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Robert Swan. Houses and Lots being formerly wenty five Pounds per Annum, there f which yet to come.

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[Numb. 464.]

MARTLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, March 28, 1754.

The Conclusion of Major WASHINGTON'S Journal, begun in our last.

Wednesday, December 121b, 1753.

PREPAR'D early to wait upon the Commander, and was received and conducted to him by the second Officer in Command; I acquainted him with my Business, and offer'd my Commission and Letter, both of which he desired me to keep 'til the Arrival of Monsieur Riparti, Captain at the next Fort, who was fent for and expected every Hour.

This Commander is a Knight of the military

Order of St. Lewis, and named Legardeur de St. Piere. He is an elderly Gentleman, and has much the Air of a Soldier; he was sent over to take the Command, immediately upon the Death of the late General, and arrived here about seven Davs before me.

At 2 o'Clock the Gentleman that was fent for arrived, when I offer'd the Letter, &c. again; which they receiv'd, and adjourn'd into a private Apartment for the Captain to translate, who underflood a little English; after he had done it, the Commander defired I wou'd walk in, and bring my Interpreter to perule and correct it, which I

13th, The chief Officers retired, to hold a Council of War, which gave me an Opportunity of taking the D mensions of the Fort, and making what Observations I could.

It is fituated on the South, or West Fork of French Creek, near the Water, and is almost furrounded by the Creek, and a small Branch of it which forms a Kind of an Island; four Houses compose the Sides; the Bastions are made of Piles driven into the Ground, and about 12 Feet above, and fharp at Top, with Port Holes cut for Cannon and Loop Holes for the small Arms to fire through; there are eight 6 ib. Pieces mounted, two in each Bailion, and one Piece of four Pound before the Gate; in the Bailions are a Guard Houle, Chapel, Doctor's Lodging, and the Commander's private Store, round which are laid Plat Forms for the Cannon and Men to stand on: There are several Barracks without the Fort, for the Soldiers Dwelling, covered, fome with Bark, and fome with Boards, and made chiefly of Logs: There are also several other Houses, such as Stables, Smith's Shop, &c.

I could get no certain Account of the Number of Men here; but according to the best Judgment I could form, there are an Hunared exclusive of Officers, of which there are many. I also gave Orders to the People that were with me, to take an exict Account of the Cagoes that were hauled up to convey their Forces down in the Spring, which they did, and told 50 of Birch Bark, and 170 of Pine, befides many others that were block'd out, in Readiness to make

14b, As the Snow increased very fast, and our Horses daily became weaker, I sent them off un loaded, under the Care of Barnaby Currin and two others, to make all convenient Dispatch to Venango, and there wait our Arrival if there was a Prospect of the Rivers freezing, if not, then to continue down to Sbannapin's Town, at the Forks of Obis, and there to wait 'til we came to crefs Aligany, intending myself to go down by Water, as I had the Offer of a Canoe or Two.

As I found many Plots concerted to retard the As I found many Plots concerted to retard the Indians Business, and prevent their returning with me; I endeavour'd all that lay in my Power to fustrate their behemes, and hurry them on to execute their intended Design; they accordingly pressed for Admirance this Evening, which at Length was granted them, privately, with the Commander and one or two other Officers: The Half-King told me, that he offer'd the Wampum to the Commander, who evaded taking it, and made many fair Promifes of Love and Friendship; fud he wanted to live in Peace, and trade amicably

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with them, as a Proof of which he would fend | some Goods immediately down to the Loggs Town for them; but I rather think the Delign of that is, to bring away all our straggling Traders they meet with, as I privately understood they intended to carry an Officer, &c. with them ; and what rather confirms this Opinion, I was enquiring of the Commander, by what Authority he had made Prifoners of feveral of our English Subjects; he told me that the Country belong'd to them, that no Englishman had a Right to trade upon those Waters; and that he had Orders to make every Person Prisoner that attempted it on the Ohio, or

the Waters of it.

I enquir'd of Capt. Riparti about the Boy that was carried by, as it was done while the Command devolved on him, between the Death of the late General, and the Arrival of the prefent; he acknowleded, that a Boy had been carried past, and that the *Indians* had two or three white Mens Scalps, (I was told by some of the *Indians* at Venance Eight) but pretended to have forgot the Name of the Place that the Boy came from, and all the Particulars, though he question'd him for fome Hours, as they were carrying him palt: I likewise enquired what they had done with John Tretter and James MacClocklan, two Pennsylvania Traders, whom they had taken, with all their Goods: They told me, that they had been fent to Canada, but were now returned Home.

This Evening I received an Answer to his Honour the Governor's Letter from the Commandant. 13th, The Commandant ordered a plentiful Store of Liquor, Provision, & c. to be put on board our Canoe, and appeared to be extremely complaifant, though he was exerting every Artifice that he could invent to fet our own *Indians* at Variance with us, to prevent their going 'til after our Departure: Prefents, Rewards, and every Thing that could be suggested by him or his Officers -I can't say that ever in my Life I suffer'd so much Anxiety as I did in this Affair; I saw that every Stratagem that the most fruitful Brain could invent, was practifed, to win the Half King to their In terest, and that leaving Him here was giving them the Opportunity they aimed at. - I went to the Half-King, and press'd him in the firongest Terms to go: He told me the Commandant would not discharge him 'til the Moreirg. I then went to the Commandant, and defired him to do their Business, and complain'd of ill l'ieatment; for keeping them, as they were Part of my Company, was detaining me; which he promifed not to do, but to forward my Journey as much as he could: He protested he did not keep them, but was ignorant of the Cause of their Stay; though I soon found it out:—He had promised them a Present of Guns, &c., if they would wait 'til the Morning.

As I was very much press'd, by the Indians, to wait this Day for them, I consented, on a Promise, That nothing should hinder them in the

Morning.

16th, The French were not flack in their Inventions to keep the Indians this Day also; but as they were obligated, according to Promife, to give the Present, they then endeavoured to try the Power of Liquor, which I doubt not would have prevailed at any other Time than this, but I urged and in-fifted with the King fo closely upon his Word, that he refrained, and fet off with us as he had

engaged.

We had a tedious and very fatiguing Passage down the Creek, several Times we had like to have been staved against Rocks, and many Times were obliged all Hands to get out and remain in the Water Half an Hour or more, getting over the Shoals; at one Place the Ice had lodged an it impassable by Water; therefore we were obliged to carry our Canoe across a Neck of Land, a Quarter of a Mile over. We did not reach Venange, till the 22d, where we met with our Hoifes.

This Creek is extremely crooked, I dare fay

the Distance between the Fort and Penango can's be less than 130 Miles, to follow the Meanders.
23d, When I got Things ready to set off, I sent

for the Half King, to know whether he intended to go with us, or by Water, he told me that White Thunder had hurt himself much, and was White Thunder had hurt himself much, and was sick and unable to walk, therefore he was obliged to carry him down in a Canoe: As I found he intended to stay here a Day or two, and knew that Idonseur Joncaire would employ every Scheme to set him against the English as he had before done; I told him I hoped he would guard against his Flattery, and let no sine Speeches influence him in their Favour: He desired I might not be concerned, for he knew the French too well. not be concerned, for he knew the French too well, for any Thing to engage him in their Behalf; and though he could not go down with us, he would endeavour to meet at the Forks with Joseph Campa lell, to deliver a Speech for me to carry to his
Honour the Governor. He told me he would
order the young Hunter to attend us, and get
Frovision, &c. if wanted.
Our Horses were now so weak and feeble, and

the Baggage heavy, as we were obliged to provide all the Necessaries that the Journey would require; that we doubted much their performing it r therefore my self and others (except the Drivers which were obliged to ride) gave up our Horses for Packs, to smit along with the Baggage; I put myself in an Indian Dress, and continued with them three Days, till I found there was no Prophibitive of their neutring in the same respective. bability of their getting in, in any reasonable Time; the Horses grew less able to travel every Day; the Cold increased very fast, and the Roads were becoming much worse by a deep Snow, continually freezing; and as I was uneasy to get back, to make Report of my Proceedings to his Honour the Governor, I determined to profecute my Jour-ney the nearest Way through the Woods, on

Accordingly I left Mr. Van Braam in Charge of our Baggage, with Money and Directions, to provide Neccifaries from Place to Place for themselves and Horses, and to make the most convenient Dif-

patch in. I took my necessary Papers, pulled off my Cloaths, tied myself up in a Match Coat, and with my Pack at my Back with my Papers and Provisions in it, and a Gun, fet out with Mr. Gift, fitted in the same Manner, on Wednesday the 26th. The Day sollowing, just after we had passed a Place called the Murdering Town, where we intended to quit the Path, and seer across the Country for Sharmening Town, we fell in with a Party of France. quit the Fath, and steer across the Country for Sbannapins Town, we fell in with a Party of French Indians, who had lain in Wait for us; one of them fired at Mr. Gift or me, not 15 Steps, but fortunately missed. We took this Fellow into Custody, and kept him till about 9 o'Clock at Night, and then let him go, and walked all the remaining Part of the Night without making any Stop, that we might get the Start so far, as to be out of the of the Night without making any Stop, that we might get the Start so far, as to be out of the Reach of their Pursuit the next Day, as we were well assured they would follow our Track as soon as it was light: The next Day we continued travelling till quite dark, and got to the River about 2 Miles above Shannapins; we expected to have found the River frozen, but it was not, only about 50 Yards from each Shore; the Ice I suppose had broke up above, for it was driving in vast Quantities.

There was no Way for getting over but on a Raft, which we fet about, with but one poor Hatcher, and got finished just after Sun setting, after a whole Day's Work; we got it launched, and on board of it, and set off; but before we were half Way over, we were jammed in the Ice in such a Manner that we expected every Moment our Raft to fink, and ourselves to perish; I put our my setting Pole to try to stop the Raft, that the my fetting Pole to try to stop the Raft, that the Ice might pass by, when the Rapidity of the Stream threw it with so much Violence against the Pole, that it jirked me out into 10 Feet Water, bur I. for unately faved myfelf by catching hold of one of