

raised in so terrible a manner the communication to Fort Duquesne (on which we had generally four or five thousand troops employed) that in all probability it must have fallen in the year fifty nine, notwithstanding all the blood and money which was expended in the acquisition of it, had they not been diverted another way, by the investiture of Niagara, which was soon followed by the reduction of Quebec, and consequently a general peace with the Indians (those near Louisiana excepted) ensued, for over these the reduction of Canada has no influence, as their ammunition and other necessaries of life are drawn from the French settlements, which are extended in their vicinity from the Mississippi. Their security from attacks, consists in the prodigious tracts of wilderness betwixt