

solicit their assistance and aid for the Virginians, who at that time talked of proceeding immediately to action. Fruitless was my first attempt and I was necessitated to prorogue them without obtaining even a small sum for a present to the Indians, unless on such Terms as His Ldp's Instructions particularly forbade me to accept.

April 10th, Governor Dinwiddie writ me notice, that in obedience to his Directions, a company consisting of about 80 Men commanded by one Capt. Trent, was at that time employed at the Forks of Monongahela, in providing materials and building a fort, that a Détachment of 150 men were marched from Alexandria, under Lieut. Col. Washington, toward the Fort about to be erected, and that the residue of the Virginia Troops, amounting to near the same number, commanded by Col. Fry, would follow them the next week; that he expected in a very few days the Independent Company round from S. Carolina, and in a short time those two that were ordered to Virginia, from New York. Near the end of the same month I received a letter from Col. Washington, dated at Will's creek, the 24th, informing me that he was then at that place with a detachment of 150 men, and that he expected Col. Fry, who was to have the chief command, would there join him with an equal Force in a few Days. The same Letter also advised me that near 1000 French, commanded by one Capt. Contreleur, had fallen down from Venango (an Indian Trading Town, about 21 miles S. E. of Lake Erie, and near the Head of the Ohio) and on the 17th Inst. had summoned Ensign Ward, Capt. Trent, being from his post, to surrender the small Fort that was building at the mouth of the Monongahela River, which summons, it seems, Ward, without firing a shot or the least hesitation, obeyed, being terrified at the appearance of so numerous an Enemy, while the company with him did not exceed 30 men. He was permitted to retire with all his men, arms, ammunition, working tools and provisions, to the English Inhabitants, and the Enemy immediately proceeded to erect a Fort with the materials Trent had been collecting and near the spot on which he had begun to build.

In May I again met the Assembly of this province, and repeated my solicitation for supplies to support the Virginians, in the Expedition they were undertaking, but our people would not as yet, see things in their proper light, and seemed to think the occasion of the present Dispute was who should possess Lands, the Lord knows where, by the Determination of which they would reap no benefit, seeing the Lands were already granted by His Majesty to the Ohio Company. This occasioned another prorogation, only I must observe that I did with difficulty obtain at this time £500, as a present to the Indians who were to meet commissioners from the several Colonies in July.

The next Intelligence that I received was "that while Col. Washington was employing his Men in opening a Road from Will's Creek toward the Ohio, a party of his command had on the