

America, which only stands in their way between these and all their other designs; the cause of their entering into this war for that purpose.

It has surpris'd many to see the French engage in so expensive a war, only to support their inconsiderable colony of Canada, as some imagine; from which they have nothing but a few beaver skins, and that at the charge of 400,000 crowns a year to the public, they tell us\*. If this was their only view, we could never imagine they would be at such a risque and charge about it. It plainly appears from hence then, as well as from all other accounts, that their views are much greater, to wit, the security of *Louisiana*, as well as *Canada*, and all North America with them; which must give them the command of the adjacent Spanish mines, whenever they find it proper and convenient; besides the whole trade and commerce of that continent in time.

This their view and design plainly appears to be the whole scope of their present and late proceedings in America, from the result and conclusion of our negotiations with them about it in 1753. Our ministry offered

\* *Charlevoix*, *ibid.* *La Potherie Hist. Amerique Septentrionale*, &c.