

was productive of too great advantages to the English, for them to think seriously of their removal.

The hostages, whose names were Jacob d'Ambraan, and Robert Stobo, were a couple of very expert and finished spies, who contrived a method to keep up a regular correspondence with the English generals. Among the papers, which came into the possession of the French, after the battle of the 9th of July 1755, were the letters which Robert Stobo, one of the hostages, wrote to major Washington. That of the 28th of July, to which is annexed an exact plan of fort du Quesne, of his own drawing, is very well worth reading;† a very just account is therein given by this spy of the situation in which the French were at that time, their number, and their strength. He points out the very moment in which the English might form an attack on the fort, and the most certain method they could take to become masters of it; but what is most singularly observable in this letter, is the testimony which this man, tho' bursting with rage against the French, was forced to give of their pacific dispositions.

The English were very far from entertaining such sentiments; major Washington formed no more enterprises, but it was because he was not sufficiently strong; however, from

* See original Papers, No. 10.

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