

with 7000 French troops, and rather under 4000 Indians and colonists, suddenly invested the intrenchment called William Henry, before it was in a proper state for defence ; but the spirited commander, a Colonel Monroe, repulsed every assault during six days ; when, having burst his guns, expended his ammunition, and been twice refused assistance by General Webb, who was only fourteen miles off with a well-disciplined army of 6000 men, the fort was surrendered on condition of protection to the garrison, and a French escort to the nearest English post.

By this agreement, nearly 2000 persons, soldiers, peasants, women and children, were marched out unarmed ; but before they had proceeded a quarter of a mile, an indiscriminate massacre, with circumstances of unprecedented barbarity, was commenced. Monroe rushed back to the Marquis, and upbraided his treachery, insisting that the escort ought to be compelled to interfere ; but Montcalm declared himself and troops were afraid the Indians might attack them also.

After much expostulation and entreaty, with remarks on the French soldiers being twice as numerous as their savage allies, their general was absolutely shamed into exertions ; but it was almost too late, 1500 had already been scalped.