

A. D.
1754.

frequently frustrate the best concerted measures. Thus, when unanimity and activity were most necessary, the national interest was neglected, and obliged to give way to the religious and political disputes of the Provinces. The assembly of Virginia quarrelled with Dinwiddie their Governor, about a fee he demanded for every grant he should pass for land. The Penſylvanian Representatives wasted their time in vain deliberations and violent disputes with their Proprietaries, while the enemy invaded their frontiers, and fortified themselves. New York was divided into factions by some men of property, but of turbulent spirits, who exerted their influence to distress the views and designs of the Government. A congress was appointed and held for that purpose at Albany, by Commissioners from all the British Provinces. But few Indians attended, and they behaved with so much indifference, that, though they accepted of the presents, renewed treaties, and demanded aid to drive the French from their territories, it appeared plainly, that they were gained over to the French interest, and thought the English would be obliged to deliver up their country to the French. Though they seemed to be very well pleased with their presents, which were much more considerable than ever had been known, they, in their speech to Mr. Lancey, Lieutenant-Governor of New York, spoke with great warmth, severely blaming the neglect and indolence of our nation, and in praise of the French for their diligence and care to fortify and maintain
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