

to come to terms of accommodation with them, which they would willingly have done upon any *reasonable terms* that could be proposed, *but the French insisted upon all the river Ohio as a preliminary to such a treaty of accommodation!* as we have from the best and undoubted authority. They saw plainly, that the possession of that river would put it in their power to command all North America, and insisted upon that, as a preliminary to treat with them about it.——If this was to be the preliminary article, what could we expect from the treaty!——It was not for a port or two in *Nova Scotia*; but for all North America in effect, that they were contending, and are still.

This their settlement on the *Mississipi*, if not taken notice of, is likely to turn to as great account to them in time, as they conceived it might in 1719. They are not only convenient here to go to the mines of *Mexico*, to which they have a good road already opened by land, and begin to carry on a considerable trade there; but if they encrease and strengthen here, as they must soon do in so fine and extensive a country, while they have such a superior force adjoining to this in the islands, they must by means of these two so easily joined together, and constantly supporting one another, soon be able to reap all the
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