

which to people who cultivate lands, would be no less than ruin. But to return from this digression, these wise gentry who dream of forming a frontier in America, mean I suppose (if they mean any thing) that we should retain at least, the forts on the south side of the lakes Ontario and Erie, viz. Oswego, Niagara, Presque Isle, the rivers Au Beuf and Ohio; a possibility of maintaining which against the inclinations of the Indians (from these advantages which they have over us) is certainly chimerical. By the Indians I here mean in particular the Six Nations or Iroquois. Oswego, on which all the other forts depend, is 248 miles from Schenectady, seventy of which upon the banks of the Mohock river are inhabited; but upon the least alarm of an enemy, they fly with their wives and children into  
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