

forces that shall be employed in this part of the continent against his majesty's and this country's enemies. In pursuance of this I am making some necessary preparations for taking the field or rather the woods this winter in hopes of being able if the neighbouring governments will make a proper addition to the troops above numbered to carry the Fort which the enemy as I have before noticed have built on the Ohio at the forks of Monongahela, or one that they have built further up the River nearer Lake Erie. The possession of either of these would enable us to cut off if we are properly supported, the communication that they are solicitous to establish by a chain of Forts from Montreal to New Orleans near the mouth of the River Mississippi, and would also prevent the total loss of a trade that these colonies have hitherto enjoyed with the Indian nations, of which we are already almost utterly deprived. A small number of men from home would I persuade myself have rendered me equal to this task, but as I cannot expect to see troops transported hither to be under my direction, I will endeavour to do the best I can with those I have the honour to command, and will hope that I may be able to give you such an account of my conduct as I flatter myself your good wishes for me make you desirous of seeing. In the mean time I would beg the favour of you to signify to me whether it would become me at any time to take the liberty to submit my transactions and behaviour in the execution of my commission to his Royal Highness or satisfy myself with laying them only before the ministry and yourself whom I will beg leave to trouble as often as I have any thing of importance to write on. Your Ldp. will have the goodness to excuse my sending this in a different character from what I designed and attribute it to my being entirely engrossed by some business that demands to be despatched before I can leave this place and your Ldp. will I hope believe me to be with the greatest respect and regard.

Yr. Ldp's &c.

*Annapolis, April 19th, 1755.*

Dear Brother :

As time would not permit me to be so particular as I could have wished in a letter, that I writ to you last month, I will endeavor to make up *the* deficiency of that by the particularity of this, which will shew you what part I have acted since the late transactions of the French on this continent, have engaged the attention of our mother country. What steps Governor Dinwiddie took towards the end of the year 1753, on being advertised that the French had settled at several places on the banks of the Ohio and the streams thereinto flowing, you are acquainted with as much as myself, wherefore my account shall commence in January, 1754, at which time the Assembly of Virginia were prevailed on to grant £10,000 currency toward defending their frontiers against the enemy, who had lately invaded them. At the same time I thought it my duty to convene the Assembly of this province and