

proceedings are directed and tend immediately to execute and accomplish it. With this view they proceed from north to south across that continent, and seize every convenient place in their way ; in order to join their two colonies of *Canada* and *Louisiana* together. For this they have hitherto been obliged to go a vast way round about, by four of the great lakes, and thence down the river *Illinois* into the *Mississipi*. But seeing a nigher and more convenient pass by the river *Ohio*, they at last seized that.

Their great business and point in view is, to stop the farther progress of the English colonies, and prevent their getting a secure footing in this extent of territory that they lay claim to. They had done this pretty well in the northern colonies by *Crown Point*, and *Niagara*, which prescribe limits to us there, and hinder us from having any access to the continent of North America beyond those places. But in the more southern parts they saw our people spread and gain ground daily in all the interior parts of North America, for four or five hundred miles beyond the mountains, where they met with no obstructions from the French. The chief access we have to those inland parts of the continent is by the river *Ohio* ; for which reason it was necessary