

subject of Acadia, the decision of which had been referred to the commissaries of both nations. The object of a preliminary convention was now laid aside, though proposed as the only method to prevent hostilities, and to enable the two crowns to negotiate in an amicable manner. This brought the very grounds of the quarrel on the carpet, but it little then concerned England, which aimed only at gaining time, which was now drawing near that period, in which her enterprises must become public.

The 15th of July news was received at London of the taking of two French vessels, the Alcide and the Lys, attacked on the banks of Newfoundland by Admiral Boscawen, whose words were all words of peace till such time as his artillery was in a situation to fire into the very ships, point blank, or till he had come within half a cannon shot. If any thing could exceed the surprise of his majesty's ambassador in London at this piece of news, it must have been occasioned by the insinuation of one of the English ministers in ascribing such evident hostilities to a mistake: nay, the secretary of state would fain persuade him that this event ought not to break the thread of the negotiation. No doubt but it would have been more advantageous to the British ministry, had France gone on negotiating till such time as they received a certain account of the execution of the general plan of

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