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have reduced to about 200 are encamped on the Frontiers  
of the settled part of Virginia & this Province at a place  
called Mills Creek where I believe they are to proceed to  
build a Fort or sort of Magazine & there remain till some  
Instructions from home shall open to them a prospect of  
entering upon Action with greater probability of Success  
This I flatter myself with the hopes of seeing soon as I make  
no Doubt but a proper Representation of the present Posture  
of Affairs on this Continent has been made home & that our  
Situation & Condition will be taken into Consideration. This  
our past & present Possession & Supremacy absolutely requires  
which has prevented our being at this time in possession  
of a fine Country that the French are making themselves  
masters of & whence they will not be dislodged but at a  
great Expence. Thus far I had writ some weeks since  
designing to address it to your Ldp by the first opportunity of  
Conveyance that should offer but none having till now occurred  
I have had it transcribed & thereto added a few Lines to  
inform your Ldp that I have received a Commission which  
his Majesty has been pleased to honour me with whereby I am  
ordered to take the Command of all the Forces that shall  
be employed in this part of the Continent against his  
Majestys & this Countries Enemies. in pursuance of this  
I am making some necessary preparations for taking the  
Field or rather the Woods this winter in hopes of being  
able if the neighbouring Governments will make a proper  
addition to the Troops above numbered to carry the Fort