

The *French* growing every Day stronger on the Back of *Virginia*, the Governor thought it necessary to build a small Fort on the Forks of the River *Monongahela*, and sent Ensign *Ward* with a Company to garrison it; but he was soon compelled to surrender it to the *French*: An Account of which was given in a Letter dated at *Williamsburgh*, May 9, as follows:

“ On Saturday last arrived in Town from *Ohio*, Ensign *Edward Ward*, of Captain *Trent*’s Company, with an Indian Messenger from the *Half King*. Mr. *Ward*, informs us that on the 17th of last Month, the *French*, consisting of about 1000 Men, under the Command of *Monf. De Contrecoeur*, came from *Venango* in 300 Canoes and 60 Battoes, with 18 Pieces of Cannon, to the Forts of *Monongahela*, where he, with 33 Soldiers, were in Garrison; that as soon as they landed, they advanced in regular Order within a Musket-shot of the Fort, and demanded an immediate Surrender, threatening on his Refusal, to take it by Force. The great Superiority of the *French* obliged him to give it up, obtaining Liberty to march out with every Thing they had in the Fort. The next Day he set out with his Company to meet the Forces, ordered from *Alexandria* to reinforce him, and at *Will’s Creek* he met Lieutenant Col. *Washington*, with a Detachment of 150 Men under his Command. *Washington*, on hearing this Account, thought it unadvised to proceed to the Forts with so small a Force, but determined to march to *Redstone Creek*, about 37 Miles from the Fort, and there intrench himself, till he should be joined by Col. *Fry*.

The Speech brought by the *Indian* from the *Half King*, is full of the Warmest Expressions of Friendship and Attachment to the *English* Interest. The Governor sent him back on *Tuesday*, with a firm Assurance of a vigorous Assistance.

When all the Forces, now ordered to the *Ohio* from this and the neighbouring Governments, are arrived, they will make up about 1100 Men, beside the Assistance we expect from *Pensylvania*, *Maryland*, *South Carolina*, &c. and a great Number of *Indians* that are ready to join us.”

Col. *Washington* having increased his Forces to about 350 Men, went and encamp’d at one of our Forts on the