

to communicate this summons;* as for the rest, he shewed the greatest politeness to the officer, who was the bearer of this letter.

At the same time that the marquis du Quesne was informed of this step of the governor of Virginia, he received from all parts advices of the preparations making in the English colonies, to act offensively against the French, on pretence of assisting the Savages: That these preparations were avowed by the court of London, appears from their having been published in all the English Gazettes of that time, in which were printed the very speeches, by which the governors of New England and Virginia laboured to prevail on the Savages, to wage war with France.

The English had also passed already the Apalachian Mountains, and were marching in a body with artillery, when in the spring of the year 1754, the sieur de Contre-Cœur, who had taken upon himself the command of the detachment, before under the orders of the sieur de St. Pierre, drew near the Ohio, with five or six hundred men. He found the English already intrenched at a small fort, which they had just thrown up between this river and the river Aux-Bœufs, or Beefs-River. They were to the number of

* The governor's letter, and the answer to the sieur de St. Pierre, were at that time inserted in the London papers.

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