

Wolseley in his autobiography that he had set before himself the idea of reaching the highest point attainable as a military man, we find almost a parallel in the life of Brock, who seems to have had a definite aim in life; in the years of what seemed to him inaction in Canada he was chafing for an active military career on the continent, while Britain was fighting almost alone in splendid isolation against the ambitious despot who conquered successfully country after country, placing his brothers or his marshals on throne after throne, Britain alone unconquerable in her island home, protected by her navy under Collingwood and Nelson and giving the dictator to Europe many a sharp and heavy blow.

Brock all this time eager as a hound on leash to mingle in the fray, was reserved to save our homes to us, and had his life been spared what reverses to our arms might have been averted; the war would have been brought to a more speedy conclusion. Had he been in power, the cautious and timid policy of Prevost would not have given an armistice and time to the enemy to build boats and drill, the unnecessary retreat at Sackett's Harbor and Plattsburg (when British officers in despair and rage broke their swords) would not have taken place nor the disastrous retreat at Moravian Town, with the sacrifice of that noble red man Tecumseh, the war would have closed earlier and the great loss of life in attempting an impossibility at New Orleans, when the veterans of the British army met death and defeat would all have been avoided. The promptness to act, the ability to command, the skill to seize an opportunity, the tact in governing, the enthusiasm evoked by a successful and loved commander such as Brock, would have given another texture to the war of 1812, would have averted many hardships and saved many precious lives on both sides.

An explanation must be given of some expressions used by General Brock seeming to reflect on the loyalty of the people of Upper Canada. It must be remembered that while most of the inhabitants of Upper Canada were U. E. Loyalists, who might all be depended on, and partly from what they had suffered, were intensely eager to repel the invaders, there were many who by the solicitations and easy terms offered by Governor Simcoe had come in merely to obtain land and could not be depended on to fight against their former countrymen, nay, were utterly disloyal by speech and act. Against such