

INTRODUCTION.

NEWS OF WAR—CONCENTRATION ON FRONTIER, ETC.

We received intelligence of the declaration of war by the United States on Saturday, the 27th. of June, 1812, from a messenger sent by the late John Jacob Astor to Thomas Clark, Esq., of Niagara Falls. An express was immediately sent to the President, General Brock, who was at York, (now Toronto) the seat of Government. The news spread over the country like lightning, and produced an instantaneous alarm. We expected an immediate attack from the United States forces, who, we believed, had long been prepared for war.

The President, Brigadier General Brock, who is justly described as the saviour of Canada, was, of all men, the best adapted for command at this juncture. He perfectly understood human nature, and the peculiar disposition of the Militia. He was active, brave, vigilant, and determined. He had a peculiar faculty of attaching all parties and people to his person: in short, he infused the most unbounded confidence in all ranks and descriptions of men under his command. General Brock arrived at Fort George on the 28th. The Flank Volunteer companies and corps were assembled and marched to the line in the interim, with the greatest despatch. The 1st. 4th. and 5th. local Militia, and 2d. York, were at Queenston and Niagara, with the Artillery—the 2d. and 3d. local Militia at Chippewa and Fort Erie—the Dragoons detached to the different Posts. General Brock communicated with the U. States people (by a flag of truce,) who had not yet been officially informed of the declaration of war. Our batteries, which had been prepared with the greatest diligence, he intended, at two different times, to open against Fort Niagara; which would have been a most valuable and easy conquest, as it was totally defenceless, and a small garrison in it. He was advised, at present, to desist; shortly after received an order which confirmed it, from Sir George Provost, the Commander in Chief, to act solely on the defensive, though much against his will and better judgment. This was conceived, by the Commander in Chief, to be a party war. He was fearful offensive operations would unite the enemy, without