

and abandon their Fort, Du Quesne, which they effected upon the 24th instant, and of which I took possession with my light troops the same evening, and with my little army the next day.—The enemy made their escape down the river, part in boats, and part by land, to their forts and settlements upon the Mississippi, having been abandoned, or, at least, not seconded, by their friends the Indians, whom we had previously engaged to act a neutral part, after thoroughly convincing them, in several skirmishes, that all their attempts upon our advanced posts, in order to cut off our communication, were vain, and to no purpose; so they now seem all willing, and well disposed to embrace his majesty's most gracious protection.

Give me leave, therefore, to congratulate you upon this important event, of having expelled the French from Fort Du Quesne, and this prodigious tract of fine rich country; and, of having, in a manner, reconciled the various tribes, and nations of Indians, inhabiting it, to his majesty's government.

So far I had wrote you the 26th, but being seized with an inflammation in my stomach, and liver, the sharpest and most severe of all distempers, I could proceed no farther; and, as I have a thousand things to say, have ordered major Halkett down the country, in order to explain the motives upon which I proceeded, and the various, and almost insurmountable difficulties I had to grapple with.

I shall leave this as soon as I am able to stand; but God knows when, or if ever, I reach Philadelphia.

I expect the heads of all the Indians in here tomorrow, when I hope very soon to finish with them.

Major Halkett, who has been dispatched on this occasion, by brigadier general Forbes, is not yet arrived from New York.

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