

made ready to defend his trust. He had convened Parliament at York in the preceding month of February, and in his opening address had referred to the possible difficulties with the United States. He had, indeed, looked upon the war as probable for several years previously, and had to some degree been making ready for it, but to place the Province in an efficient state of defence with the limited means at his disposal was simply impossible. The colony was young and poor, its extent large, and its population small. The first complete official census of Upper Canada had been taken during the preceding year (1811), and showed the entire population of the Province at that time to be only 77,000.—Brock's force of regulars did not exceed 1500 men, and the frontier to be defended—exclusive of Lower Canada—was about 1,500 miles in length. Grave doubts were entertained, too, as to the loyalty of a considerable part of the population, many of whom were emigrants from the United States. Gen. Brock was at York when he received intelligence of the declaration of war. The militia of the Province were at once called out to be despatched to the frontiers. The summons was promptly responded to, and from one end of the country to the other a sentiment of patriotism was evoked which conclusively proved that the bulk of the inhabitants were loyal to British connection. This sentiment was conspicuously displayed in and around the little capital. A troop of volunteer cavalry was raised, and a company of young men, most of whom were sons of farmers in the neighborhood, came into town with draught horses for the equipment of a car-brigade. Then followed the campaigns of 1812, beginning with Hull's Western invasion and repulse at Detroit in the month of July. This was followed, on the 13th of October, by the battle of Queenston Heights and the death of General Brock, who, almost with his last breath, directed Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonnell to "Push on the York Vol-