

more exquisite piece of policy thought of, than this custom of carrying off the children, who being separated from their friends and relations, removed from all English objects, and not suffered by their masters even to speak their native tongue, become in a short time enamoured with their ranging independent kind of life, forget intirely all their former connections, and are savages to all intents and purposes; by these means the number of their enemy is decreased, their own augmented, and consequently their power. The Shawanese and Delawars might, I suppose, when they commenced hostilities against us, amount to six hundred fighting men; they are now, I dare say, double that number, at least, if I may judge of the whole from what I was witness of, in one of
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