

a copy of the Act of Congress declaring war, and stating that a form of proclamation had been approved by the House of Representatives, advising the Canadians to remain neutral and promising them protection in the rights and privileges they already enjoyed.*

Next day nearly two hundred of the inhabitants of Pointe Clairo who had been concerned in the recent disturbances came in to acknowledge their guilt and ask for pardon. Only two of them could be identified as having taken an active part. They were placed in confinement and the remainder were permitted to return home after they had voluntarily declared their readiness to report for military duty when ever required.†

The town militia of Quebec and Montreal, numbering about 3,000 men at each place, were organized and promptly volunteered to perform garrison duty to relieve the regular troops required for the occupation of the frontier posts and first line of defence. The Champ de Mars at Montreal was thronged every morning at five o'clock, and every evening after six, with small squads of militiamen of all classes diligently engaged in drill. Instead of showing any degree of alarm or depression, it was remarked that the whole population seemed inclined to put aside their private business and devote their time to preparations for defence ‡

A proclamation for the declaration of martial law was drafted and laid before the Executive Council for approval with a recommendation that all aliens should be required to take an oath of allegiance or leave the province at once.

The want of money had become so urgent that Sir John Sherbrooke was instructed to collect all the specie that could be obtained in exchange for Government Bills at Halifax and forward at least ten thousand pounds to Quebec.§ The supply of hard cash in Canada was evidently insufficient to carry on the public business and it would be absolutely necessary to resort to a paper substitute. This fact alone made it expedient to convene the Legislature at an early date.¶

A letter from the commandant at Kingston announced that hostilities had begun in that quarter. On June 26 a party of New York militia had landed on Carleton Island and captured the lookout party stationed there, composed of a corporal and two men of the Royal Veteran Battalion who had not yet been informed of the declaration of war.¶ On learning this he had despatched sixty men of the Frontenac

*E. B. Brenton to the Chief Justice, July 4, 1812.

†Brenton to the Chief Justice, July 4; Baynes to Brock, July 4.

‡Letters of Veritas, pp. 8 and 26.

§Prevost to Sherbrooke, June 25, 1812.

¶Brenton to the Chief Justice, July 4.

¶Prevost to Liverpool, July 5.