

French who had lately marched down from Canada
were building a Fort on the River Ohio westward of the
Province of Pensilvania & about 150 Miles from the inhabited
Part of Virginia requiring him to retire & relinquish His
Majesty the King of Great Britains Lands on which they were
then presuming to erect a Fort. instead of complying with
Governor Denwiddies Requisition the French Commandant
replied that it was more the part of His Commander the
Governor of Canada than his to dispute with the Governor
of Virginia about the Property of the Land. He was
then perswaded of that for this part he was only concerned
with his Commanding Officers Orders which he was deter-
-mined punctually to obey & repel by force whatever
Power should attempt to dislodge or interrupt him in the
Execution of his Duty. On the Messengers Return with
this answer Governor Denwiddie thought proper to order a
Party of 30 Men to advance to the Ohio some Miles
below the French Fort & prepare Materials for erecting
a Fort upon that River hoping the general
Assembly of Virginia (whom he immediately convened)
& the neighbouring Colonies would enable him not only
to compleat & garrison that Fort but also to recover
all the Lands that the French had taken possession of on
that fine River. with the Supplies granted by the Assembly
He proceeded to raise 300 Men in that Province having
been also informed from home that 2 from New York
& one of 4 Independant Companies from South Carolina
were ordered round to Virginia to attend His Orders
& Directions. The Company from Carolina arrived in