

contrary to the most solemn treaties! Had peace been concluded on the terms offered by the British Ministry, we should in a few years have had her asserting the *law of convenience*, and grasping at all that immense tract of country which she just before acknowledged to be *under our protection*. When we have been so recently used in the most perfidious manner by that nation, can any reasons upon earth be sufficient to make us give them an opportunity to do the very same again! No two cases can possibly be more parallel than the treaties of Utrecht and Aix, and the late negotiation, in respect to intermediate countries. By the former the country of the Iroquois was acknowledged to be under our dominion, and was to be the boundary between Canada and the English colonies; by the latter the countries inhabited by the southern Indians were to be under the protection of Great-Britain, and to serve as a barrier between the two nations. Nothing can be more alike than these cases, and we may depend upon it that the consequences will also be just alike if ever we are so mad as to conclude such a peace.

If the Mississippi is not made the limit of Louisiana (and we see clearly no such thing was thought of in the late negotiation) and all the countries east of that river ceded in full sovereignty to Great-Britain, we shall give up the very end for which we went to war, *the security of our colonies*; for the French by means of a few forts more added in a chain to those of Toulouffe and Condé, will be able to confine us into a narrow slip against the sea of not a greater breadth than three hundred miles, whilst their colony of Louisiana will be above a thou-

course; or would not the court of London have at least made complaints of it? But at that time there was no question nor the least mention made, of the pretension which has been raised up since; without proof, without title, and without any sort of foundation. It is true that in latter years some English traders have passed the mountains of Virginia, and have ventured to carry on a fur trade towards the Ohio with the savages. The French governors of Canada contented themselves at first, with sending them word that they were on the territory of France, and forbidding them to return on pain of having their goods seized, and themselves made prisoners: they returned notwithstanding, and their goods have been confiscated and sold, and their persons seized and conducted to Quebec, from thence to France, where they have been detained in the prisons of Rochelle: no claim, no complaint was made on this occasion by the court of London; they have been considered only as smugglers, whose desire of gain had exposed them to the risque attending an illicit trade. Having thus *ascertained with so much solidity* the right and possession of the French on the Ohio and its territory, their being satisfied to stipulate, that all the territory between the Ohio and the mountains which border Virginia, shall remain neutral, and that all trade and passage through it shall be interdicted as well to the French as to the English, ought to be considered as a very sensible proof of their love of peace."

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on that river, and  
to descend its whole  
course;