

### 314 A SUMMARY, HISTORICAL and POLITICAL, &c.

ple have lost almost the whole of their personal estates by depreciations; but not to be intrusted in any shape with fallacious money-making and indebted g—rs and a—lies.

Our \* next Canada expedition proved abortive in a shorter time from the conception; but may be supposed to have been occasioned by some natural good † policy causes, and not from premeditated designed means of miscarriage, as in the former. By orders dated — April 1746 from the duke of Newcastle, secretary of state at

\* Romantic expeditions have been the bane of our northern colonies, by incurring a paper public credit, made a currency and legal tender. The ill concerted, and worse executed, expedition anno 1690, against Canada, introduced this vicious currency: the very, very, very rash, but very, very, very fortunate expedition against Cape-Breton or Louisbourg, I hope may terminate public paper currency; the damage to all industrious frugal people is flagrant; that is, silver (by this expedition from 30 s. per oz. was depreciated to 60s. per oz.) thus all good honest men (real estates, specialties, the salaries and wages of our legislatures excepted) lost one half of their estates; and by taxes to cancel this debt, do lose in course of years, perhaps one quarter more of their principal estates; that is the industrious and frugal, from the beginning of the project of the Cape-Breton expedition, in the space of two years have lost three quarters of their estates: if reimbursed from the parliament of Great Britain the taxes being only one quarter will be eased: some say this is the natural consequence from the indebted members of the legislature.

† Vulgar minds cannot dive into mysteries of state, no more than into mysteries of religion; that is, whether this not followed Canada expedition was only a feint, to make the French secure and guardless upon the coast of Britany; that the ships, merchandize, and stores at Port Lewis, Port L'Orient, &c. might fall an easy prey: or whether the allowing duke d'Anville's squadron with land-forces to sail early in the summer without molestation in Europe and America; was, that Cape-Breton might fall into the French hands again, or that they might reduce Annapolis with Nova Scotia to be delivered up again to Britain at a peace, as an equivalent for Louisbourg with Cape-Breton islands, if not retaken by the French; this may be imagined from the delay of Lestock and lieutenant-general St. Clair's sailing, 'till too late in the year, and afterwards by a feint, converting the expedition into a descent upon the coast of Britany, to abate the popular clamour for their not proceeding against Canada; all this to prevent puzzling in a subsequent congress for a peace.

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