

A. D.
1748.

whenever America has been the object of consideration. The one was to extend themselves from Canada southwards, through the lakes, along the back of our colonies : in order to cut off our communication with the Indian nations, and to open a communication for themselves between the rivers St. Lawrence and Mississippi; and thus to join, as it were, their colonies of Canada and Louisiana. The other, and indeed the most important to them and most fatal to the English, was to gain a communication with the ocean; the only access to Canada being commonly shut up half the year.

Encroach-
ments in
North
America
begun.

Therefore full of this project of American empire; for, that is the aim of the French, wherever they gain a footing; they, in defiance of the treaty of Utrecht, began, soon after its ratification, to violate those solemn concessions, by large encroachments, &c. In the year 1720, they seized upon the important pass of Niagara, situate in the country of the five Indian nations, from which they were expressly excluded by the fifteenth article; and fortified it, with a view to defend their encroachments already made and designed to be carried on with force upon the British empire in North America; they being able by this usurpation to command the lakes, and at leisure to extend themselves to the Ohio, and to continue a chain of forts and settlements down to the Mississippi.

The plan of usurpation on the back of our colonies, from henceforward, went on gradually and successfully, from year to year. The Indians,
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