

" their American schemes, ever since they have thought
 " trade and commerce an object worthy of their atten-
 " tion. The first was to extend themselves from Canada
 " southwards, thro' the lakes along the back of our co-
 " lonies; by which means they might answer a double
 " purpose, of cutting off our communication with the
 " Indian nations, and of opening a communication for
 " themselves, between the rivers St. Laurence and Mis-
 " sissippi, and thus to join, as it were, their colonies
 " of Canada and Louisiana. The other part of their
 " plan, equally important, and more immediately fatal
 " to our interests in North America, was to gain a
 " communication with the ocean, the only access they"
 had " to Canada through the river St. Laurence, being
 " shut up half the year*." Now the only method
 to ascertain these principles, will be to consider what
 active measures have been prosecuted to secure
 them; and, in doing this, it will be found, that they
 have attempted nothing toward the latter, " part of
 " the plan", to authorize a certainty even of the
 suggestion. Their principal, their only view hitherto
 has been, to unite Canada and Louisiana. If France
 had not secured the command of Lake Champlain, we
 might have made incursions into the very heart of Ca-
 nada: their forts at Crown Point and Ticonderago,
 were therefore necessary to their own security. If
 France had intended to open a passage to the ocean
 through New York, would she not have made greater
 progress before this time? They built Crown Point in
 1731, at the time the dispute happened between Massa-
 chusetts Bay and New Hampshire, about their bounda-
 ries. During this time, therefore, the French had a
 most glorious opportunity for making farther encroach-

* Letter to Two Great Men, p. 13 and 14.