

several score miles thereabouts resort to the English mart in Hudson's-Bay. Would not then an establishment of the French in those parts, be of the greatest detriment to us by losing so considerable a share of that trade, and, being so beneficial to them, can we flatter ourselves, they would be wanting in a proper exertion to effect such establishment? Nor could it be expected that the Indians would undertake a long peregrination to dispose of their commodities to our colonies, when they might do it upon their own spot so much more conveniently to the French with equal, if not greater advantage; for it has been remarkable, that the French would rather give an advanced price, than suffer our traders to outbid them: a policy encouraged by their government, which hath frequently reimbursed the losses of their subjects in Canada on this occasion.

Will not the French also have the same advantage over our southern colonies by means of the Catawba, Cumberland, and Wood rivers, and particularly that of the Cherokees, a branch of which rises near the heads of the rivers Chatahoochee and Coussa, which communicate with the Gulph of Mexico? Do not these rivers afford the prospect of a most extensive intercourse by inland navigation over the whole country, beyond the Apalachian mountains, belonging to Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia? while the French have any footing with the Indians in those parts, or hold the least possession among them, shall we not always have broils and dissensions among them? The Indians beyond those mountains are severed from our colonies by a barrier naturally strong and important, the Apalachian mountains; and, at the same time, greatly secured by this barrier against any offensive attempt from our colonies?