

186/ That all the Country westward of the River S^t. Croix the western boundary of this Province, not being restored to France by the treaty of Ryswick, was still within the bounds of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay. There is no other way in which the English Court could have understood the matter in the light they did, consistently with reason and common sense; and it will in another place be shown, that they had good grounds for explaining the treaty of Ryswick in this way notwithstanding the manner in which Acadia was surrendered to the French by the treaty of Breda in 1667. (a)

"The Norridgewock Indians in the year 1698, built a Church at their Chief settlement upon Kennebec River, which was complained of by the Massachusetts Government as a French encroachment." (b.)

"Representations were made (1698) to the ministry, and the right of the English to the Eastern Country, as far as S^t. Croix, was insisted upon." (c)

Here it appears that the Province of Massachusetts Bay explained the treaty of Ryswick in the same way with the English Court, and of course gave the same construction to their charter, which we have just now seen must have been the construction of the English Court, and it is not improbable that these ideas

(a) vid ante p 77 }
post. Reply. Part 2. p

(b) Hutch. Vol. 2. p. 111. (c) ib.

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of the English Court may have been derived from these representations of the Province, which was so much interested in the subject & so much in making their applications to that Court, upon a matter that so nearly concerned them; for the first intimations which we find, from the English Court of their sentiments upon this subject are in a letter from the Lords of Trade dated 30th October 1700. to the Earl of Bellamont the Governor of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay in the following words.

(a) "As to the boundaries, we have always insisted and shall insist upon the English Right as far as the River S^t. Croix; but in the mean while, in relation to the encroachments of the French and their building a Church on Kennebec River, that seems to us a very proper occasion for your Lordship's urging the General Assembly of the Massachusetts-Bay to rebuild the Fort at Comaguid, which they ought to have done long ago, and thereby they might have prevented this & many other inconveniences."

But there is another document, now to be attended to, which of itself alone is sufficient

(a) Hutch. Vol. 2. p. 111.