

24
The River - Spoungtela before a Reinforcement can be
sent the Garrison from Canada or the French Settlements in
that part of the Continent which they call Louisiana. This one
Scheme, & erecting a Fortress which we conceive absolutely necessary
on an Island in the River Ohio opposite to Duquaine's Fort
is all that I can entertain very sanguine hopes of being able to
execute, with so small a Number of Men as will I apprehend
(unless some Draughts be sent from England) compleat the
Corps that will be under my Direction; as most of these will
be required in Case our Enterprize succeeds, to garrison the two
Forts above-mentioned, & one that is already begun at a Place
called Mills Creek on Potomack's River, designed to be a Magazine
for the Troops that shall be employed in the Service; But if
the several Colonies should be persuaded to increase our
American Forces enough in the Spring to afford us a Prospect
of making a successful Attempt upon the Fort that the French
have compleated on Buffalo River near Lake Erie you
will be pleased to think that I will with the greatest Alacrity
prosecute that Service, tho' I must at present confess that the
Strength of the Enemy in those Parts, their superior Knowledge
of the Country which is likely to be the Scene of Action & their
Numerous Alliances among the Indian Nations forbid me to
flatter myself unless the Colonies grant Supplies beyond my
Expectations with hopes of any very important Successes against
our Enemy, who are strengthened by Unanimity among themselves,
upon this Consideration I cannot indeed but entertain some
Suspicion that these His Majesty's Dominions can never be
effectually secured from the Encroachments of the French &
Devastations of their Indian Allies, farther Possibilities on