

Washington having learned from his scouts the place where Jumonville camped with his companions, surrounded them with his entire force. Then, having sent an officer to summon him to a parley, before there was time to read the summons, there burst upon Jumonville at close quarters a fusillade, killing him and nine men of his escort.

"After this atrocious slaughter, which violated all rules of war and honor, Washington wisely decided to support the pretensions of the company of merchants, and especially to second the plans of the metropolis, which wished to make itself master of the Ohio valley. In harmony with this resolution he pushed on as far as the Monongahela valley, where he built hastily a fort, called Fort Necessity, which he furnished with nine pieces of cannon.

"Pending this the sad news of the tragic death of Jumonville was not long in reaching the French camp, where it was received with a general cry of horror and indignation. M. de Contrecoeur immediately gave M. de Villers in charge of an expedition which was to go and avenge the death of his brother soldier, and gave to him to accomplish this a command of six hundred Canadians lightly armed, and a hundred savages. With these he set out rapidly to reconnoitre Washington. Following a murderous conflict lasting more than six hours, the Canadians reduced to silence the batteries of the fort, although they did not have any cannon themselves, and were just ready to move to the assault when Washington asked to be allowed to capitulate. This was accorded him. (1)

(1) In this capitulation, which was carried on by Captain Van Braam, the only officer with Washington who was able to speak and write French, the word "assassinat," which we have used above, figures in all writings. Washington, in signing this capitulation, therefore, makes himself out, and distinctly declares himself as the "assassin" of Jumonville. This unjustifiable murder sullies, in our opinion, the glory of the man truly called great as much as for one to be marked out as the assassin of the Duke D'Enghien weighs eternally upon the memory of Napoleon. In this very capitulation, signed the 3rd of July, Washington agreed not to serve against France during that year, but we see him ere long marching under the orders of Braddock long before his parole as a soldier and gentleman had been redeemed.