

Letter Bk. I. among them the Priest assured him that if he had an Inclination to go to their Settlements he would be kindly received & well
 p. 238 esteemed for such a Step. M^r Neal he says spoke to him once or twice afterwards in the same manner & when he found him resolved to undertake the Journey gave him a Packet of Letters to the French Commandant at Venango (whom he particularly & very justly described) wished him a good Journey & gave him a Pistole towards bearing his Expences thro Pensilvania. This was done about two years ago after Col^o Washington had been defeated as I have already observed but before the Indians had taken up Arms or the French committed any Acts of Hostility on this Side the Allegany Mountains. Johnson says he took Leave of his Maryland Acquaintance a few Days after he had received M^r Neals Lett^r travelled thro Pens^a unsuspected & in 24 Days reached Venango & presented His Letters to the One Eyed Captain who according to the Priests Information had the Chief Command at that Fort. From that time he has resided at the French Forts or in the Indian Towns & I beleive notwithstanding his Professions to the contrary has been frequently down with the Scalping Parties that have committed such Barbarities on our Frontier Inhabitants. He gives a particular account of most of the Incursions that have been made since the action of the Monongahela into these three Provinces & names many of the People that have been carried away either by the French or Indians from our Borders. In May last he says One Capt Stevil came up the Ohio from a
 p. 239 large French Settlement near the Mouth of that River with a Company of 58 Men & brought with him as much Provision as would serve them 6 Months. These he says have done great Execution this Summer in Pensilv^a & Virg^a & 'twas this Capt Stevil that reduced Fort Granville; he is returned with his Company to spend the Winter at home but is expected at Fort Du Quesne early in the Spring with a much larger Body. The French told this Man they should be reinforced at the same time from the Northward & that they hoped to have 3000 French & Indians in May next to oppose the English if they should presume to undertake an Expedition to the Westward or if we should not raise an Army for that purpose to make an attempt on either Virg^a or this Province. The Indians that the French depend on for Assistance on such an Occasion & that have already declared in their favour are the Shawanese Delawares Picts Mingoes Tuckahoes & Tawaes, who will it is supposed be able to furnish about 1400 or 1500 fighting Men. The Garrison of Du Quesne does not he says at this time consist of more than 200 Men, nor that at Venango of more than 60, but a great Number of Indians are lodged in Barracks & Huts that have been built for them just beyond