establishing a company for that purpose, which was oppos'd in

1748

in England
might have
the natives
vented; fo
cord, repai
the English
begat a desi
1730 endea
crown of t
made to tra
them. But
project lay
put it in ex
It is inde
the late war
cerning the
design whic
Louisiana,
of North A
la Chapelle,
provisions,
first to seize
the back of
examination
va Scotia wa
till the Fre
they did not
and cut off
Britain ha
12th articl
French king
its ancient
what were it
peace of Aix
commisarie
than M. de
number of F
John's river
and began
were in disp
tamper with
them to ha