

and thinking so. When the French first possessed themselves of these forts, and indeed of all their encroachments, they did not do it by violence; we were so unacquainted with the Lakes (otherwise than by hearsay and vague reports) and looked with so much contempt on the French power in Canada, and so little consulted the friendship of the Indians, that we had not the least apprehensions of any bad consequences arising from a neglect of either. But our ideas are now quite changed; we have experienced the danger of the designs of France, and the necessity of keeping on good terms with the Indians, and we have forts to protect ourselves and them, on the very utmost limits of our frontier, the least attempt on which must be by open violence and hostility.

Now I am upon this subject, give me leave, Sir, to recommend something to attain our ends in North-America more effectually for the future. For this purpose, two different regulations are required; the one regarding our conduct to the Indians, and the other our measures with the French. There is no occasion to have recourse to extirpate the Indians; treat them only with more humanity, and we shall find them easy of reconciliation and alliance. But, if we again suffer the French to have any intercourse with them, we may always expect to have broils and dissensions. The forts on our frontier will effectually hinder this, if they are not suffered to resort to them upon the principle of trade. Let us remind them if they should request this, that it was upon the same pretence they formed their forts of Frontenac, Niagara, and the passes at the other lakes. With regard to the other regulation, all kind of commerce between our colonies and the Canadians ought