

Mr. *la Salle* to take possession of the *Mississipi*. In 1698, immediately after the treaty of *Ryswick*, they renewed the same design. But they had no hopes or success in it, till the year 1717, when they first established their *Mississipi* company, on purpose to defeat the whole intention of the treaty of *Utrecht*, and recover their pretensions in America, that they gave up by it.

This was the use they made of their *Mississipi* scheme in 1719, if not the sole design of it. After they had conceived such extravagant hopes from that country, they began to contest the undoubted rights of Britain every where in North America, even in Nova Scotia itself, that they had but just given up entirely, *en son entier*; and then laid the foundation of all their contest ever since with Britain. They saw, if they could not get gold from the *Mississipi*, they might get what was more valuable, the trade and commerce of America, by securing the extensive countries that river spreads over; all which they laid claim to in 1719, and built this *system* upon that *bubble*.

The great noise they made about the *Mississipi* at that time, seems to have given them and some other people an opinion, that they had a right to it; but if they will be at the pains to enquire into their rights and titles, they will find them as ill grounded, as the