

The Dutch, soon after this, having thrown off the Spanish yoke, and not satisfied with supporting their independency by a successful defensive war, and flushed with the juvenile ardor of a growing commonwealth, they pursued the Spaniards into the remotest recesses of their extensive territories, and grew rich, powerful, and terrible, by the spoils of their former masters. They particularly attacked the possessions of the Portuguese; they took almost all their fortresses in the East Indies, and then turned their arms upon Brazil, where they took seven of the captainships or provinces; and would have subdued the whole colony, had not their career been stopped by the archbishop, at the head of his monks, and a few scattered forces. The Dutch were, however, about the year 1654, entirely driven out of Brazil; but their West-India company still continuing their pretensions to this country, and harassing the Portuguese at sea, the latter agreed, in 1661, to pay the Dutch eight tuns of gold, to relinquish their interest in that country; which was accepted; and the Portuguese have remained in peaceable possession of all Brazil from that time, till about the end of 1762, when the Spanish governor of Buenos Ayres, hearing of a war between Portugal and Spain, took, after a month's siege, the Portuguese frontier fortress called St. Sacrament; but, by the treaty of peace, it was restored.

### FRENCH AMERICA.

THE possessions and claims of the French before the last war, as appears by their maps, consisted of almost the whole continent of North America; which vast country they divided into two great provinces, the northern of which they called Canada (comprehending a much greater extent than the British province of that name) and in which they included a great part of our provinces of New-York, New-England, and New-Scotland. The southern province they called Louisiana, in which they included a part of Carolina. This distribution, and the military disposition which the French made to support it, formed the principal cause of the last war between Great Britain and that nation, the issue of which is well known to all the world. For while the French were rearing their infant colonies, and with the most sanguine hopes, forming vast designs of an extensive empire, one wrong step in their politics lost them the whole; their imaginary empire, which existed only upon the face of their maps, vanished like smoke. They over-rated their strength; and by commencing hostilities many years too soon, they were driven from

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