

Orders were also given to dismiss Capt. *Gillam* their Service for his Son's Offences, and Capt. *Sandford* had the same Usage, on Account of his Relation to the *Gillams*; for there's nothing so terrible to a Monopolizer, as an Interloper. Capt. *William Bond*, who had been under Mr. *Baily*, was sent for Home, and other Regulations made in the Management of Affairs: But all could not hinder the Ruin of them all by the Enemy.

The Company, by their Governors and Agents, made such Compacts with the Captains or Kings of the Rivers and Territories where they had Settlements, for the Freedom of Trade there, exclusive of all others, that the *Indians* could not pretend they had encroached upon them. These Compacts were as firm as the *Indians* could make them, by such Ceremonies as were most sacred and obligatory among them.

Now were the Company in Possession of five Settlements, viz. *Albany River*, *Hayes Island*, *Rupert River*, *Port Nelson*, and *New Severn*. Their Trade at each of them was considerable. From *Albany River* they had generally 3500 Beavers a Year, and by Mr. *Sergeant's* great Care and Fidelity, their Commerce encreased so much, that the *French* began to be afraid all the *Upland Indians* might be drawn down to the Bay. They knew they could do any Thing with King *James II.* who then reigned in *England*, and that no Affront would make that Prince break with *Lewis* the XIVth. Wherefore they resolved to drive the *English* out of all their Places in the Bottom of the Bay. First they took *Hayes Island*, and then the Fort on *Rupert's River*. The *French* Company at *Canada* procured a Detachment of Soldiers to be sent under the Chevalier *de Troyes*, who came over Land from *Quebec*, and in a Time of profound Peace committed these Acts of Hostility.

'Tis worth observing that the *French* have so good an Opinion of their *American* Colonies, as to take not only all lawful, but even unlawful Means to preserve and enlarge them, as contemptible as they are in themselves; whereas the *English*, who next the *Spaniards* have the richest Plantations in that Part of the World, have been as negligent of them as if they were not worth keeping.

The 8th of *July* 1686, the Chevalier *de Troyes* came before the Fort at *Albany River*, where the Governor Mr. *Sergeant* then resided. Two *Indians* had informed him of their having surprized the Forts at *Hayes Island* and *Rupert River*, and had brought with them the great Guns from those Places.