

Quesne, and gave hostages, as pledges of the performance of his promise. As to the English, they had leave to march out with one piece of cannon,* and all their effects. They themselves acknowledged, by the first article of this capitulation, that the French had no other design than to avenge the murder of a French officer, who was the bearer of a message.

The fort, being evacuated in consequence of this capitulation, was destroyed by the French; who returned, with their two hostages, to fort du Quesne.

However, this convention, to which seven or eight hundred men owed their preservation, remained unexecuted on the part of the English; never did the prisoners return to fort du Quesne; out of twenty two, which was their number, seven have been sent to England, where they arrived severally after having experienced the most shocking treatment; here they implored the assistance of the duke of Mirepoix, who sent them to France at the king's expence; as to the others, their fate is still a mystery; 'tis possible also, the detention of these prisoners might have been a consequence of English finesse. The French, had they been returned, would not have failed sending immediately back the hostages; but these persons were all the time labouring in their vocation; and their stay at fort du Quesne

* See original Papers, No. 9.