

had been abandoned by the workmen on his approach. Here he encamped, and finding the situation so advantageous for commanding all the country on the Ohio, he finished the fort, and gave it the name of *fort du Quesne*, in honour of the governor of Canada.

Meanwhile orders came from England to the governors of the British settlements in America, to form a kind of political confederacy; to which every province was to contribute a quota; and the governor of New York was directed to hold an interview with the chiefs of the Six nations, and to endeavour to bring them off from the French interest, his majesty having ordered a considerable sum of money to be laid out in presents for that purpose. This political union had not the effect that was expected from it. The congress between the governor of New York and the Indian chiefs of the Six nations, held at Albany, was but thin of Indians; and tho' all the British settlements had commissioners there, yet the meeting made but little impression on the savages; the force of presents persuaded them to renew their treaties with the British; but the remembrance of these promises was soon effaced by the arts of French missionaries: however the Virginians resolved to exert themselves in procuring the means of defence. They raised 300 men, and gave the command of them to col. Washington, who, in the month of May, began his march for the great meadows on the Ohio. On his march he was attacked by a French detachment commanded by M. de Jumonville, whom he totally defeated; soon after, he was joined by capt. Trent. When he came to the great meadows he began to erect a fort which he called *fort Necessity*, with a propriety adapted as well to its situation, as the great need there was of it in the present circumstances; but before it was finished, Contracœur having received many reinforcements, detached M. de Villiers, brother to Jumonville who was slain, with 900 regulars and 200 Indians to dislodge col. Washington before he should be joined with the forces from New York, for which he was then waiting, and which ought to have been with him when he began his march. De Villiers attacked fort Necessity on the 3d day of July, and after a smart fire, which lasted three hours, he, by his

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