

on the Mississippi, we may therefore date the commencement of their encroachments in North-America, and their growth of power there. When Carolina was so terribly beset with the Indians in 1715, the French took that opportunity to seize the fort of Albama, one of the most convenient posts in that country to affect our colonies of Carolina, and which had been settled by our traders many years before the French settled on the Mississippi. If such insolence, so very soon after the treaty of Utrecht, and the execution of their scheme for forming a colony on the Mississippi, was left unpunished, could we expect better treatment for the future? If such expectations were entertained, the event has convinced us of their fallacy, for the French, not only still keep possession of this fort, and lay claim to the whole of the River Coussa, because it falls into the River Albama (whereon the fort so called by us is built) but they have since assumed an absolute title to the whole country beyond the Apalachean. and Allegany mountains, drawing a line from Cape Escondido in the Gulph of Mexico across the mountains, quite through the heart of the colonies of New York and New England, and up the Bay of Fundy; by which means they leave us only a very contracted skirt along the coast much smaller, even than the tract of land between the mountains and the Mississippi. And, in order to support these pretensions, and their interest with the natives, they have been constantly sending reinforcements and warlike stores; and even at the time of negotiating the last peace, they were actually sending, and did, shortly after, send a body of two thousand regulars