

His Excellency is pleased to lay before this Board the following Letter

Lib. J. R.
& U. S.

Williamsburgh Virg^a Jan^{ry} 29th 1754

Sir

Your kind Assurance of Co operating with me in the Common Cause for his Majestys Service gave me so much pleasure as a Zeal like that which inspired them ought to give and I now Address your Excellency the more chearfully as I am persuaded of your Promptitude to contribute effectively to it The Progress of the French and their avowed designs make it necessary for me to Apply for your Assistance and that the men you can furnish may join our People as early as Possible in March, at a place called Wills Creek on the head of Potowmack which I have Chosen for the Rendezvous, believing it to be the most Convenient to all the Colonies of any that is near the Scene of Action. The French have fortified themselves on Lake Erie and on a Branch of the Ohio & have 220 Canoes ready made and a great many more blocked out, and every thing in readiness to execute their designs of falling down the River when the Waters Serve in the Spring, and building Forts at every Place of Consequence, The Fort my Messenger was at mounted eight Pieces of Cannon Six pounders and was garrisoned with 150 Men and they have already engaged the Chippoways, Attoways and Oreendacks to take up the Hatchet against the English, and themselves have Seized the Effects of his Majestys Subjects who were Settled there & made Prisoners of their Persons, How they Justify this Conduct your Excellency will See by the Inclosed Letter from their Commandant to me.

I think it would very much conduce to the Success of the Service that the command should be undivided and therefore I should be very glad of your concurrence with my Sentiments and that the men you furnish might be put under the command of my General Officer I expect to meet our Assembly the 14th of next Month when I hope to be enabled to enter on more Vigorous Measures; at Present I have Ordered out a Detachment from the Militia to cover the works that are carrying on at our Fort on the Ohio and shall with all dispatch furnish them with the Stores and Other necessaries for its Completion But as the French intend to be upon the Ohio early in the Spring with a Greater Force than they had in the fall which then consisted of 1500 Men it will be of the last Consequence to have a Sufficient Strength there early to oppose them and the present Temper of the Indians increases the necessity as they seem to defer coming to Action till they See us at their Backs to Support 'em and I am