

In the year 1749, some english american traders commenced a traffic with the indians, on the banks of the river Ohio. The french knowing the importance of that country, were desirous to prevent us from trading, or having any communication with those indians; they threatned them with the confiscation of their goods, and imprisonment of their persons, if they did not retire, from what, they were pleased to call, their master's territories. Many of the traders immediately withdrew, on receiving this insolent menace; but several others, knowing their own just right, had more spirit; and continued their traffic as usual, notwithstanding the threats denounced against them: and accordingly in 1750, the marquis de la Jonquiere, at that time governor of Canada, sent several detachments of troops to the Ohio, to put their former threats in execution; which they did by seizing four english traders, and confiscating their goods, sending them prisoners to Quebec, from whence they were brought to Rochelle in France, and there detained in prison. These englishmen soon after their arrival at Rochelle, wrote to the earl of Albemarle, our ambassador at Paris, complaining of the ill usage they had received: upon which, that minister wrote a letter to the earl of Holderness, secretary of state to the king of England; of which the following is an extract.

“ Paris, march 1, 1752.

I must acquaint your lordship, that in the month of november I received a letter from three persons, signing themselves, John Patton, Luke Irwin, and Thomas Bourke; representing to me, that they were englishmen, who had been brought to Rochelle, and put into prison there, from whence they wrote; having been taken by the french subjects, who seized their effects, as they were trading with the english, and other indians on the Ohio, and carried prisoners to Quebec; from whence they have been sent over to Rochelle.