

5<sup>th</sup> but as the Subject naturally led me to it I think I should not have done Justice to Myself or the other Gent<sup>l</sup> who hold Offices under His M<sup>ty</sup> if I had declined expressing my Sentiments ingenuously & freely on the Occasion. — In the inclosed Gazette You will see an Article of News from New York which together with the Account of one Street who has lately made his Escape from Fort Duquesne affords Us great Room to ~~think~~ believe that the French will make an Attempt on Fort Cumberland before the End of the Campaign. This Street was a Drummer in the Pen<sup>a</sup> Forces till Fort Granville was reduced last Summer when he was taken by the Enemy & carried into Captivity. Being examined on Oath he says there were at Fort Duquesne in May last about 300 French & some Indians that before he came off a Reinforcement of 200 Soldiers had arrived from the Mississippi & brought with them 12 large Boats loaded with Provisions. That the Garrison of Fort Duquesne expected 400 more Soldiers & many more Indians down the Ohio every Day & that immediately on their Arrival an Expedition was to be undertaken ag<sup>t</sup> Fort Cumberland for which purpose 6 Cannon & 2 Mortars had been got ready. If this is the Enemy's Design I hope Dagworthy will have early Advice of their Motions otherwise neither Colonel Stanair Col<sup>l</sup> Washington or Myself shall be able to get up in Time to his Assistance & if we cannot he will have a difficult Task to defend a Place that it is morally impossible to render. I had almost said Tenable. I believe the Garrison there at present does not fall far short of 300 Men, the Rest of our Provincials are posted at Fort Fredrich with Orders to patroll on the Frontiers & cover the Inhabitants.