

general issued an amusing proclamation to the inhabitants of Canada, saying that he had come to protect them; and he seems really to have thought, as did many of his countrymen, that the Canadians would not attempt to defend themselves, and that Great Britain, at war with Napoleon who was then at the height of his power, would be quite unable to send them help.

July 16.—The first engagement with the enemy was at the River aux Canards, near Amherstburg, where one British soldier from the garrison was killed and another wounded in a skirmish on the sixteenth of July. They had been left as sentinels at a bridge, and contrived to maintain their station against the whole of the enemy's force until they both fell. This, however, was not the first bloodshed, for an Indian had been killed and scalped by the Americans on the preceding day.

July 17.—The first important event of the war was the occupation of Michilimackinac (now Mackinaw), by a small British force under Captain Roberts. Captain Roberts was the officer commanding a post near the Sault Ste. Marie. Learning on the fifteenth of July that war was declared, he determined to attack the fort at Michilimackinac before its defenders could be reinforced. At three o'clock on the morning of the seventeenth, he landed near the fort. At noon its little garrison had surrendered the place without firing a shot; and, though efforts were made to retake it, it was held until the close of the war. This gave the British full command of the entrance to Lake Michigan; and some of the Indian tribes who would otherwise have held aloof were probably influenced by this successful movement to join with the Canadians in defence of their homes.

July 18-25.—On three successive days, the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth of July, detachments sent out by General Hull from his encampment at Sandwich, opposite Detroit, were repulsed by the British at the River aux Canards. These were mere skirmishes, it is true, with small loss of life, but they helped to discourage the invaders. Still more discouraging was another encounter, on the twenty-fifth, when more than one hundred were defeated and pursued by twenty-two Indians of the Menomini tribe, and threw away their arms in their hurry to escape.

August 5.—Before the end of July, Colonel Proctor arrived at Amherstburg to take command of the British forces. Hearing that reinforcements

and supplies were on their way to General Hull, he resolved to intercept them. For this purpose he sent a detachment of his men across the river, into Michigan territory. On the fifth of August, a small party of Indians attached to his force, under the famous Shawnee chief Tecumseh, met at Brownstown, a few miles south of Detroit, a detachment of two hundred Americans sent out to escort and protect the supplies. The Americans were defeated, and the loss of their dispatches made it a serious defeat. Hull withdrew most of his troops from the Canadian side of the river, and sent a stronger force to re-open his communications; but that also failed. Though it repulsed the British at Maguaga on the ninth, it was still unable to break through their lines, and was obliged to return to Detroit.

August 11.—Cut off from his source of supply, his troops dissatisfied and mutinous, surrounded by hostile Indians and threatened by another British force which was fast approaching by way of the River Thames, General Hull, on the eleventh of August, recalled the few soldiers of his army that were still on Canadian soil; so in just one month from the time of its commencement, Hull's invasion was at an end. It had been worse than a failure. It was a positive injury to his cause.

III.—The Capture of Detroit.

August 16.—The name and fame of Sir Isaac Brock are inseparably connected with the war of 1812. He happened to be at the head of both the civil and the military affairs in Upper Canada at the outbreak of the war; and to his bravery and military skill we are indebted for the two most important victories of the first campaign.

He reached the western frontier to take command just as Hull had completed the withdrawal of his troops from the Canadian territory; and he found that unfortunate general shut up in Detroit with the men of his command, and virtually besieged by a much smaller force of British, who were now in their turn to become the invaders. Brock had less than eight hundred men, exclusive of his Indian allies. The latter, of whom about six hundred were then actually in the field, were somewhat uncertain in their numbers and their movements, and none the less formidable to their enemies because of that uncertainty. Opposite Fort Detroit where the river was about a mile in width, batteries were being erected from which an