

HISTORY OF THE BEAVER VALLEY.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette. BEAVER VALLEY, Dec. 13, 1872. (Paper No. 2.)

In my former letter, I traced very briefly, the general history of the occupancy of Western Pennsylvania by the French and English to the year 1748.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH RIVALRY.

The contest for the supremacy in these forest wilds had now become a desperate earnest one between the two nations.

THE INDIAN WAR.

The savages having tasted blood, and dangled before their delighted eyes the scalps of the white man, agreeable to their instincts, thirsted for blood and would not accept the terms of peace, but commenced the murder of the whites, resulting in a fierce and bloody war.

WEISER'S EXPEDITION.

Weiser and comrades, arrived at Logstown, August 26, 1748—a settlement situated on the Ohio river about fourteen miles above the mouth of the Beaver river—and there stopped, making this their headquarters for any future movements that might be made.

WASHINGTON IN THE VALLEY.

In the year 1770, George Washington was again in the valley, while on an expedition down the Ohio river. In his journal he makes special mention of its fertility, attractiveness and beauty, and says, "We came to the mouth of the Big Beaver Creek, opposite to which is a good situation for a house," &c.

FIRST APPEARANCE OF WASHINGTON.

The alarm became so great, and a crisis seemed so imminent, that Robt. Dinwiddie, Governor of Virginia, at once prepared a deputation to visit the scene of contest.

ENGLISH TACTICS.

As a means of accomplishing this purpose, the English, on the 15th day of July, 1753, sent a Moravian by the name of Christian Frederic Post, from Philadelphia to the Ohio, to make an effort to enlist the sympathy of the Indians in behalf of the English cause.

THE FRENCH FROM THESE WESTERN LANDS, IT WAS ardently hoped that peace would now reward the efforts of the hardy pioneers, and that they should henceforth enjoy the fruits of the fertile valleys, without disturbance from any hostile parties, but they were doomed to the most bitter disappointment.

It really seemed as if the country were to become a mighty scene of conflict, where should be tested the prowess of arms, for whoever might desire to enter the list.

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