

rightly understood ; which it is our only design to make them, now as we endeavoured to do then.

As for the importance of the great *Lakes*, that are thus commanded by *Niagara*, we need not insist upon it. That will abundantly appear from their vast extent, and situation in the midst of all the most important places in North America, and most of the natives in it. These *Lakes* are five in number, which form so many seas, that all communicate with one another, and afford an inland navigation, that extends over the whole continent almost of North America, as appears from the account of it above given. Whoever then are masters of these lakes must command that continent, sooner or later, since they have such an easy access to it, and ready passage over it all, by means of this navigation ; whilst those who are only settled on the sea coast are precluded from a passage to the inland parts of the continent by many ridges of mountains that surround them in all parts, and hem them in on every side : by which they are likewise deprived of any communication with the natives, who chiefly reside on and about those great lakes, for the sake of the fruitful lands, and mild climate, with the great plenty of furs, that they afford.

These