

tho' under our very noses, and when we had not near so many difficulties to encounter as the French will have. And, during all this time, I should be glad to know what we should be doing; I have considered the opposition no more than could be expected in profound peace, from the garrisons of those places alone: but would not the Indians our allies, or the forces raised by the colonies, be able to stop the enemies progress, to repel them, and carry the war into the very heart of Canada without any assistance from the mother country? Is there likewise the least prospect of the French getting possession of the Lakes? How could they come near Detroit and Missilimakinac, more especially with a force to attack them? Could they get to them any otherwise than by navigating Lake Ontario, and from thence into Lake Erie, after taking those forts I have before mentioned? and, even after this is done, would not the two forts at Detroit and Missilimakinac, be sufficiently protected by our people from Louisiana?

Thus I think, Sir, I have fully answered the gentleman's question with respect to an invasion from Canada; and therefore the consequences he draws from that opinion must cease. I own, if we make this barrier in North-America, I am "so weak to believe that they will lay aside" their "plan of usurpation." I dare say they will not think of "elbowing all our colonies round about; I dare say they will not think of resuming the same ambitious views of enlargement, which the most sacred ties of former treaties could not restrain." I have these essential reasons for believing

* Letter, &c. p. 30.