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to writing & humbly submit to you the Opinion which
the Situation of the Country leads to & the late French
actions of the French has led me to entertain you
will not I am persuaded condemn this Freedom in
communicating my Thoughts unasked for as a culpable
Forwardness but rather attribute it to my earnest
Desire to do every thing that may be agreeable to
yourself? — What Intelligence we have lately rec^d
concerning the French who have been sent to take
possession of the Country adjacent to the River Ohio
& their present Strength & Numbers in those Parts you
will know from Sr J^r St Clair & Gov. Dinwiddie
I entertain the most sanguine hopes that their Numbers
here will not be found very formidable,
but I am apprehensive that unless the Communication
between Canada & the Posts & Settlements of the French
have made to the Southward of Lake Erie can be cut
off it will not be an easy matter to secure our Possession
of them after the Success of your Arms have recovered
his Majesty's Dominions on which the French Troops
have presumed some time since to encroach. — The
permission & Licence that that Nation obtained some
Years ago to build a Fort in the Country of the
6 Indian Nations at Niagara the Pass or Strait
between the Lakes Erie & Ontario have now given them
Command over those people & an Opportunity of monopolizing
the Trade with the distant Nations & has secured to them
a short & easy Communication between their Northern