

ments. Can we doubt then, that they would not have made some attempts to effect a scheme we are to understand was held in such estimation by them? The issue of this contest gave France a still greater opportunity of doing it, for Lake Champlain and its territories were adjudged to New Hampshire, a colony in every respect unable to maintain or defend it. They afterwards devolved upon New York, and the same favourable opportunity still subsisted : for the dismemberment of the whole province of New Jersey from that government, and the succeeding quarrels between them about their boundaries, which were carried to such height, that they were upon the point of cutting one another's throats, and, above all, the primitive weakness of the colony of New York, rendered an attempt of that nature almost sure of success. Here, therefore, thirty years are elapsed, and not one single step taken to give the least colour to support even a bare suspicion of this design of the French, on which so much weight has been imposed ; but rather the contrary. Did they not, after taking our fort of Saratoga (situate in the heart of New York) last war, demolish it? Did they not do the same this war by Oswego and Fort William Henry? But how differently have they acted in the prosecution of their other scheme ! there we cannot but admire how vigorously they exerted themselves, and in what manner they succeeded ! had they not, by means of their Forts Frontenac, Niagara, Venango, du Quesne, those at the junction of the Wabache with the Ohio, and the Ohio with the Mississippi, and several other intermediate forts effected this long wished for junction. Their opening a communication with the ocean, through the province of New York, if ever intended, could not then be "*equally important,*" nor
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