

ring that time, were delivered to the French ambassador at London, and of which no notice will be taken till we have done with what was transacted in America from the arrival of general Braddock, exhibit a contrast of a very extraordinary nature

This general landed at Williamsburg, capital of Virginia, in the month of February 1755 †. All the governors of the English provinces had received their orders before. The chief orders related to the raising of troops and money; a common fund was to be assigned towards the expence of a campaign of this importance; as for the rest, they were directed to execute the general's orders, whose military talents deserved to be employed in a better cause.

At Williamsburgh, he met sir John St. Clair, by whom he was informed of the disposition of the colonies, and the situation of the troops. The independent companies of New-York, were in a very sorry condition. And, as to the provinces, those of Pennsylvania and Maryland, were still very backward in furnishing their contingents: these provinces had received no cause of complaint from their French neighbours; and they were not inclined to break a harmony beneficial to their own trade. The orders of the British court,

† See original Papers, No. 13.

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