

- dant Companies to carry the Fort that the French  
 have built upon the River Monongahela before a Reinforce-  
 ment can be sent the Garrison from Canada or the French  
 Settlements in that part of the Continent which they call  
 Louisiana. This erecting a Fort (which we conceive  
 absolutely necessary for its <sup>the</sup> Security on an Island in the River  
 Ohio opposite to the said French Fort is as much as I  
 can hope to execute with so small a Number of Men as  
 will I apprehend compleat the Corps that will be under  
 my Direction, most of whom will be required in Case our  
 Enterprises should succeed to garrison the two Forts above-  
 mentioned, & one that is begun at a Place called Wills-Creek  
 on Potomack River by way of a general Magazine for the  
 Troops that may be employed in the Service. I have just  
 received Advice from Governor Morris that about 60  
 French Indians were seen very lately on their way toward  
 the Fort on Ohio & that 200 more were about to follow  
 them to be employed against our back Settlements this  
 Winter if we do not deprive them of that Asylum where  
 they propose to resort & ravage the Country at Intervals  
 with impunity. As soon as I can make some necessary  
 Preparations for my Journey which shall not retard me more  
 than <sup>a week</sup> I intend to set out for Wills-Creek, in the Interim  
 I will write to all the Neighbouring Colonies & solicit their  
 Assistance, if they should fortunately be disposed to increase  
 considerably our American Forces in the Spring. I will  
 with the greatest Alacrity & Diligence prosecute. It is