

Ohio at the back of Virginia. As far as the nicest examination into circumstances and things can determine, we are inclined to think that Nova Scotia was the original cause of disagreement; for when the French miscarried in their aim there, they then, and not till then, vigorously pursued their old and extensive project, of hemming in all the British settlements, and cutting off their intercourse with the Indians. Persuaded that this was the first cause of dispute, we shall consider it as the origin of the war; and begin with explaining the cause of that dispute, as well as the views of the two parties.

The English had a clear and undoubted right to Nova Scotia, by the 12th article of the treaty of Utrecht, in which the French King in the most obvious and strong terms ceded it to the crown of Great Britain, *with its ancient boundaries*. Now the dispute turned upon what were its ancient boundaries. The peace of Aix la Chapelle in 1748, by which they ought to have been affixed, committed them, with many other things, to the discussion of commissaries. No sooner was that peace concluded, than a number of the French Canadians were sent by M. de la Galissoniere, governor of that province, to settle at the mouth of St. John's river in Nova Scotia, where they immediately began to erect two forts, in order to establish themselves; and to seize several parts of the country which were in dispute: The end proposed to be answered by this step was, the employing of emissaries and priests, to tamper with some of the Indians of Nova Scotia, who had long been distinguished by a kind of refractory behaviour towards the British government, and to excite them to harrahs and distress our colonies in that province; so as to prevent their being able to extend their plantations, and if possible to drive them to the necessity of abandon-

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