

mother; "I admit your maxim, but was it fair war to kill my brother, Villiers de Jumonville, as Washington, your countryman, did at Fort Necessity." "Ah Madam!" replied Col. Fraser, "for mercy's sake do not, for the honor of the English, ever again mention that atrocious murder."

Once slightly reproached our celebrated historian, Mr. Garneau, with passing lightly over that horrible assassination. He replied that it was a delicate subject, that the great shade of Washington hovered over the writer, or something of the kind.

This may be, but it is incumbent on me to clear the memory of my great uncle, whom Washington in his works sought to blacken in order to justify his assassination.

The tradition in my family is that Jumonville presented himself as bearer of a summons requiring Major Washington, Commandant of Fort Necessity, to evacuate that post erected on French territory, that he raised a flag of truce, showed his despatches, and that, nevertheless, the English commander ordered his men to fire on him and his small escort, and that Jumonville fell dead with a part of those who accompanied him.

There is a discrepancy, easily explained, between the tradition of my family and the truth of history. Moreover, this discrepancy has no bearing on the murder of the bearer of the flag of truce, whose mission was to summon the English to evacuate the French possession and not Fort Necessity, which was not thrown up till after the event. (After citing Contre-cœur's instructions to Coulon de Villiers, and the capitulation signed by Washington, he proceeds:) Now no one is more disposed than myself to render justice to the great qualities of the American hero; when in my family the conversation turned on the cruel and premature death of our noble kinsman, assassinated in the onset of what promised to be a brilliant career, I used to seek to excuse Washington on account of youth, as he was then but twenty. I expatiate on his virtues, his humanity, when twenty-two years afterwards he directed the cause of his countrymen and created a great and independent nation.

I never, indeed, should have thought of drawing from oblivion this deplorable event, had not Washington himself made it necessary by seeking, in order to clear himself, to blacken the reputation of my great uncle Jumonville in the memoir which he published several years after the catastrophe.

"We were informed," said he, "that Jumonville, disguised as an Indian, was prowling for several days around our posts, and I had to consider him as a spy."

This excuse has no probability, because Washington could not but know that, not only the soldiers but also the officers of the French army, when fighting in the woods, adopted the Indian dress, a short coat, leggings, breech cloth, and moccasins. This light and easy dress gave them a great advantage over enemies always dressed in European style. Nor could Jumonville, without culpable temerity, proceed directly to the English posts without taking great precautions, the wood being infested with hostile Indians, who acting on a first impulse, would show no great respect to a flag of truce.

After disposing of this accusation of his being a spy, of which Washington did not think till years after the murder when writing his memoir, let us see what he says in justification in his despatches to his government immediately after the affair. It is necessary to observe here that the crowns of France and England were then at peace, that war was declared by Louis XV. only after that event; that the only hostilities committed were the invasion of French territory by the English, and that it was against this very act that Jumonville was sent to protest.

But let us return to Washington's justification in his despatches. He says, that "he regarded the frontier of New England as invaded by the French, that war seemed to him to exist, &c.; that the French in his sight ran to arms, and then he ordered his men to fire, that the action lasted a quarter of an hour, in which the French had ten men killed, and one wounded, and twenty-one prisoners; and the English one killed and three wounded; that it was false that Jumonville read a summons, &c.; that there had been no ambush, but surprise and skirmish which is lawful war."

Lawful war indeed for a strong detachment to attack suddenly a handful of men in full peace. It was not getting badly out of it for a Major of twenty; some Generals of the Northern American Army, who pique themselves on address, would not do better to-day. The phrases "that war seemed to him to exist," "that the French in his sight ran to arms," are of admirable simplicity. These French dogs forgot, apparently, that it was more Christian to allow themselves to be killed like sheep.

If we accept Washington's assertion how can we explain the cry of horror and indignation that resounded through all Canada and even

Europe? Yet the French have never been reproached with bowailing like women the loss of even their best generals or a signal defeat, why then their indignation, their fury at the tidings of the death of that young man, who was, so to speak, making his first apprenticeship in arms, if he perished in an action fought according to the rules of civilized nations? All the French prisoners, and Manceau, who alone escaped the massacre, the very Indian allies of the English declare that Jumonville waved his handkerchief over his head, invited the English, by an interpreter, to stop, having something to read them, that the firing ceased, and that while an interpreter was reading it he was shot through the head, and that but for the interposition of the Indians the whole party would have been massacred. . . . Washington should never have signed a capitulation where the words assassin and assassination are thrown in his face.

The reader must judge whether I have rescued my grand uncle's memory from the accusation of being a spy. Had Jumonville acted the vile part his enemy attributes to him, to justify a shameful assassination, the French would never have shed so many tears on the victim's grave.—*N. Y. Historical Magazine.*

## EDUCATION.

### The Advantages of a Scientific Training.

(Extract from the inaugural speech of John Langton, Esq., President of the Quebec Literary and Historical Society)

I never pass the Jesuits' Barracks in our city without some feeling of shame, in the comparison between the enterprise of our predecessors, and our own apathy in this respect. We boast of the superior energy of the Anglo-Saxon race; but what have we done during our hundred years' occupation of the country towards its intellectual advancement, which can compare with the foundations which they had laid, when for the most part it was an untrodden wilderness?

We can hardly with justice say that the merits of scientific studies are not appreciated in Canada. It is rather the fashion to give a general and theoretical assent to their importance, but it is but a barren admission after all. *Laudatur et alget*—the claims of science are acknowledged, but any active co-operation is withheld. With the exception of some trifling grants to societies like our own, the withdrawal of which is annually threatened, the only scientific works which our Government directly patronizes are the Geological Survey and the Magnetic Observatory at Toronto. I am no advocate for too much reliance upon the central authority for objects which may be attained by individual enterprise; but it is discouraging to perceive the precarious tenure by which we hold those two great establishments, which are the only ones by which Europe recognizes the existence of science in Canada at all, and which, if not supported by Government, must of necessity be abandoned. The public voice, as expressed in Parliament, is constantly inquiring what is the practical use of them, and it desires to see our profit from them reduced to the tangible test of pounds, shillings and pence. It is vain to speak of our increasing knowledge of the laws which regulate those complex phenomena which are included in the single word weather, which are deduced, not indeed from the observations made at Toronto, but from the comparison of them with those made at observatories which have been established by almost all other Governments; and to point out the advantages, still in their infancy, which will result to the agriculturist, and to the mariner who conveys our merchandize, from their further prosecution. The utility of a harbour of refuge is something tangible, and readily admitted, whilst the expenditure of a tithe of the money, which the harbour would cost is grudged towards establishing the law of storms, which is as essential for the safety of navigation. It is in vain that you may point out the direct profit which arises from indicating the localities where minerals of economic value exist, or are likely to be found; and the saving of useless expenditure, by determining the conditions under which we cannot expect to find them. You may appeal to the calculation of Mr. James Hall, who shews that upwards of a million of dollars had been thrown away in the State of New York alone in fruitless searches for coal, before their geological survey proved that all such searches must be useless. The public still calls for more practical results, and attaches more importance to the accidental discovery of one workable copper mine, than to the researches which point out the large areas, in which the individuals interested may make a profitable search for the ore. The laborious