

are acquainted with as much as myself, wherefore my Account Letter Bk. II.  
shall commence in January 1754 at which time the Assembly P. 70  
of Virg<sup>a</sup> were prevailed on to grant £10000 Curr<sup>y</sup> toward  
defending their Frontiers against the Enemy who had lately  
invaded them, at the same time I thought it my Duty to con-  
vene the Assembly of this Province & solicit their Assistance  
& Aid for the Virginians who at that time talked of pro-  
ceeding immediately to Action: Fruitless was my first Attempt  
& 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 forbad me to accept.  
April 10<sup>th</sup> Gover<sup>r</sup> Dinwiddie writ me notice that in Obedience  
to his Directions a Company consisting of about 80 Men com-  
manded by one Capt. Trent was at that time employed at the  
Forks of Monongahela in providing Materials & building a  
Fort; that a Detachment of 150 Men were marched from  
Alexandria under Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup> Washington toward the Fort  
about to be erected & that the Residue of the Virg<sup>a</sup> Troops  
amounting to near the same number commanded by Col<sup>o</sup> Fry  
would follow them the next week; that he expected in a very  
few Days the Independant Company round from So Carolina  
& in a short time those two that were ordered to Virg<sup>a</sup> from  
New York, near the End of the same month I received a  
Letter from Col<sup>o</sup> Washington dated at Wills-Creek the 24<sup>th</sup>  
informing me that he was then at that place with a Detachment  
of 150 Men & that he expected Col<sup>o</sup> 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 Contrecur had fallen down  
from Venango (an Indian trading Town about 21 Miles SE of  
Lake Erie & near the Head of the Ohio) & on the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst had  
summoned Ensign Ward, Capt Trent being from his post, to  
surrender the small Fort that was building at the Mouth of P. 71  
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 & Pro-  
vision, to the English Inhabitants & the Enemy immediately  
proceeded to erect a Fort with the Materials Trent had been  
collecting & near the Spot on which he had begun to build.  
In May I again met the Assembly of this province & repeated  
my Sollicitations 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 & seemed to think the  
Occasion of the present Dispute was who should possess  
Lands the Lord knows where by the Determination of which