

Letter Bk. II. 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^o Washington was employing his Men in opening a Road from Wills-Creek toward the Ohio a party of his Command had on the 27th of May fallen in with a Detachment of about 30 Men from the French Fort on Ohio under the Command of Ensign Iumonville upon which a Skirmish ensued & Jumonville with 7¹¹ or 8 of his Detachment was killed & the rest²² (excepting 2 or 3) made prisoners & sent to the Governor of Virg^a the first week in June Col^o Fry fell from his horse which occasioned his Death & thereupon Col^o Washington succeeded in the chief Command. The 9th of July a Lett^r was sent me by Col^o Innes informing me that he had just p. 72 reached Winchester in Virginia at the Head of the N Carolina Troops consisting of 150 Men but that they were for want of a Magazine in N Carolina unarmed & that he had also found himself disappointed in his Expectations of having some Arms sent him from Williamsburg to Winchester: On this Representation & at his earnest Request I sent immediately to Winchester 150 Stand of Arms for the use of the Companies under his Command. About the middle of July we received the News of Col^o Washington's Defeat on the 3^d Inst by about 700 (as it now appears) of the French Troops that were sent out (as soon as an account of Iumonville's Misfortune reached the french Fort) under the Command of Capt Villier & another Commissioned Officer to attack the English Troops wherever they could find them. Some Acco^s of this unhappy Engagement & the Dishonourable Capitulation that was the Consequence of it you have long since seen; I believe Washington & the Officers under his Command when they received Intelligence of the Enemy's Approach some Days before the Battle, would have taken very different measures from w^t they did if there had been no Pique or Disagreement concerning Rank between the Virginia Officers & those of the Independant Companies commanded by Capt. Mackoy. On being informed of the Enemy's near Approach they retired to a little useless kind of Intrenchment in a Valey between two Eminences where the Independant Company posted themselves in the Ditch the Virginians being drawn up in Order within. The French came in Sight about noon & immediately took possession of one of the Eminences where every Soldier found a large Tree for his Shelter from the fire of the English & placing himself behind it fired away on the Troops beneath as fast as he could load,