

Letter Bk. II. from the Fort (who were sent as twas supposed to intercept a Convoy of Provisions designed for our men) & having killed Jumonville & 7 or 8 of his Detachment they took the rest Prisoners & sent them under a Guard to the Governor of Virginia where they yet remain. No sooner did the news of this Skirmish reach the Ohio but the Enemy drew together from the several Fortresses which they have built up & down that River near 1000 Men in order to fall on our Troops & return the Compliment. M<sup>r</sup> Washington being apprized of this a few Days before the Enemy approached him with the Advice of the other Officers retired a few Miles to a place called the Meadows, it being Low Land between two Eminences or small Hills where He encamped & as well as the time would permit endeavoured to secure himself by drawing around him a small Ditch & building within it a Sort of Log House. here on the 3<sup>d</sup> of July about noon the French attacked him & having killed him about 30 Men obliged him toward the Evening to capitulate & accept terms which indeed were very far from being pretty honourable. that He did not stand longer on the Defensive He attributes to the great improbability there was of holding out against such a Superiority of Numbers when he had not any Expectations of seeing the other Troops come to his Assistance & being also in want of both Ammunition & Provisions, but that He was prevailed on to sign a dishonorable Capitulation is owing he declares & concurrent Circumstances support his Assertion not to these Difficulties but to the Infidelity of one of his Captains now a Hostage with the Enemy on whom he depended to interpret to him the Terms & Conditions proposed to him by the Enemy which were written in French a Language that M<sup>r</sup> Washington had the misfortune to be entirely unacquainted with thus at once were frustrated all the hopes that had been conceived from the Virginia Armament & tho the news of this Defeat has somewhat allarmed the people in this part of the Continent yet they could not be persuaded to advance any thing considerable for carrying on another Expedition against these Invaders who I am afraid will gradually make themselves Masters of our Possessions as they have already of all the Indian Trade unless some measures be taken at home to oblige us to defend them ourselves or Remittances be made hither to encourage the Service. At present the Independant Companies a Company of 100 men which this Province has raised & the Remains of the Virginians whom Death & Desertions have reduced to about 200 are encamped on the Frontiers of the settled part of Virginia & this Province at a Place called Wills Creek where I beleive they are to proceed to build a Fort or sort of Magazine & there remain till some Instructions from home shall open to them a prospect of entering upon Action with greater probability of