

they please : their many settlements in North America are divided into four bodies, *Canada*, *Louissana*, the *Illinois*, and *le Detroit*, which are all connected together by the navigation above described, and the river *Ohio*. These are all under one government with the same views and interest; while we are divided and disunited by different governments, laws, and customs, with as different views and interests, as ever any people had ; by which our force is never to be joined, whilst theirs is always so. And their force when thus joined is superior to the force of any one of our colonies, especially when they are backed by the Indians ; by which means they succeed in every thing they undertake, in the manner we see, with only a handful of men, against all the numbers we have in our colonies, when they are taken together. But if the French take them one by one, as they have done, they must soon take them all, as they are superior to any one of our colonies

It was this vast advantage, and convenience that made the French so intent upon securing the river *Ohio* ; a step that we might always see they would take, if it was possible for them. In the midst of this extensive navigation stands that important place of *Fort du Quesne* upon the *Ohio* described below, which is not more important than it is convenient to them.