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Chas Hardy before this time. By several Persons who were made Prisoners but have lately made their Escape from the Enemy we are told that the French propose to make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland, before the End of the Campaign. One Street a Soldier that was taken at the Reduction of Fort Granville last Year is one of them that has lately escaped from the Enemy & he being examined on Oath declares that in May last the Garrison of Fort Duquesne consisted of about 300 French & some Indians but that before he came off a Reinforcement of 200 had come up the Ohio & brought with them a considerable Quantity of Provisions in 52 large Boats, that when he left Fort Duquesne 700 Soldiers had been some time expected down the River & that by what he had heard during his Stay there an Expedition was to be undertaken ag<sup>t</sup> Fort Cumberland immediately on their Arrival, for which Six Cannon & two Mortars had been got ready. Beside this Street there is one Lewny that is just come from Niagara, where he says the French have a Fort w<sup>ch</sup> mounts twenty four 6.9 & 12 Lbs & is garrisoned with 300 Men that the Night before he left that place 200 French arrived there from Cataragui in their Boat to Fort Duquesne towards which place they were to proceed the next Morning. This Lewny served last Year as an Ensign in the Virg<sup>a</sup> Troops & I think his Account as well as Streets Relation of what he saw may be depended on. If Fort Cumberland is the place that the French have in View I hope the Commanding Officer will be advised very early of their Approach that he might call on Col: Stanwix in time for Aid otherwise I shall be under very great Uneasiness, for the place is really so weak as well from its Situation as the manner after which it is constructed that it will be no easy Task to defend it against any considerable Body. The Troops that do Duty there at this time are I believe near 300. The rest of our Men in Number about 120 remain at Fort Fred<sup>ks</sup> to garrison that place & patrol on the Frontiers.