

A

## LETTER

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Mr. GAINÉ,

The following Letter from a Gentleman in *New-York*, to his Friend at *Philadelphia*, is upon a Subject of so much Importance, that I beg you'll give it a Place in your Paper.

S I R,

*I* Thank you for the Copy of Evans's Map of the Middle British Colonies. It shews in a very striking Point of Light, that the Virginia Solicitations for the Landing of the European Troops in that Colony, in order from thence to make a Descent upon Fort Du Quesne, were to the last Degree absurd, abstracted from their Fitness to serve the Interest of a private Company, at the Expence of the Welfare of the Public. Had General Braddock's Army succeeded in that Enterprize, it would, in my humble Opinion, have been a useless and untenable Acquisition; and therefore nothing could be more fortunate, than that Part of the Scheme for dividing the Troops, and General Shirley's proceeding to Oswego, by which Means that Garrison has been preserved from falling into the Hands of our Enemies; which but for his singular Precaution, would have been it's inevitable Fate. If we can maintain the Command of the Lake Ontario, the Forts at Presque Isle, Riviere Beuf, and that at Du Quesne, with all the other Encroachments on the Ohio, must necessarily fall, because the only remaining Rout from Canada, thro' the Outawais-River, the Lakes Huron and Erie, will be attended with insuperable Difficulties. But if the French are permitted to pass thro' the Lake Ontario, and to continue their Forts at La Gallette, Frontenac and Niagara, it will be impossible to preserve the Country, or the Fidelity of the Five Nations, or to defend the Frontiers of our South-western Colonies. This appears evident from all the Maps of the back Country; and if one may argue from the Vessels which General Shirley built last Summer upon the Lake, the Works erected at Oswego, and the strong Garrison left there this Winter, doubtless he considers the Possession of the Lands on both Sides of that Lake, and the compleat Command of it, as the grand Object which he ought to have in View. But nothing to Purpose can be done, without the Reduction of Frontenac, which commands the Entrance from Canada, and is distant about 180 Miles from Montreal. Considering the Matter in this Light, I was extremely surpris'd to find the Author of the Map you sent me, endeavouring to obstruct the Attempt upon Frontenac, by putting in a Claim to it, on the Behalf