

their garrisons, while the English left both their settlements and their allies exposed to invasion and destruction. They particularly recriminated upon us the desertion of our fort at Saraghtoga, in the last war; represented the defenceless condition of our frontier city of Albany; and concluded with seasonable and rational advice to defend ourselves, and to encounter the French with more spirit and conduct for the future.

In this congress a plan was concerted, after long debates, for executing that salutary measure of a general union of the British colonies, and for creating a common fund to defray all military expences: and it was agreed to lay this plan before his Majesty and council; but, it was never carried into execution.

General union agreed upon.

During the sitting of this congress Mr. Shirley, Governor of Massachusetts bay prevailed with the assembly of his Province to build a strong fort near the head of the river Kennebeck, and to provide 800 men for that service, to protect the Province from the incursions of the French and Indians. In pursuance of this resolution of the assembly, Mr. Shirley, in the summer 1754, marched with the troops to the eastern frontier, and, with the consent of the Indians, built Fort Western, about 37 miles from the mouth of the river Kennebeck, and Fort Hallifax about 54 miles down the same river; of which proceedings when Governor Shirley transmitted an account to the ministry at home, he also represented the imminent danger to which Nova Scotia was exposed, from

Forts built, &c. by New York.