

retired a few miles to a place called the Meadows, it being low land, between two eminences or small hills where he encamped, and as well as the time would permit endeavoured to secure himself by drawing around him a small ditch and building within it a sort of log house. Here on the 3d of July about noon the French attacked him, and having killed him, about 80 men obliged him toward the evening to capitulate and accept terms, which indeed were very far from being pretty honorable, that he did not stand longer on the defensive. He attributes to the great improbability there was of holding out against such a superiority of numbers when he had not any expectations of seeing the other troops come to his assistance and being also in want of both ammunition and provisions but that he was prevailed on to sign a dishonorable capitulation is owing he declares and concurrent circumstances support his assertion not to these difficulties but to the infidelity of one of his captains now a hostage with the enemy on whom he depended to interpret to him the terms and conditions proposed to him by the enemy which were written in French, a language that Mr. Washington had the misfortune to be entirely unacquainted with, thus at once were frustrated all the hopes that had been conceived from the Virginia armament and tho' the news of this defeat has somewhat alarmed the people in this part of the continent, yet they could not be persuaded to advance any thing considerable for carrying on another expedition against these Invaders who I am afraid will gradually make themselves masters of our Possessions as they have already of all the Indian Trade unless some measures be taken at home to oblige us to defend them ourselves or remittances made hither to encourage the service. At present the independant companies a company of 100 men which this province has raised and the Remains of the Virginians whom Death and Desertions have reduced to about 200 are encamped on the frontiers of the settled part of Virginia and this Province at a place called Will's Creek where I believe they are to proceed to build a Fort or sort of Magazine and there remain till some instructions from home shall open to them a prospect of entering upon action with greater probability of success.

This, I flatter myself with the hopes of seeing soon as I make no doubt but a proper representation of the present posture of affairs on this Continent has been made home and that our situation and condition will be taken into consideration. This our past and present parsimony and supineneness absolutely requires which has prevented our being at this time in possession of a fine country that the French are making themselves masters of, and whence they will not be dislodged, but at a great expense. Thus far I had writ some weeks since designing to address it to your lordship by the first opportunity of conveyance that should offer, but none having till now occurred, I have had it transcribed and thereto added a few lines to inform your lordship that I have received a commission which his majesty has been pleased to honor me with, whereby I am ordered to take the command of all the