

before the *Massachusetts* Assembly, and recommended to them the building a strong Fort ^{1754.} near the Head of the River *Kennebeck*, above the Head Quarters of the *Norridgewalk Indians*, and to push on the *English* Settlements there in a defensible manner; in order to secure the *Province* from the Encroachments of the *French* in those Parts, and either hold the *Indians* in a due Dependence, or oblige them to abandon the River.

The Assembly, in answer to Mr. *Shirley's* April 9. Speech, told him, “ They looked upon it
 “ to be of absolute Necessity that the *French*
 “ should, at all Events, be prevented from
 “ making any Settlements whatever upon the
 “ River *Kennebeck*, or the Carrying-place at
 “ the Head of it.

“ That they desired *him* to order a new
 “ Fort to be erected about 120 Feet square,
 “ as far up the River above *Richmond* Fort as
 “ he should think fit.

“ That they desired *he* would order a sufficient Force up to the Carrying-place to remove the *French*, that might be settled there; but that, as they apprehended their Success, next under Providence, would depend very much upon his taking this Affair into his immediate Care and Direction, they prayed him to submit to the Inconveniences of a Voyage to the Eastern Parts of the *Province*, and there give such Orders as he should find necessary; and that his Person might be secure against any At-
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