

June. This is a critical period in the history of Canada, particularly of the Upper Province, which at this time contained a population of only 80,000—that of Lower Canada being 200,000. Almost the whole disposable force of Britain was engaged against Napoleon, and an easy conquest and subsequent annexation of Canada was anticipated by the Americans. Dr. Eustis, Secretary of War, said in Congress: "We can take the Canadas without soldiers. We have only to send officers into the Provinces and the people disaffected toward their own Government will rally around our Standard;" and Mr. Clay added, "It is absurd to suppose we shall not succeed in our enterprise against the enemy's Provinces. We have the Canadas as much under our command as Great Britain has the Ocean; we must take the Continent from them; I wish never to see a peace till we do."

The entire British force in the Colony itself consisted of 4,500, of whom not more than 1,450 men were in the Upper Province. The first movement of any importance was the invasion of Canada by General Hull who, at the head of 2,500 troops, on the 12th July, 1812, crossed the Detroit River and took possession of Sandwich. Here he remained till the 12th August when General Brock, having mustered a force of 320 regulars, 400 militia and 600 Indians, arrived at Amherstburg. Hull, whose force now much weakened by sickness, did not exceed 800 effective men, retreated across the river to Detroit; Brock pursued and made preparations for investing the town. On the 16th Hull capitulated without firing a shot. Thirty-three pieces of cannon and 2,500 men fell into the hands of the British.

Early in October another American army under General Van Rensselaer crossed the Niagara River at Queenston and gained possession of the Heights. They were attacked by the British, who were repulsed and the gallant General Brock killed. Meanwhile General Sheaffe having brought up the main force of the British from Fort George, and being joined by a body of Indians with a detachment from Chippewa, attacked the Americans and, after a short but severe conflict, compelled them to surrender.

On the 27th November, General Smyth who commanded a force of 4,500 men at Black Rock, sent two detachments across the Niagara