

war. In any attempt of the French, can we in the least assure ourselves of the fidelity of the Indians? might they not with great probability become abettors in all the schemes of the French, who have acquired but too much the art of conciliating the affections of the most savage among them. The tribes that inhabit these parts, and call themselves the Ten Nations, are as numerous as any other associated confederacy of Indians in North America, have been in strong alliance with the French; there still are (tho' in disguise) several of French extraction, and many of them of the military kind. What therefore have we not to apprehend? the forts at Missilimakinac and Detroit would have the whole force of Louisiana to contend with, and very probably a combination of the Indians; and thus backed, could we expect to keep possession of those forts? Could we draw together a sufficient force to repel the invaders? Could we attack them with the least advantage? Could we supply an army at such a distance from our proper frontier? the consequences of a repulse from such invaders, who come prepared for slaughter, would be truly horrible; let us recollect that of Braddock's, and tremble at the apprehensions of such another!

Success, either by the River Illinois or Ohio, would likewise give the French a very considerable share of the fur trade. The country for several miles between Lake Erie and part of the Ohio, is reckoned the chief spot for hunting among the Indians in North-America, on account of the great resort of deer and beaver to the salt pits which are there in great abundance: and the country to the west and north of the Upper Lake is undoubtedly well situated for the same trade. The Indians for
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