

and the Ohio and Cherokee with the Mississippi. If this is not done, will they not again attack our remote forts, and secure the passes to our most fertile settlements? Will they not, by means of these rivers, open a communication with the Canadians, which might cause frequent insurrections and disturbances there, if we have not a proper disciplined force to overawe them?

With regard to any future attempts from the French in Louisiana on the side of the Ohio, can our fort at Pittsburg ever answer the purpose of an effectual barrier, when, at the small distance of two hundred and fifty miles from the capital of Pennsylvania, considering that *that* river flows upward of 1200 miles from thence before it falls into the Mississippi? Can it be thought it will prove the least security against future encroachments, or hostilities in the colonies of Pennsylvania and New-York? Might not our enemies, with the greatest facility, possess themselves of the whole river to the west of that port, without any obstruction from the garrison? If the garrison should happen to be cut off from the fort, or the enemy be strong enough to block it up, or lay siege to it (which there is no doubt they would) must it not fall an easy prey before any reinforcement could get to it? and that done, might they not again depopulate and ravage our frontier settlements, and carry fire and sword into the heart of our colonies? and, in our endeavours to retake this fort, would not the difficulties we should have in marching an army, and conveying the necessary baggage and artillery over the mountains, render them able to baffle our attempts, and maintain their ground there three or four campaigns, as they have done this war? But, if they should find it necessary to abandon
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