

Letter Bk. II. In<sup>o</sup> S<sup>t</sup> Clair who arrived there himself two Days after being the 26<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> when it was thought unnecessary to put the Gov<sup>t</sup> to that Expen<sup>c</sup>e as the Season w<sup>d</sup> be sufficiently advanced to admit of an Encampment before the Artillery could be got thither, or provisions & Forrage c<sup>d</sup> be well laid in. should that place be judged a proper Rendezvous which S<sup>r</sup> In<sup>o</sup> is in doubt about & I am of the same Way of thinking.

The next Day S<sup>r</sup> John examined some Hunters that I had appointed there to go with me & reconnoitre the Highlands between that & the French Fort; amongst whom he found but one person that understood or c<sup>d</sup> give him any tolerable information about the matter. After this & fixing upon a proper Magazine for powder we set off to explore Potowmack River which proved from the number of shoals & falls to be of no Service in transporting either Artillery or other Baggage in our passage down S<sup>r</sup> John contracted for all the Forrage Flour & Calavances on the Banks of that River the next thing we went upon was a proper Disposition for Quartering the Troops of all w<sup>ch</sup> S<sup>r</sup> John S<sup>t</sup> Clair having given you a distinct Acc<sup>t</sup> I shall not trouble you with a Repetition I have inclosed Major Stobo's Acco<sup>t</sup> of Fort Du Quisne on Monongahela & the Ohio Rivers when prisoner there (he was one of the Hostages delivered to the French after the Action of the Meadows) likewise a Journal Descriptive of some of the French Forts from Fabres a french Deserter, this is the latest & best Acco<sup>t</sup> that I have been able to get, & the Examination of Cha: Courtenay a Deserter from the French taken upon Oath before the Chief Justice of Pensilvania.

I have not been able to review the Virginia Regiment as they are not as yet got together, therefore I can make you no other Return at present than of those Troops now at Wills Creek which is herein inclosed, & I am sorry to find myself obliged to declare that the three Independant Companies by no means answer my Expectations, particularly those from New York, that from So Carolina is by much the best notwithstanding their Loss in the Action at the Meadows.

I hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you myself & assure you that nothing less than the Meeting of the Assembly should have prevented my Stay here till your Arrival in my way to Maryland I propose reviewing as many of the Virginia Regiment as are at Fredericksburg, & shall form a Company of Carpenters at Alexandria at which place I have ordered them to rendezvous. I am with the greatest Esteem & Respect