

of the Marquis de la Jonquière, a body of troops under Joncaire visited it, seizing the property and persons of such traders as they found there, confiscating the former, while the latter were sent prisoners to France. In 1753, Major George Washington (afterwards a successful rebel and the first President of the United States) was sent by the Government of Virginia to reconnoitre the advances of the French on the Ohio. At their fort on French Creek, there were fifty canoes of bark and one hundred and seventy of pine, drawn up on the bank; there were preparations making for a permanent lodgement, and the control of the Ohio trade, valued at £40,000 a year. Returning, he reported this, and Colonel Frey was instructed to proceed with all haste to the confluence of the Alleghany and the Monongahela, and to capture, kill and destroy all persons who should endeavour to impede his operations. Frey dying, George Washington succeeded him. Virginia raised £10,000 for the expedition, 400 men, 10 cannon, 80 barrels of powder. Ward, an ensign, who had been sent in advance, put up a fort there, from which the French, under Contrecoeur, ejected him, strengthened it, named it Duquesne, and occupied it with 800 or 1,000 men. As Washington was advancing from Fort Necessity, he met a party of thirty-five French, under Jumonville, who had a written paper in his hand, warning the British off. Washington—either from fear or inexperience—opened fire; Jumonville and many others were killed. Contrecoeur, angered at this, at once sent De Villier to attack Fort Necessity, where Washington capitulated. This affair seems the most discreditable of any incident in Washington's life. True, he was but twenty-two years of age, and we may perhaps forgive the trepidation which led to the murder of Jumonville. De Villier forgave, magnanimously, but he made Washington admit the facts, for the capitulation

runs as follows—signed of course by Washington and De Villier both, the one as granting, the other as accepting, the situation: 'As our intentions have never been to trouble the peace and harmony which reign between the two princes in amity, but only to revenge the assassination which has been done upon our officers, bearers of a citation, as also on their escort, &c., we are willing to grant favour to all the English who are in the said fort upon the following conditions:' &c., &c. This De Villier was the same who had attacked and killed Colonel Noble and others at Grand Pré, as above related, and we may learn from this among many instances what advantages the French had, possessing the interior lines of communication, and able to place their best troops and ablest men just where at particular times they were most needed. This accounts in part for the fact that while in all Canada there were but 80,000 people at this time, the English in America numbering a million, the latter were kept in a constant state of harassment and alarm. Washington's letter to his brother about the first skirmish, which he calls 'a battle,' now exposed him to a great deal of ridicule. In the letter he said 'I fortunately escaped without any wound. . . . I heard the bullets whistle, and believe me there is something charming in the sound.' Walpole (Memoirs) says of this, alluding to an article of the capitulation by which no further military work was to be done by the captured party for a year, 'The French have tied up the hands of an excellent fanfaron, a Major Washington, whom they took and engaged not to serve for a year.' On hearing the story about the charming sound of bullets the king (George II.) remarked: 'He would not say so if he had been used to hear many.' Lord Orford writes of him: 'This brave braggart learned to blush for his rhodomontade.'

Of course, the 'amity between the princes' could not last long under such