Mashaskia, Illinois Apr 19th 1790

Sir,

A few days ago I received certain intelligence of William Mono, my express to you being killed near the falls of Ohio was truly disagreeable to me as I fear many of my letters will fall into the hands of the enemy at Detroit also some of them as I learn were found in the woods torn in pieces. I do not doubt but before the receipt of this you will hear of my late success against Governor Hamilton at post 5th Vincennes. That gentleman with a body of men possessed himself of that post on the 15th of December last repaired the fortifications for a repository and in the spring meant to attack this place which he made no doubt of carrying, where he was to be joined by 200 Indians from Meskeltrenohinoi & 500 Cherokees Shicca...
other nation. With this body he was to penetrate up the Ohio to Fort Pitt, sweeping Kentucky on his way having light brass cannon for the purpose, joined on his way by all the Indians that could be got to him he made no doubt but that he could force all West Augusta this expedition was ordered by the commander in chief of Canada. Destruction seemed to hover over us from every quarter detached parties of the Enemy in the neighbourhood every day but afraid to attack

ordered Maj. Bonman to evacuate the fort at the Cohas and join me immediately which he did, having not received a strap of a pair from you for near twelve months I could see but little probability of keeping possession of the county as my number of men was meagre
stand a siege and my situation too remote to call for assistance. I made all the preparations I possibly could for the attack & was necessitated to set fire to some of the houses in town to clear them out of the way. But in the height of the hurry a Spanish merchant who had been at St. Vincent arrived and gave the following intelligence. That Mr. Hamilton had weakened himself by sending his Indians against the Frontiers and to block up the Ohio; that he had not more than eighty men in garrison three pieces of cannon and some provincials mounted; that he intended to attack this place as soon as the winter opened and made no doubt of clearing.
The western waters by the fall. My situation and circumstances induced me to fall on the resolution of attacking him before he could collect his Indians again. I was sensible the resolution was as desperate as my situation but I saw no other possibility of securing the country. I immediately dispatched of a small galley which I had fitted up mounting two four pounders & four swivels with a company of men & necessary stores on board with orders to force her way if possible & station herself a few miles below the enemy; suffer nothing to pass her & wait for further orders. In the mean time I marched across the country with 150 men being all I could raise after leaving this place garrisoned by the militia.
of the country, behaved exceedingly well. Member of young men turned out on the expedition and every other one embodied to guard the different towns. I marched the 4th of February although so small a body it took me 16 days on the route. The inclemency of the season high water it seemed to break on the top of the expedition. When within three leagues of the enemy it took us five days to cross the drowned lands of the Wabash river having to wade often upwards of two leagues to our breast in water. Had not the weather been warm we must have perished. But on the evening of the 23 we got on dry land in sight of the enemy and at seven o'clock made the attack before they knew any thing of us. The town immediately surrendered with joy and espied in the siege.
a continual fire on both sides for eighteen hours. I had no expectation of gaining the fort until the arrival of my artillery. The moon setting about one o'clock I had an intrenchment thrown up in rifle shot of their strongest battery and poured such showers of well directed ball into their posts that we silenced two pieces of cannon in 15 minutes without getting a man hurt. Governor Hamilton and myself had on the following day several conferences but did not agree until the evening when he agreed to surrender the garrison (79 in number) prisoners of war with considerable stores. I got only one man wounded and being able to lose many I made them secure themselves well. Seven badly wounded in the fort threw the posts. In the height of this action an Indian...
party that had been to war and taken two prisoners came in not knowing of us hearing of them. I dispatched a party to give them battle in the commons and got nine of them with the two prisoners which proved to be Frenchmen. Hearing of a convoy of goods from Detroit I sent a party of 60 men in armed boats well mounted with onvils to meet them before they should receive any intelligence. They met the convoy 100 leagues up the river and made a prise of the whole taking 40 prisoners & about 10,000 worth of goods and provisions also the mail from Canada to governor Hamilton no news of importance. But what concerned the general was the arrival of William Morris my express to you with your letters which gave general satisfaction. The
being more sensible of the gratitude of their country for their services, more so much detest that they would have attempted the reduction of Detroit had I have ordered them. Having more prisoners than I knew what to do with I was necessitated to discharge a greater part of them on parole. Mr. Hamilton his principal officer and a few soldiers I have sent to Kentucky under convoy of Capt. Williams in order to be conducted to you. After dispatching more with letter to you treating with the neighbouring Indians & I returned to this place leaving a sufficient garrison at St. Simeon's during my absence, Capt. Robert George who now commands the company formerly Capt. Willing had returned from
new Orleans which greatly added to our strength.

I gave great satisfaction to the inhabitants when acquainted with the protection which was given them, the alliance with France. I am impatient for the arrival of Colo. Montgomery but have heard nothing of him lately. By your instructions to me I find you put no confidence in Genl. Whentock's taking Detroit as you encourage me to attempt it if possible. It has been twice in power. Had I been able to raise only 600 men when I first arrived in the country, lastly when I was at St. Vincenar could I have secured my prisoners and only had 300 good men I should have attempted it and since I am there could have been no doubt of success if by some gentlemen lately from that post we are in—
that the Town and Country kept three days in feasting and diversions on hearing of my success against Mr. Hamilton and was so certain of my embracing the fair opportunity of professing myself of that post that the merchants and others provided many necessaries for us on our arrival the garrison consisting of only eighty men not daring to stop their diversions. They are now completing a new fort and I fear too strong for any force I shall ever be able to raise in this country. We are proud to hear Congress intends putting her forces on the frontier under your direction. A small army from Pittsburgh conducted with spirit.
may easily take Detroit and put an end to the Indian war. Those Indians who are active against us are the six nations part of the Shawnees the Meamories and about half the Cherokees Ottawa Iroquois Patoonatimas nations bordering on the lakes. Those nations who have treated with me have behaved since very well to wit the Peankishans Kicapowes Oractotonos of the Mackinah river, the Haskias, Persians me. Jugamines, Foxes, Socks or pays Illinois and some nations of the Mississippi & Illinois rivers part of the Chishaways have also treated and are peaceable. I continually keep agents among them to watch their motions & keep them peaceably
many of the Cherokee chincasaws & their
confederates are I fear ill disposed. Should
be well if Colo. Montgomery should give them
a dressing as he comes down the Tenissee. There
can be no peace expected from many nations while
the English are at Detroit. Strongly suspect they will turn their arms against
the Illinois as they will be encouraged. I shall
always be on my guard watching every
opportunity to take the advantage of the
enemy & if I am ever able to muster six
or seven hundred men I shall give them a
short distance to come & fight me there at this
place. There is one circumstance very disturb-
ing which is that of our money being
discredited to all intents and purposes by

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great number of traders who came here in my absence each out bidding the other, giving prices unknown in this country by 5000l. by which the people conceived it to be of no value and both French & Spaniards refused to take a farthing of it. Provision is three times the price it was two months past and to be got by no other means than my own bonds, goods or forces. Several merchants are now advancing considerable sums of their own property rather than the service should suffer by what I am sensible they must suffer greatly unless some method is taken to raise the credit of our coin or a fund sent to Orleans for the payment of the expenses of this place which would at once reduce the price of every species of provision.
money being of little service to them unless it would trade at the ports they trade at. I mentioned to you my drawing some Bills on Mr. Pollock in New Orleans as I had no money with me he would accept the Bills but had not money to pay them off. The sums were trifling so that we have little credit to expect from that quarter. I shall take every step I possibly can for laying up a sufficient quantity of provisions. I hope you will immediately send me an express with your instructions. Public expenses in this country have hitherto been very low and may still continue so if a correspondence is fixed at New Orleans for payment of expenses in this country or gold and silver sent. I am glad to hear of Colo. Todd's appointment. Think the Government has taken.
only step they could have done to make this country flourish and be of service to them, more this regulation could have suited the people the last account I had of Colo. Rogers was his being in New Orleans with six of his men, the rest he left at the Spanish Orzech above the matches I shall immediately send him some provisions as I am he is in great want. I doubt he will not be able to get his goods up the River except in Spanish bottoms. One Regiment would be able to clear the Mississippi and do great damage to the British interest in Florida and by properly conducting themselves might perhaps gain the affection of the people so as to raise sufficient force to give a shock to Pensacola. Our alliance with France has entirely devoted this.
this people to our interest. I have sent several
topies of the articles to Detroit and do not
doubt but they will answer the desired effect.
your instructions I shall pay implicit regard to
I hope to conduct myself in such a manner
as to do honour to my country.

I am with the greatest respect

your h. servent

I understand there is a considerable quantity of
Cannon ball at Pittsburg, we are much in want
of four or six pound ball, I hope you will immo-
diately order some down.

his excellency Patrick Henry.