

for Courage or military Skill I despair of seeing any of them so forward as to offer themselves Voluntiers under my Command unless the Enemy was to approach so far as actually to deprive them of their Habitations & Possessions of which alone they are found tenacious. As to the Six Indian Nations I cannot persuade myself to have much Confidence in their Fidelity or rely on them for Aid; they are & have been long wavering between the two Crowns & tho they should be inclined as some imagine to support our Interest yet the fear of our Enemys Strength & Vigilancy deters them from declaring openly in our Favour: A large Party or Tribe of these People who inhabit near S^t Lawrences River are avowedly in the French Interest & will not hesitate to perpetrate whatever the French require. In the Engagement that happened last July between the Virginians & the Garrison of Monongahela or Dequisne Fort a Considerable Body of these Six Nations who dwell near the Banks of Ohio & Lake Erie appeared with our Enemy in Arms against us tho many of their Chiefs & People were at that time receiving our Presents at Albany & making with the Commissioners from these several Colonies a League of Peace & Amity. this & some other of their Transactions incline me to think that they will never join & assist us heartily against our Enemies till they perceive that we are an over match for them ourselves; I beleive they have no real regard excepting perhaps a very few of them either the French or us but are awed by & stand in fear of our Power & numbers & I doubt not daily curse their Ancestors for suffering either of us to so peaceably to possess ourselves of Lands that they call their ancient Possessions. these that I have above enumerated together with the want of one Engineer at least & a proper Train of Artillery are some of the Difficulties that occur to me when I consider what might be expected from the Commission that I now bear, & they are such as will not I hope be deemed trivial ones whatever be the Event of my Endeavours to surmount them. I have however the pleasure to acquaint you that Governor Dinwiddie has given me the greatest Assurances of his Friendship & firm Resolution to support me as much as is in his power & as I think no time is to be lost while the Enemy are making such large Strides to Conquest & have already made prodigious progress in executing their Grand Scheme, I will not be a moment Idle but endeavour to manifest, as much as I may be enabled to do, my Duty to His Majesty, to approve myself not entirely unworthy of the Commission He has honoured me with & to merit the Continuance of your Regard & Affection

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