

commerce, and annoy our settlements on that side at pleasure, as hath been already observed. Hence, it would not be long before we should be forced into a new war, without any probability of removing the evil. This alone must be a sufficient reason, if there was no other, for rejecting their motion.

Their pretence for demanding the possession of this river is, that it is necessary for preserving a communication with the *Isle-Royal*, or *Cape-Breton*, and *St. John's Isle*, as well as between *Old France* and *Quebek*, during the time when the river *St. Laurence* is not navigable; and that therefore *Canada* will be of little advantage to them without *St. John's river*.

But the plea of inconvenience or disadvantage to them, is no reason why the *English* should grant their demand, which would be no less inconvenient and detrimental to themselves. At the treaty of *Utrecht* they got *Cape-Breton* ceded to them, under pretence of securing a free passage to *Canada* by the river of *St. Laurence*; now under pretence of wanting another free passage, they would fain have the river *St. John* delivered up to them.

If this river be so necessary for them, as they alledge it to be, sure it was so at that time as well as now: and why then did they not apply for it at the treaty of *Utrecht*, as well as for *Cape-Breton*?

They have only one answer to make to this, viz. that although there was the same occasion for *St. John's river* then as now, yet there was