

of April, 1754: "The Plan of my Operat's is agreeable to His M'y's Com'ds to take Possess'n of the Lands on the Ohio in His Name, to build two Forts. My Order to the Com'd'r in Chief, is to be on the Defensive, but if oppos'd by the Enemy, to desire them to retire; if they sh'd still persist, to repel Force by Force. If You sh'd raise Men, they may be told to submit to the rules and regulat's of the other Forces." [*Pa. Colo. Records*, vi, p. 32.]

The apathy of the people was so great as to amount to opposition, but was, in time, greatly overcome by personal influence, national pride, dislike of the French and fear of Indian atrocities which were pictured as imminent. The theory upon which the English government acted throughout was that the French had no valid claim to the territory or, indeed, any land in America, notwithstanding existing treaties which the British were bound to respect, and they made good these conclusions in a war of expulsion.