

A LETTER published in the New-York Mercury, January 5, 1756.

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Should his Majesty's Orders to the General extend only to the Removal of Encroachments, without naming them in particular, no Man can tell how many of his Subjects may refuse to be concerned the next Campaign, in an Attempt upon Frontenac; which, according to this surprising Piece of Politics, would be unauthoritative and illegal, and of Consequence expose all who may be concerned in it to his Majesty's Resentment. We do not want Men of evil Designs, in some of our Colonies, at least, who would doubtless gladly improve Mr. Evans's Map, to serve a French Interest; and it is well known, that not long since a very respectable Body, unacquainted with his Majesty's Rights in America, or influenced by false Geographical Representations, seemed in Answer to a Message from one of our Governors, to doubt the Equity of our Claim to the very Lands on the Ohio, which even Mr. Evans himself has included in the Province of Pennsylvania. Other Consequences equally prejudicial to the British Interest, may attend the Dispersion of this Chart, and it's more mischievous Analysis, in Europe. The intestine Enemies of the Government, and all those who are disaffected to the present glorious and vigorous Measures of the Ministry, would not fail to make the worst Use of our Author's Doctrine, to stir up the Coals of Discontent in Great-Britain and Ireland; which the French, after our Example, would doubtless urge the Map as exclusive Evidence against our Right to the Lands on the North-side of the Iroquois River, which issues from the Lake, and falls into St. Lawrence at Montreal.

It is true indeed, the British Title to that Country can be established by the most irrefragable Arguments, founded on the solemn Decisions of the two Treaties of Utrecht and Aix-la-Chapelle; but this hinders not the malignant Consequences I have mentioned, nor does it weaken the Obligations Mr. Evans lies under, to correct his Error; for I hope you have Reasons to think it deserves a Name no worse: and let me intreat you, SIR, to press him to do it with the utmost Dispatch. Nothing could be more unseasonable, than the Edition of his Map, in the present Situation of Affairs. And I could wish the respective Colonies, for the future, would pass a Law to restrain these Gentlemen, who divert themselves with setting Bounds to Provinces and Empires, till their Works have stood the Test of an accurate Examination, by Judges whose Capacity enables them, and whose Office may oblige them to give such Kind of Performances the severest Scrutiny. I believe you will agree with me, that this Map of Evans's affords the strongest Argument in favour of such a Regulation; for should the disputed Limits receive a Settlement according to that Gentleman's sage Opinion, and important Discoveries, these Colonies could never be secured against the Irruptions of the French, and must, in a short Process of Time, be entirely lost to Great-Britain.

I am, SIR,

1st Dec. 1755.

Your most humble Servant.

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