

a considerable part of Europe in a war, which had at first America only for its object.

The limits of Acadia and Canada, which, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, were left to the discussion of commissaries to be named by the two potentates, have served England as a pretence for commencing hostilities, and for taking two French ships, the *Alcide* and the *Lys*; while, in the midst of peace, and under the sanction of the law of nations, the Duke of Mirepoix, the French ambassador, was treating at London in order to prevent a rupture, and to terminate those differences which might have been easily accommodated at Aix-la-Chapelle, and which, while the peace subsisted, had met with the most unreasonable and extravagant opposition on the part of the English Commissaries.

The unexpected violence offered on the part of the English necessarily brought on the war: his Majesty found himself obliged, though with regret, to repel by force the indignity offered to France, and to prefer the honour of the nation to the tranquillity it enjoyed.

If the court of London had no other design than to establish the respective possessions of the two crowns in North America upon a firm footing, she would have endeavoured to obviate, as France has done, every incident which might engage the powers of the continent of Europe to take part in a war which is absolutely foreign to them, and which in fact, having no other object but what relates to the limits of Acadia and Canada, could not last long, and did not require the interposition of any other power. But England had more extensive views: she endeavoured to raise a general war against France, and hoped to renew the famous league which was formed against Lewis XIV. upon the accession of Philip V. to the throne of Spain; and to persuade all the courts of Europe, that they were as much interested in the limits of Acadia, as in the succession of Charles II.

The conduct of France, in consequence of the first hostilities

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