

Shawnee chief Tecumseh, with his Indians, seriously embarrassing the American General, (who had to draw his supplies from distant Ohio, over roads which were no roads,) induced him to "change his base of operations," and, recrossing the river, to retire to Detroit. Proctor followed him up, and endeavoured to intercept another convoy escorted by a stronger force, but this attempt was unsuccessful, and in an action at Brownstown the Americans were the victors. But Brock was at hand. On the 13th of August he arrived at Amherstburg at the head of a small force of regulars and militia,—about 700 in all; of these, 400 were militia-men disguised in red-coats. The journey had been a most fatiguing one,—a toilsome march through the wilderness from Burlington Heights to Long Point, and then four days and nights of hard rowing along the dangerous coast of Lake Erie, through rainy and tempestuous weather, in such clumsy open boats as the neighbouring farmers could supply. To the cheerfulness and endurance of the troops during the trying journey, Brock bore most honourable testimony. Their mettle deserved the success they so honourably achieved.

Arrived at Amherstburg, General Brock met Tecumseh, the Shawnee chief already referred to,—one of the heroes of the war. Quickly recognising in Brock the characteristics of a brave and noble leader, Tecumseh and his Indians were at his service at once, and together they concerted plans against Hull and Fort Detroit. By a happy inspiration, General Brock saw that promptitude and resolution were the qualities to gain the day, and General Hull was startled, first by a summons for the immediate surrender of Fort Detroit, and next by the crossing of the British force—General Brock, "erect in his canoe, leading the way to battle." Tecumseh and his Indians were disposed in readiness to attack in flank and rear, while the British force first drove the Americans from a favourable position back

on the fort, and then prepared to assault it. To their surprise, however, a flag of truce anticipated the attack, and the garrison capitulated, surrendering to the British the Michigan territory, Fort Detroit, 33 pieces of cannon, a vessel of war, the military chest, a very large quantity of stores, and about 2,500 troops with their arms, which latter were a much appreciated boon for arming the Canadian militia. General Brock was himself surprised at the ease of this brilliant success, which, at one stroke, revived the drooping spirits of the Canadians, rallied the hesitating, fixed the adhesion of wavering Indian tribes, encouraged the militia, who had now tried their strength in action, and made Brock deservedly the idol of the people. On his return to York he was greeted with the warmest acclamations, as befitted a leader who in such trying circumstances, had organized the military protection of the Province, met and advised with the Legislature, accomplished a trying journey of 300 miles in pursuit of a force more than double his own—had gone, had seen, and had conquered!

It was now his ardent desire to proceed, amid the *prestige* of victory and in the first flush of success, to sweep the Niagara frontier of the last vestige of the invading enemy. It seems most probable that he could have done so, and thus might, at this early stage of the war, have nipped the invasion in the bud, and saved both countries a protracted and harassing struggle. But his hands were, at this critical moment, fatally tied by an armistice, agreed to by the Governor-General, Sir George Prevost, probably in the hope that the revocation of the British "Orders in Council," which took place almost simultaneously with the American declaration of war, would evoke a more pacific spirit. This was not the case, however; things had gone too far; the people were too eager for conquest to be easily persuaded to recede. The sole effect of this most ill-timed armistice was to give the