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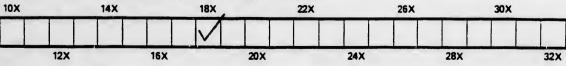
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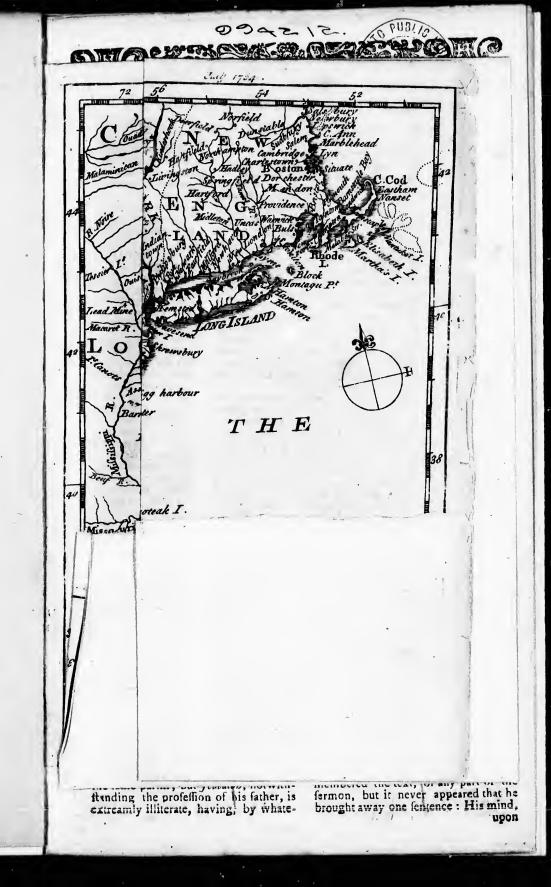
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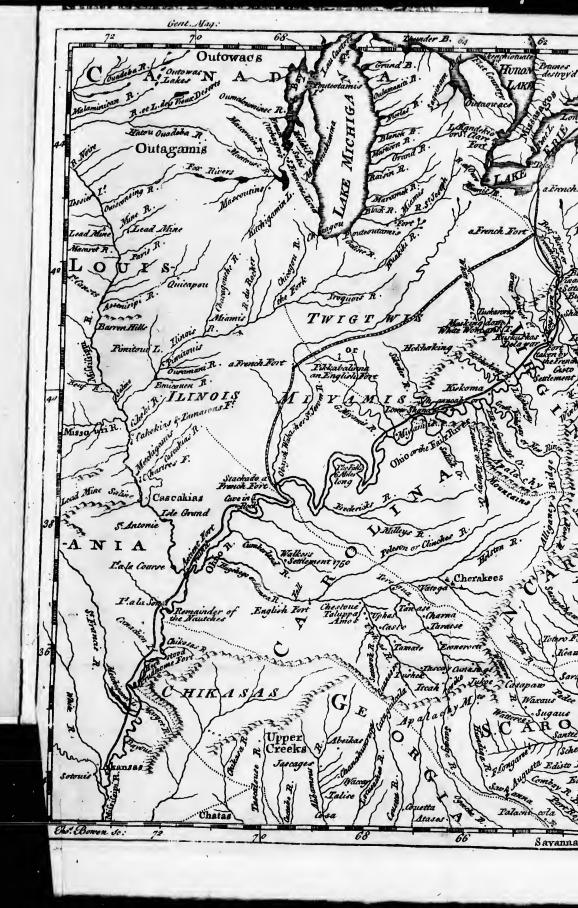
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fords the molt delicious repait.

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Account of a Yourney from Williamsburg to the French Fort, near the Lake Erri, in Virginia.

THE French having been lately erecting forts, and making fettlements upon the river Ohio, in the western parts of Virginia, which are known to be the property of Great Britaia. Major George Washington was sent by Governor Dimwiddle, with a letter to the French commandant on that river, by which he was required to depart. Mr Washington set out on the 31st of October 1753, and reached Will's Creek on the 14th of November; from whence G he proceeded the next day with Mr Gist, a perfon whom he had engaged as a guide, a French interpreter, two in-

'n dian traders, and fome other attendants · and fervants, with horfes and proper ac-H commodations for the journey sal fud t_ At a imall diltance from the fork of ì, 1-3 ine Obio; after 2; days travel; heicalled H upon Shingifs, king of the Dilaware. In-٧. dians, who, went with him to Logg's le lk the chiefs of the Six Nations, insionder 10 to

Journey of Maj. Walhington, to Fort Erri on the Ohio. 253

to engage them in his interest, and induce them to renounce all connexion wich the French. www 1011

One of the chiefs, called the Half King ; who had lutely been a journey, to the French commander, was ablent at A bis hunting cabbin, but a meffenger being immediately dipatch'd to him, he came the next day. Mr Walkington took him alide, with his Indian interpreter, and enquired the view of his expedition, and how he had fucceeded.

ftrated sgainst their encroachments on a territory which belonged neither to them nor to the English, declaring that he would keep both at arms length, and would join in amity with that fide only which withdrew into, those bounds that had originally been preferibed ; That he was answered by the Frenchman with great haughtinefs, who faid, that he feared not flies or mulquetas, and fuch he held the Indians, to be; that they might expect kindnefs if they fubmitted to his will, and if not he would tread them under his feet.

On the 26th of Nov. Mr Washington met the chiefs in council, when they agreed that the wampum * delivered by the French to them fhould be returned, as a fymbol of abolishing all agreements between them ; that fome of them fhould attend Mr. Wasbington with a sufficient guard for his defence, and fome of their best hunters to furnish him with provi- E fions during the journey.

After a delay of lome days, he fet out with three of the chiefs, the Half King, White Thunder, Jefka Kake, and one of their best hunters; it; having been determined, after more mature confideration, that a greater number might alarm F the French, and cause them to be rudely treated.

On the 4th of December they arrived at Venango, about 60 miles from Logs. town, a where they found the French colours hoisted upon a house, from which they had driven John Frafter, an Englife fubject ; to this house Mr Wafb- Gon, on which he would then have been ington immediately repaired, and enquired for ithe : commandant ; he was. toon introduced to three officers, one. ofs whom, captain Joncaire, informed him that he had the command of Qbio, but that there was a general and be beit to the 7th of December, about it is next forf; to whom it would be beit to the 7th of December, about it apply for an aniwer. This gentleman H forencon, the whole company let out supply for an aniwer. This gentleman H for the fort, which was dittant about 60 but that there was a general officer at the

3 230 A finns of Indian money, which is giv-Sentaplasmark of amity and the ratification of Intestient another of

plaifance, and invited him to fupper : the invitation was accepted, and the wine having foon put an end to the caution of his company, they no longer concealed their defigns. They fold him A that they determined to take policilion of the Obio, to which they precended a right from a discovery made by one la Solle 60 years ago ; that their view. was to prevent the English from making any lettlements upon it, which they knew they fhould accomplish, for tho The clief told him, that he remon- B the English could raile two men for their one, yet their motions were too flow to prevent any undertaking, of

theirs. Mr Walbington had not introduced his Indian affociates to these gentlemen, because Joncaire understood the lan-guage, and he feared they might be feduced from their purpole; however the rain that fell on the next day, having rendered it impossible to proceed to the fort, Joncaire heard where they had been left, and fent for them. When they came in he receiv d them

with expressions of the utmost joy, gently upbraided them with being to D near, and yet neglecting to visit him, gave each of them lome trifling prefents, and at length made them drunk.

It was now impossible to get them away ; they faid that all the affairs between their nation and the French. were left to Mr Joncaire ; and with him they would transact them. Ac-cordingly a kind of council was held, and the chiefs were prefent; they continued firm to their resolution, and offered Joncaire the wampum which they had determined to return. This however he artfully refuled to receive, and defired that it might be delivered to the commandant at the fort. To the fort however he had no

mind they should go, for having eluded the act by which all treaties were vacated, he laboured by every artifice in his power, to detain, the chiefs, till Mr Washington returned from his expeditiobliged to proceed alone.

But the Indian interpreter having, re-ceived infructions to be always with them, and Mr Giff, being, fent, on purpole to fetch them, they were, with much difficulty brought away, and on miles. has toors

This journey coff them four days, as it rained and inowed inceffanily, and great

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urney from William fburg Fort, near the Lake Erila.

uch having been lately forts, and making fetthe river Obio, in the ot Virginia, which are he property of Great Brieorge Wasbington was sent Dinzviddie, with a letter to nmandant on that river, as required to depart.

ton fet out on the gift of and reached Will's Creek November ; from whence the next day with Mr whom he had engaged as mich interpreter, two land fome other anendants with horfes and proper sefor the journey sal fud diltance from the forb of 2; days travely he called king of the Delaware Inent with him to Logg's he intended sto affemble ie Six Nations, insiorder

The Major's Interview with the French Commandant. .254

great part of the way was mire and iwamp : They arrived on the 11th, and on the 12th waited upon the governor, to whom Mr Walbington offered his commission and letter, which he was defired to keep till the arrival of M. A Riparts from the next fort, upon whom the principal command was jult develved, upon the death of the late general.

This gentleman who is a knight of the order of St Lewis, and named Leguardeur de St Piere; when he had received the letter from Mr Walbington, im B mediately withdrew into a private a-partment, where the captain translated it, and Mr Washington was then defired to bring his interpreter to perufe and correct nis tranflation.

"On the right a council was held to confider what answer Mr Washington fhould carry back, which however he C did not receive "till the evening of the next day. "In the mean time he perceived that every pofficle art was practifed upon the Indians, to prevent their re turning with him : He therefore preffed them to execute their defign without delay ; upon their application they were D admitted to an audience the fame night, when the Half King offered the wampum to the commandant, but he declined to take it as foncaire had done at Venango. He faid, he defired to live at peace and trade amicably with them, as a proof of which he would immediately fend found means to keep them all the 15th, by promifing them a prefent of guns in the morning, and labour'd hard to keep them that day allo, but Mr Washington, urging their promife not to leave him, nor delay his journey beyond that time, they embarked with him on the 16th in a canoe, which had been well provided F with liquor and provision, Mr Washington having fent the horfes unloaded to Venange, as he perceived them to grow weaker and weaker every day, and the fnow encreased very fait.

Their pullage down the creek was extremely tedious and fatiguing ; they G visions, at his back, accompanied only were many times very near being flaved against rocks, and many times were obliged to get out and remain more than half an hour in the water to get the canoe over fhoals : At one place the ice had rendered the ftream unnavigable, and they were then compelled to take their canoe out of the water, and carry H nately milled his mark; though he was it over a neck of land, above a quarter. of a mile " As the creek is extremely ! crooked, the diffance by water from the-

they did not arrive there till the 22d.

As they found the horfes waiting fat whom they feized and this place, all things were got ready to ll 9 at night; when to purfue their journey by laud; on the prefape, and contin next day, and the Half King was afk'd; he remaining part of whether he would go with them; for ut making any flog, the by water; he and wered that White the to day be out of the Thunder had hurt himfelf very much, nowing that they wand was unable to waik, fo that he is foon as it was light and was unable to walk, fo that he is foon as it was light fhould be obliged to carry him down The next, day all in a cance. Mr Walpington eafily dif-ravelling till it was covered, that he intended to the ravelling till at was covered, that he intended to flay fome reached the river about days at Venange, and knew that Joneaire Shannapins, a town of would repeat his firatagems to fet him against the *Englifis*: "He therefore ad-over, but the iccrexic monified him to be upon his guard, so yards from the floo and not fuffer his refolution to be flaken by flattery and fair speeches. The king replyed, that he knew the *French* too over no way to pais well to be the dupe of any artifice which they could practice, and that although he could not accompany this friend, yet he would meet him at the day; they compleated forts, and pronounce a speech for thim to carry to the governor.

The horfes were now fo feeble; and the baggage fo heavy, that it was doubted, whether they would be able to perform the journey. Mr Washington, and Mr Giff, therefore gave up their horfes to affilt in carrying the baggage, and the major having put himfelf into an Indian walking dreis, proceeded on foot. The horfes however being every day less able to travel, he found if he walked fome goods for them, to Loggs Town; he E with them he should be greatly delay'd, that the cold increased very fait, and that the roads were made worfe every hour, by a deep now continually freez. ing ; he therefore; being impatient to report his proceedings, determined to profecute his journey the nearest way through the woods. Accordingly on the 26th he left his attendants in charge of the baggage, with money, and directions to provide necessaries for themfelves from place to place; and having wrapped himfelf in a watch coat, he fet out with his gun in his hand, and a pack containing his papers and proby Mr Gift, who was equipped in the fame manner, 1.5tente IC TOTSUE

The day following, juft as they had. pais'd a place called the Murdering Toton, they fell in with a party of French Indians, who had laid in wait for them, one of whom fired at them; but fortunot dillant more than 15 paces! Astfoon as the report of the piece had pat the * travellers upon their guard, the thidians fort to Venango is i 30 miles, fo that a made off, except the fellow that fired, monwel places . bave m

End of bis expedi

which they fet about, but one hatchet bety after the incefiant la Upon this raft, having culty launch'd it, they fore they got half wa themfeives falt among pected every mom would be funx under to inevitable destruc trefs, the major put o that, if posible the ic of his raft, but th ftream drove it with gainst the pole, that b quit it he was jerk'd He fortunately faved ing hold of one of with all their efforts the raft to either fhor fore obliged to quit zard, and make 10 fland; upon this ifia all night, and the co were expos'd, was Gift had all his finger of his toes; in the n the water fhut up, culty walk'd from th ice to the next fettle of January they left the 2d, arrived at M major provided him and reach'd William The purport of the brought to governo that the Commanda letter to them arquifs ever he commande and that in the mean mined to kept his ft Notes the reader m man of Ny America, to feveral places above me

End of bis expedition. 50. 10

22d. grat whom they feized and kept in cuffody y to 11 9 at night; when they fuffered him othe p efcape, and continued walking all fk'd, he remaining part of the night, withtor out making any itop that they might the "bite ext day be out of the reach of purfuit, uch, mowing that they would be tracked the is foon as it was light. a drow to

own The next day also they continued dif- ravelling till it was quite dark, and ome reached the river about two miles above caire Shannapins, a town on the fork! They him expected to have found it frozen quite ad. over, but the ice extended only about ard, 50 yards from the flore on each fide, sken and great quantities of ice were driv-ting ing in the middle. There was there-too fore no way to pafs it but on a rait, ifice which they fet about, though they had tal- out one hatchet between them, and, this after the incefiant labour of a whole the day, they compleated it just at fun fet. him Upon this raft, having with much difficulty launch'd it, they embarked, but heand fore they got half way over they found themfelves falt among the ice, and exabtpected every moment that the raft would be funk under it, and leave them to inevitable destruction. In this difries trefs, the major put out his fetting pole, and that, if possible the ice might pais clear *an of his raft, but the rapidity of the oot. ftream drove it with fuch violence against the pole, that being unwilling to quit it he was jerk'd into ten feet water: He fortunately faved himfelf by catching hold of one of the rait logs, but with all their efforts they could not get the raft to either shore, and were therefore obliged to quit it at whatever hazard, and make to a neighbouring ifland; upon this ifland they continued all night, and the cold to which they were expos'd, was to levere, that Mr Gift had all his fingers frozen, and some of his toes; in the morning they found the water fhut up, and without difficulty walk'd from the island over the ice to the next fettlement. On the 1st of January they left this place, and on the 2d, arrived at Mr Gift's, where the major provided himfelf with a horfe, had. and reach'd William burgh on the 16th. The purport of the aniwer which he zon, brought to governor Dineviddie, was, Inthat the Commandant would fend his em, letter to them arquifs Duguifne, that whatrtuever he commanded fould be done, H Was and that in the mean time he was deterðön | mined to kept his flation. the lians

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Notes the ireader may confult Mr Pople's map of N, America, for, the division of the feveral places above mentioned. iôm '

