

Virginia the latter End of <sup>April</sup> ~~March~~ & thereafter from New  
York within 3 or 4 weeks after, but whatever hopes he  
had entertained of receiving assistance from the other  
Colonies proved entirely vain & illusive it being not pos-  
sible as yet to persuade any of them that they were at  
all interested in the Affair or could be in the least  
affected by the Event & Issue of the Dispute. With the  
Troop however above numbered, & about 200 Men that were  
to be sent out from N Carolina to join them, Gov: Denissie  
hoped to be able at least to act defensively & to proceed to  
erect a Fort or two on Ohio till He should receive farther  
Instructions from home for his Conduct: while He was about  
to order this Scheme into Execution Intelligence was brought  
him that a Body of about 200 French Regulars had on the  
17<sup>th</sup> of April come down on the small Party who had been  
ordered out to prepare Materials for building a Fort & had  
obliged them to relinquish what Materials they had collected  
for that purpose & to return again to Virginia. This Informa-  
tion was too soon confirmed to us & the Enemy immediately  
began & have now completed a Fort considerably strong  
& large near the Spot on which our People had begun to  
build & have mounted therein several Swivels & some  
Cannon. Guns. at the time that Ensign Ward & His  
Detachment made the Surrendry above mentioned the Part  
of the Virginia Corps & the South Carolina Company  
under the Command of one M<sup>r</sup> Washington were advancing  
to support them & fortify themselves on the River but on  
being acquainted with the cause of this their unexpected