

## OCCUPATION OF THE FORKS OF THE OHIO

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, the army marched from Loyal Hanna, and on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>, arrived at Turtle Creek. "Here," says Ormsby, (a commissary in the army,) "a council of war was held, the result of which was, that it was impracticable to proceed; all the provisions and forage being exhausted. On the General's being told of this, he swore a furious oath that he would sleep in the fort, or in a worse place, the next night. It was a matter of indifference to the emaciated General, where he died, as he was carried the whole distance from Philadelphia and back on a litter.

About midnight, a tremendous explosion was heard from the westward, on which Forbes swore that the French magazine was blown up by design or accident, which revived our spirits. This conjecture of the head of iron, was soon confirmed by a deserter from Fort Duquesne, who said that the Indians, who has watched the English army, reported that they were numerous as trees in the woods. This so terrified the French, that they set fire to their magazine, barracks, &c., and pushed off in their boats, some up and some down the Ohio, so that the next morning we took peaceable possession of the remains of the fort. The place had a most desolate appearance, as all the improvements made by the French, had been burnt to the ground."