

CHAPTER XVI.

THE STORY OF BROCK.

"Brock's tall figure and bright uniform had made him a mark, all too good, for the American riflemen."—*High School History*, page 363.

In the year 1769 three of the world's military heroes were born, Napoleon, Wellington, and our own Brock. The last named from his earliest years had set his heart on a military career, and began his life's work as an ensign at the age of sixteen. In a little more than seven years his noble character and sterling intellect had advanced him to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel of the 49th, a regiment with which he was to be identified till the day of his death.

He first saw active service in Holland, where, at the battle of Egmont-op-Zee, he acquitted himself with great courage, and where he narrowly escaped death. He was with Nelson, too, in the Baltic, and proved himself both a wise soldier and careful commander at Copenhagen.

But his career began in earnest when his regiment was ordered to Canada in 1802. After three years service in this country he was made a full Colonel, and returned to England on leave of absence to visit his friends. But his heart was in Canada, and his stay in the Old World was to be cut short.

From his arrival in this country he felt that sooner or later the Americans and British would come to blows, and, while he was in England, news came across the waters that made him tremble for his adopted home. Without delay he sailed for Canada, and on his arrival began to make the defences as secure as possible. Darker and darker grew the war cloud, and fearing that in case of an invasion the Americans would make Quebec their first point of attack, he had it strengthened by every means in his power.

Brock grew in popularity both in Canada and England. He was the idol of his men, and he was deemed such a worthy commander that in 1808 he was made a Brigadier-General. In 1810 he was sent to the Upper Provinces, and established himself at Fort George on the Niagara frontier. This district was in such close proximity to the United States that an invasion was to be expected here, and