

2 His Britannick Majesty declares, that the defence of his rights and possessions, and the protection of his subjects have been the only motive of the armament that had been sent to North America ; which was done without any intent to give offence to any power whatsoever, or commit any act that might interrupt the general peace.

It was hard to conceive how the treaty of Utrecht, could be made a handle of, to settle the rights of either nation, on the Ohio ; or how it was possible to require, as a previous step to every negociation, that the other territories in dispute should be re-established in the same state they were in, at the conclusion of this treaty ; and agreeably to the stipulations therein contained.

At the time of the treaty of Utrecht France had the possession : whereas it was France made concessions. As to the extensiveness of this cession, and the sense in which the stipulations of the treaty were to be understood, that was the very point agreed on to be submitted to the decision of the commissaries. And the King of England had engaged his word, that there should be no innovation, till they came to a decision.

It was therefore that the court of France still insisted on its first demand ; and at the same time that it gave his Britannick Majesty assurances of the confidence, which it reposed in the sincerity of his declaration, it