

the Assistance the *Indians* could afford them, they were not a Match for the Power of the *English* in *America*; thought it necessary to send for Recruits from *France*. Accordingly eight thousand Troops with their Wives and Children were sent from *France* to *America* in 1752; viz. 2500 for *Canada*, 3500 for *Mississippi*, and 2000 to *St. Domingo*.

On receiving these Reinforcements they soon put themselves in Action. They had Intelligence, that the *English* were building Forts, and raising Plantations along the River *Ohio*, which they apprehended to be too near their own Settlements to be disregarded. Some Merchants in *London*, with others of *Virginia*, had obtained a Grant from his Majesty of that River, to make such Settlements in the Meadows and Places adjacent, as they should judge convenient for a Plantation, and the carrying on their intended Trade. But the *French* were determined, at all Events to frustrate the Design; and in order thereto, set up a prior Claim, and insisted that all that Coast belonged to the Crown of *France*. Accordingly they took all possible Measures to disturb the new Settlers, and to erect Forts of their own on the Banks of the said River. Upon which *Robert Dinwiddie*, Esq; Governor of *Virginia*, wrote a Letter to the Commandant of the *French* Forces on the *Ohio*, to demand the Reason of such Proceedings, and sent it by Major *Washington*. The Governor's Letter was wrote in the following Terms.

' Sir, The Lands upon the River *Ohio*, in the Western Parts of *Virginia*, are so notoriously known to be the Property of the Crown of *Great Britain*, that it is a Matter of equal Concern and Surprize to me, that a Body of *French* Forces are erecting Fortresses, and making Settlements upon that River, within his Majesty's Dominions.

' The many and repeated Complaints of these repeated Acts of Hostility, lay me under the Necessity of sending, in the Name of the King my Master, the Bearer hereof, *George Washington*, Esq; the Adjutant General of the Forces of this Dominion, to complain to you of the Encroachments thus made, and of the Injuries done to the Subjects of *Great Britain*, in open

' Violation