

A. D.
1756.

being above two hundred miles distant from Fort du Quesne, it was very probable, the men might endeavour to get unto, and join their countrymen at that fort; or to strengthen the parties, which hovered about the frontiers, and were continually laying waste the back settlements.

The government, in order to get clear of the charge, such a company of miserable wretches would require to maintain them, proposed to sell them, with their own consent: but when this expedient for their support was offered to their consideration, the transports rejected it with indignation, alledging, That they were prisoners, and expected to be maintained, as such; and not forced to labour. They further said, That they had not violated their oath of fidelity, which, by the treaty of Utrecht, they were obliged to take; and that they were ready to renew that oath, but that a new oath of obedience having been prescribed to them, by which, they apprehended, the neutrals would be obliged to bear arms against the French, they could not take it, and thought they could not be compelled to do it. Thus General Lawrence cleared the country of the French neutrals; and the Indians in their interest, who had been very troublesome, being most of them Roman catholicks, retired to Canada for protection. Which established peace and tranquillity throughout the province of Acadia or Nova Scotia, according to its antient limits, as ceded to Great Britain by the treaty of Utrecht; till February 1756, when a party of 300 French and
Indians