

which the Enemy as I have before, noticed have built  
 on the Whio at the Forts of Monongahela, or one that  
 they have built farther up the River nearer Lake Erie.  
 The Possession of either of these would enable us to cut off  
 if we are properly supported, the Communication that they  
 are solicitous to establish, by a Chain of Forts from Mont-  
 real to New Orleans near the Mouth of the River  
 Mississippi, & would also prevent the total Stop of a Trade  
 that these Colonies have hitherto enjoyed with the Indian  
 Nations of which we are already almost utterly deprived.  
 A small Number of Men from home would, I persuade  
 myself have rendered me equal to this Task but as I cannot  
 expect to see Troops transported thither to be under my Direc-  
 tion I will endeavour to do the best I can, with those I have  
 the honour to command & will hope that I may be able to  
 give you such an Account of my Conduct as I flatter  
 myself your good wishes for me makes you desirous of seeing.  
 In the mean time I would beg the favour of you to signify  
 to me whether it would become me at any time to take  
 the Liberty to submit my Transactions & Behaviour in the  
 Execution of my Commission to His Royal Highness, or satisfy  
 myself with laying them only before the Ministry & yourself  
 whom I will beg leave to trouble, as often as I have any  
 thing of importance to write on. Your L<sup>d</sup> will have your  
 goodness to excuse my sending this in a different Character  
 from what I designed, & attribute it to my being entirely  
 engrossed by some Business that demands to be dispatched  
 before I can leave this place & your L<sup>d</sup> will I hope believe me to be  
 with the greatest respect & regard as I am &c.