

the neighbouring colonies, would enable him not only to compleat and garrison that fort, but also to recover all the lands that the French had taken possession of on that fine river, with the supplies granted by the Assembly, he proceeded to raise 300 men in that province, having been also informed from home that 2 from New York and one of the Independent Companies from South Carolina were ordered round to Virginia, to attend his orders and directions. The Company from Carolina arrived in Virginia the latter end of April, those from New York within three or four weeks after, but whatever hopes he had entertained of receiving assistance from the other colonies, proved entirely vain and illusive, it being not possible as yet to persuade any of them that they were at all interested in the affair, or could be in the least affected by the event and issue of the dispute. With the force, however above numbered, and about 300 men that were to be sent out from N. Carolina to join them, Gov. Denwiddie hoped to be able at least to act defensively, and to erect a fort or two on Ohio till he should receive farther instructions from home for his conduct. While he was about to order this scheme into execution, intelligence was brought him that a body of about 200 French Regulars had on the 17th of April come down on the small party, who had been ordered out to prepare materials for a fort, and had obliged them to relinquish what materials they had collected for that purpose, and to return again to Virginia.

This information was too soon confirmed to us, and the enemy immediately began, and have now compleated a fort considerably strong and large, near the spot on which our people had begun to build, and have mounted therein several swivels and some carriage guns. At the time that Ensign Ward and his detachment made the surrendering above mentioned, the rest of the Virginia corps and the South Carolina company, under the command of one Mr. Washington, were advancing to support them and fortify themselves on the river, but on being acquainted with the cause of this, there unexpected return, as soon as the party met him he declined proceeding till he should be reinforced by other troops, who were now in motion toward him, and in the mean time employed himself in opening a road from the frontiers of this Province, toward the enemy's fort. While he was in this situation, about midway between the English settlements and the enemy, a party of his men fell in with Monsieur Jumonville, a lieutenant, and about 30 men from the fort, (who were sent as twas supposed, to intercept a convoy of provisions designed for our men,) having killed Jumonville and 7 or 8 of his detachment, they took the rest prisoners, and sent them under a guard to the Governor of Virginia where they yet remain. No sooner did the news of this skirmish reach Ohio, but the enemy drew together from the several fortresses, which they have built up and down that river, near 1,000 men, in order to fall on our troops and return the complement. Mr. Washington being apprized of this, a few days before the enemy approached him, with ye advice of the other officers,