

later an ineffectual attempt was made, under Col. Cass, to take the River Canard bridge, five or six miles above Amherstburg, Fort Malden; of course being the objective point. To two brave Canadians (Hancock and Dean) are due the honors of the encounter, one of whom fell at his post. Manœuvring and skirmishing continued until the arrival of Col. Proctor at Fort Malden on August 5th. Immediately upon his arrival to relieve Col. St. George, he effected a counter-movement by sending a detachment across the river, intercepting the supplies in transport from Ohio for the American forces at Detroit, a stroke of good generalship that necessitated the return of Hull's large force from Sandwich to Detroit. Only 250 men were left on the Canadian side, in a quickly improvised fort that served only the purpose of occupancy for a few days.

Gen. Brock, at this time commander of the Canadian forces, arrived at Fort Malden on the night of August 13th, from York. Next morning he met the Indians in council. Tecumseh urged an immediate attack upon Detroit. Recognizing the wisdom of the old chief's advice, especially after reading Hull's despondent despatches to his government captured by Proctor's intercepting party, Brock at once took up the march. The small American force at Sandwich recrossed the river on his approach, and by the following day he had planted a battery opposite Fort Detroit. Then, having crossed his main army to a convenient point below the city, he advanced to the attack, a denouement averted by Hull's surrender of his post and all his troops and stores.

Kingsford (Vol. VIII, History of Canada, p. 197) gives a full account of the movement effected by Proctor by which he both cut off Gen. Hull's base of supplies and came into possession of the tell-tale letters above mentioned. Here is what he says:—"The United States had no naval force on Lake Erie, and the Queen Charlotte war sloop of eighteen 24-pounder guns was at the disposal of the British. Hearing that a convoy of provisions with a force of 200 men was on the march, Proctor detached a strong party of the 41st, with some Indians under Tecumseh, who placed themselves in ambush near the village of Brownstown, at the mouth of a small stream, some 18 miles south of Detroit. Hull, in expectation of the arrival of the convoy, had dispatched Major Van Horne to bring it in with safety. The detachment was also charged with the despatches of Hull and the letters of the garrison to their friends in the older states. The ambush placed to receive Van Horne on the 5th of August proved a complete surprise. By the unexpected fire of this party 20 were killed, including 5 officers, and 9 were wounded. The detachment was driven back and put to flight, and pursued for 7 miles. The important correspondence that fell into the hands of the British had great weight in the decision of Brock to act aggressively. Consequent upon the affair, Proctor established a post at Brownstown (now called Flat Rock), by which communication with Detroit was interrupted." From the same source we have the further information that a day or two later General Hull "made an effort to reopen his communications to the south, detaching a force of 705 men under Colonel Miller. . . . About 14 miles below Detroit they came upon a British force under Major Muir of the 41st. . . . Muir finding himself greatly outnumbered felt constrained to retreat to his boats. . . . The skirmish had the effect of

† These two engagements were Brownstown (on August 6th, 1812) and Maguaga (on August 9th, 1812).