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fort, situated upon the Ohio, major Washington, the same who com-  
manded afterwards the American armies, with orders to demand an  
explanation of these acts of hostility, and summon him to draw off  
his troops. Saint Pierre answered, that he could not comply with  
the demands of the English; that the country appertained to the  
king of France, his master; that the English had no right to traffic  
upon those rivers; that, consequently, in execution of the orders he  
had received, he should cause to be seized and conducted to Cana-  
da, every Englishman who should attempt to trade upon the river  
Ohio, and its dependencies.

This proceeding of the French greatly incensed the ministers of  
Great Britain; they could not endure to see their friends and con-  
federates oppressed. Their resolution was soon taken; they dis-  
patched instructions to America, that resistance should be made, by  
force of arms, to the usurpations of the French. This order ar-  
rived seasonably in Virginia; hostilities immediately followed, and  
blood flowed on both sides.

The Board, which in England superintends especially the interests  
of commerce and the plantations, perceiving that the colonists, divid-  
ed among themselves, could not resist, without delay and disadvan-  
tage, the enterprises of an audacious and determined people, sup-  
ported by a great number of Indians, recommended to the different  
provinces to choose deputies, to convene for the purpose of forming  
a general confederation, and a formal alliance with the Indians, in  
the name and under the protection of his Britannic majesty. It was  
agreed that the assembly of the governors and chief men of each  
colony should be convened at Albany, situated upon the Hudson  
river. This convention, after having conciliated the affection of the  
Indians of the Six Tribes, by suitable presents, proceeded to delib-  
erate upon the most expedient means of defending themselves and  
their effects from the attacks of the enemy.

They came to the resolution, that it was of urgent importance to  
unite all the colonies, by a general league. The conditions of it  
were concluded on the 4th of July, 1754. They purported, in sub-  
stance, that a petition should be presented to parliament, to obtain  
an act for the establishment of a general government in America;  
that under this government, each colony should preserve its internal  
constitution, with the exception of the changes introduced by the  
same act; that the general government should be administered by a  
president-general, appointed and paid by the crown, and by a grand  
council, elected by the representatives of the people of the colonies;  
that the president-general should be invested with the right of nega-  
tive over the acts of the grand council, and authorized to put them