

my Opinion, the most desirable Place in N  
 America as I have before hinted to you & as  
 intimated to General Braddock upon his  
 arrival on this Continent in a Letter that  
 beginning with an Apology for my Tardiness  
 in waiting upon him in Person was thus  
 continued "What Intelligence we have  
 lately received concerning the French who  
 have been sent to take Possession of the Country  
 adjacent to the River Ohio & their present Strength  
 in these Parts you will know from Sr John  
 St Clair & entertain the most sanguine hopes  
 that their Numbers there will not be found  
 very formidable; but I am apprehensive that  
 unless the Communication between Canada &  
 the Posts & Settlements that 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 has recovered his Majesty's Dominions on  
 which the French Troops have presumed to encroach  
 the Permission or Licence that that Nation  
 obtained some Years ago to build a Fort in  
 the Country of the 6 Indian Nations at Niagara  
 (the proper Strait between the Lakes Erie &  
 Ontario) has now given them the Command over