

four; and the Americans held a strongly fortified position, the fort of Detroit, with plenty of ammunition and provisions and thirty-three pieces of canon. So much for the braggadocio of General Hull and Lewis Cass. The 2,500 stand of arms thus taken proved most valuable in arming the militia.

In tone nothing could be more different from General Hull's proclamation than that issued in answer by General Brock. The Canadians were reminded in dignified terms of the benefits they had derived in the past, and would derive in the future, from their connection with Great Britain; the descendants of Upper Canada Loyalists were put in mind of the constancy of their fathers; the fact that the United States had promised Canada to France as the reward for aid afforded to the revolted colonies, was strongly referred to; and finally the right of the Indians to defend themselves and their territory from men who had ever proved their bitterest enemies was eloquently defended. The proclamation of General Brock, coupled with the invasion of the territory, had a most beneficial effect in stimulating Upper Canadian loyalty. Volunteer companies were rapidly formed, and it was soon found that more men could be mustered than arms could be provided for.

General Hull commenced hostilities by crossing from Detroit to Sandwich early in July; on the twelfth of that month he, as has been said, issued his famous proclamation. General Brock was at the time detained in York, then the capital of Upper Canada, by a meeting of the Legislature, and could not in consequence take the field against the enemy. Mr. Lossing says the Americans on landing "were welcomed by the French inhabitants who remained. Hull made the fine brick house of the British Colonel Baby (yet standing in the village of Windsor) his headquarters, and proceeded to construct a fortified camp."

General Brock immediately despatched Colonel Proctor to Amherstburg, a fortified point some eighteen miles lower down, to check the advance of the enemy, and in so doing Proctor was successful. The attempts of the Americans, though vastly superior in numbers, to cross the River Canard, on which Amherstburg stands, proved ineffectual. After being thrice repulsed by some of the soldiers of the 41st and a few Indians, they resolved to try a ford a little higher up, but even this attempt proved fruitless. The Americans got well into the stream, a few even had gained the opposite bank, when some twenty or thirty Indians, concealed in the long grass, started suddenly up with a most appalling yell; the invaders, into whom the General seems to have instilled no small amount of his dread of the dusky warriors, turned and fled helter-skelter, in the direst confusion. This proved the last attempt to reach Amherstburg; shortly after, his base of supplies having been interrupted, and his men suffering in health from exposure and want of food, Hull withdrew to Detroit.

Meanwhile Captain Roberts, acting upon instructions received from General Brock, had taken possession of the fort of Michilimackinack. From the moment war became imminent both sides had understood the importance attaching to the alliance of the various Indian tribes, and both had doubtless felt the value with such an object in view of the first success. Michilimackinack, moreover, was in itself a post of some importance, commanding the straits leading from Lake Michigan to Lake Huron, and had been a trading post of considerable note. On the 26th June, General Brock had written to Captain Roberts, who was stationed at St. Joseph, to make the attack; on the 27th the order had been recalled, in consequence of some doubt as to whether the rumor of war had been confirmed; on the 28th the original