

It has been already noticed, that the lands on the Ohio might have been long ago settled by the British, which if it had, these encroachments would have been effectually prevented. But no step of this nature was taken till 1749, when a grant of 600,000 acres in this country being made out to Mr Hanbury, and certain other merchants, and others of Virginia and London, who associated under the title of the Ohio company. The governor of Canada, alarmed at a step that would forever have deprived his nation of the advantages arising from the trade with the Twightwees, and by which the communication so beneficial to the colonies of Louisiana and Canada, would have been cut off, in 1750 wrote to the governors of New York and Pennsylvania, acquainting them, that our Indian traders had incroached on their territories, by trading with their Indians, and that if they did not desist he should be obliged to seize them wherever they were found. This message, however peremptory, did not divert the Ohio company from causing a survey to be made of the country as far as the falls of that river. But while Mr. Gist, employed for that purpose, was in his progress in the spring 1751, some French parties with their Indians seized four English traders and carried them to a fort which they were building on one of the branches of lake Erie. The British, who were scattered about the country, alarmed at the capture of their brethren retired to the Indian towns for shelter; and the Twightwees relenting the violence done to their allies, assembled to the number of 5 or 600, and scoured the woods till they found three French traders, whom they sent to Pennsylvania.

That party of French which seized the four English traders, was commanded by the sieur de Celeron, and consisted of several hundreds of armed Canadians and Indians, sent by the marquis de le Jonquiere, then Governor of Canada. No act of hostility on the part of the British succeeding the capture of these traders, the French proceeded to seize the whole country at the back of the British provinces. They immediately sent several detachments of troops, who posted themselves at different places; and particularly one larger body than the rest, commanded by the sieur de St. Pierre, who encamped

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