

erected Crown Point in the New York territory. — The peace of Aix la Chapelle being concluded, this plan, which had been first laid in the year 1716, was then revived, but the English took so little care to secure the affections of the natives, that the latter soon shewed themselves no friends to the undertaking. Some London merchants trading to Virginia, having been encouraged to settle on the banks of the Ohio, in order to establish an exclusive trade with the Indians, sent a surveyor to take a plan of the country, a circumstance which much displeased and alarmed the savages; and their jealousies were increased by the French who found it their advantage to foment them: thus the undertakers lost all their interest in that beautiful country, while their neighbours continued to make themselves as strong as possible at Niagara and on the Lake Erie, even upon lands to which the subjects of Great Britain could produce justifiable claims. These things being known to Mr. Dimwiddie, governor of Virginia, he alarmed the English settlers, and even sent one major Washington with a remonstrance to the French governor of a fort built on the River au Bœuf, which discharges itself into the Ohio; — he receiving no satisfactory answer to this, planned out fort near the forks of the river; but the Indians having not been properly attended to, they were exasperated at the mention of it, though the colony had resolved to defray the expence, and had actually provided the materials for the business.

The use the French made of the treaty of Aix