

" I have taken particular care to receive Mr. Washington, with all the distinction suitable to your dignity, and to his quality and great merit. I flatter myself that he will do me this justice, and join with me in testifying the profound respect with which I am,

" Sir, Your, &c.

" Legardeur de St. Pierre."

Mr. Dinwiddie, on the receipt of this resolute answer, made instant complaint to the ministry at London; and by alarming speeches laboured to rouse the Virginians into a vigorous resistance. He wrote likewise to the neighbouring governors, importuning the help of the other colonies for repelling the invasion, and building a fort at the confluence of the Ohio and Monangahela. Tho' an immediate junction in such measures became absolutely necessary; yet the colonies were sunk in such a profound lethargy, that being insensible of the danger, and confiding in their numbers, they contemned the power of Canada. So that when application was made to them for succours to Virginia, some of the provincial assemblies, particularly those of Pennsylvania and New York, seemed to question his majesty's title to the lands usurped by the French. Others framed the most trifling excuses, to avoid their share in the burden. New York, however, voted 5000 l. currency in aid of Virginia. The French in the mean time gathering strength, complaints were constantly sent over to the ministry, who, at length, dispatched orders for all the provinces to repel force by force. Mr. Dinwiddie therefore proceeded in his resolution of erecting a fort for the protection of the frontiers. The construction was begun on the place he intended; but the marquis du Quesne being informed of the design, ordered M. Contrecoeur, who had succeeded the sieur de St. Pierre at Beef river, to frustrate it directly. That officer marched with 1000 men and 18 pieces of cannon for this purpose; he pushed on to the town called Logg's town, which he destroyed, together with all the block and truck houses, &c. to the value of 20,000 l. then he proceeded to the river Monangahela, where he dislodged capt. Trent, who had only 33 men; and a little farther, he found the construction and traces of the fort, which had