

traced upwards of nine hundred leagues, and this is a frontier so extensive, that it will require many score thousand pounds annually to defend it, after the necessary chain of forts have been erected to keep the French within their boundaries. Must we not likewise have forts at the most convenient passes in the inland country to keep open a communication with their respective governments of Virginia, the two Carolinas, and Georgia? And, after all those forts have been erected, how are they to be supplied; and how can they be effectually supported? Most of these forts will be two or three hundred leagues distant from the capitals of those provinces, and the usual residence of the governors: and those forts on the Mississippi will be many of them near as many thousand miles; they would be in a manner divided from them by a large uncultivated track, inhabited by sculking parties of savages, whose fickleness and natural treachery we have known too much of, to confide more largely in them for the future. As a people rigidly tenacious of their liberties and independency, would not a frequent passage through their territories be deemed a cause for suspecting our intentions? if the French or their priests could get privately among them, would they not be apt to put the worst construction on such passage? Would they not insinuate, that we had a design to enslave or extirpate their whole generation? This suggestion would rouse their sleeping suspicious humour; being naturally treacherous themselves, they have no better opinion of the rest of the human species, they would quickly take umbrage from such insinuations, which, in fact, would have a good foundation; for, by these forts we should entirely surround them; and the frequent intercourse between those forts
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