

Abraham, said to me : ' We could only tell where the enemies were by the smoke of their muskets.' A few scattering Indians were behind trees, and some were killed in venturing out to take scalps, but much the larger portion fought wholly in the ravines.

"It is not probable that either General Braddock or any one of his officers suspected the actual situation of the enemy, during the whole bloody contest. It was a fault in the General, for which no apology can be offered, that he did not keep scouts and guards in advance, and on the wings of his army, who would have made all proper discoveries, before the whole had been brought into a snare. This neglect was the primary cause of his defeat which might have been avoided. Had he charged with the bayonet, the ravines would have been cleared instantly ; or had he brought his artillery to the points where the ravines terminated in the valley, and scoured them with grape-shot, the same consequence would have followed. But the total insubordinations of his troops would have prevented both these movements, even if he had become acquainted with the ground, in the early part of the action. The disasters of this day, and the fate of the commander, brave and resolute as he undoubtedly was, are to be ascribed to his contempt of Indian warfare ; his overweening confidence in the prowess of veteran troops ; his obstinate self-complacency ; his disregard of prudent counsel ; and his negligence in leaving his army exposed to a surprise on the march. He freely consulted Col. Washington, whose experience and judgment, notwithstanding his youth, claimed the highest respect for his opinions ; but the General gave little heed to his advice.

While on his march, George Croghan, the Indian interpreter, joined him with one hundred friendly Indians, who offered their services.— These were accepted in so cold a manner, and the Indians themselves treated with so much neglect that they deserted him one after another. Washington pressed upon him the importance of these men, and the necessity of conciliating and retaining them, but without effect.

"A report has long been current in Pennsylvania, that Braddock was shot by one of his own men, founded on the declaration of a provincial soldier, who was in the action. There is another tradition, also worthy of notice, which rests on the authority of Dr. Craik, the intimate friend of Washington from his boyhood to his death, and who was with him at the battle of the Monongahela. Fifteen years after that event, they travelled together on an expedition to the western country, with a party of woodsmen, for the purpose of exploring wild lands. While near the junction of the Great Kenhawa and Ohio Rivers, a company of Indians came to them with an interpreter, at the head of whom was an aged venerable chief. This personage made known to them by the interpreter, that, hearing Colonel Washington was in that region, he had come a long