

QUEENSTON HEIGHTS

the Heights undefended and Colonel Van Rensselaer saw the opportunity to capture them.

Captain Wool, of the American Army, had instructions to take his force along a concealed path, to a point behind the British battery and was advancing. Brock had noticed this manoeuvre, but, having been assured, by someone who had more intimate knowledge of the locality than he, that the Heights were inaccessible by this path, they were left unguarded. Soon the enemy emerged from the woods, appeared in view and were proceeding upward. Resistance was useless; immediate evacuation was necessary and Brock, with his two aides and twelve gunners, speedily retired to the foot of the hill. He then took command of Captain Williams' little force, and, cheering and encouraging the men, was leading the way up the hill again. Just then Colonel Macdonnell was nearing with the reinforcements for which he had been sent to Fort George. Quickly deciding on his course of action, Brock said to an aide: "If Williams and Macdonnell can but outflank the Americans at the summit and scale the mountain in the rear of the redan on the right, nothing can prevent our driving them out. Our place is here." "But, General," pleaded his devoted aide, "I pray you let me lead, or at least take proper precautions. If you are wounded, think what may befall us." The General's reply was characteristic: "I must remain at the head of these men; duty and desire compel me. Should I fall, there are others not less competent." So on he went in the forefront, conspicuous for his brilliant uniform and his height. He thundered his command to charge; the enemy fell back; reinforcements came to their assistance.