

Courage or military Skill I despair of seeing any of them  
 so forward as to offer themselves Volunteers under my Com-  
 mand unless the Enemy was to approach so far as actually  
 to deprive them of their Habitations & Possessions of which alone  
 they are found tenacious. as to the Six Indian Nations, I  
 cannot persuade myself to have much Confidence in their  
 Fidelity or rely on them for Aid; they are & have been  
 long wavering between the two Crowns & tho they should  
 be inclined as some imagine to support our Interest yet  
 the fear of our Enemy's Strength & Vigilancy deterr them  
 from declaring openly in our Favour; a large Party or  
 Tribe of these People who inhabit near St. Lawrence's River  
 are avowedly in the French Interest & will not hesitate  
 to perpetrate whatever the French require. In the Engagements  
 that happened last July between the Virginians & the Garrison  
 of Monongahela or Dequisne. Lost a considerable Body of  
 these Six Nations who dwell near the Banks of Ohio & Lake  
 Erie appeared with our Enemies in Arms against us  
 tho many of their Chiefs & People were at that time receiving  
 our Presents at Albany & making with the Commissioners  
 from these several Colonies a League of Peace & Amity. <sup>in</sup>  
<sup>this & some other of their Transactions incline me to think that</sup>  
~~truth I believe they will never ~~assist~~ ~~voluntarily~~ ~~in~~~~  
 join & assist us <sup>heartily</sup> against our Enemies till they perceive that  
 we are an over Match for them ourselves; & I imagine that  
<sup>no real regard, excepting perhaps a deep bew of them</sup>  
~~they entertain no very favourable~~ <sup>or us</sup> ~~opinion either for us~~  
<sup>& stand in fear of</sup>  
 the French, but are awed by our Power & Numbers. &  
 I doubt not daily curse their Ancestors for suffering <sup>either of</sup> us to