

dent lenity on the occasion, and discharged them upon a promise to deliver up the instigators of the insurrection and the deserters. Twelve or fourteen of these deluded men were afterwards brought to trial and convicted of rioting, and were condemned to fines and imprisonment. In the mean time, the whole province assumed a military appearance, and persons of every denomination seemed animated with a patriotic desire of acquiring with all possible speed that strength and discipline which should enable them effectually to defend their country from the invasion contemplated against it. Montreal became quite a military depot, where the regular troops then in the country, and the militia of the district concentrated.

The campaign against Canada commenced early in July. On the 21st of that month the American General, Hull, with a body of 2300 men, regulars and militia, crossed the river above Detroit, and marched to Sandwich in the province of Upper Canada. He there issued a proclamation in a style as expressing great confidence of success, and threatening a *War of extermination* in case of the employment of savages, which appeared to be an object of his peculiar dread. The Indians were, however, already engaged in hostilities with the subjects of the United States on their border: and intelligence was soon after received of the capture of Fort Michilimachinac, by a combined force of English, Canadians, and Indians, the latter of whom were kept in perfect order. General Hull's next operations were directed against Fort Malden or Amherstburg; and after having driven in the militia who opposed him, he arrived with part of his forces at the river Canard, which he thrice attempted to cross, but was foiled with considerable loss. Major General Brock had in the meantime been active in collecting succours for the relief of Amherstburg, and on the 12th of August, he entered that place with a reinforcement, having met with no obstacle, on account of the superiority of the British naval force on the lakes. The Americans having now become dispirited, and given up hopes of taking the fort with their present means, retreated to their own fort of Detroit, and the British in their turn became assailants. Batteries were constructed opposite to that post, and a party crossed the river, and took a position to the west of it. General Brock was resolved upon an assault, though his united force consisted of no more than about 700 men, including militia, and 600 auxiliary Indians.—This extremity was, however, prevented by a proposal of capitulation from General Hull. The terms were soon settled, and the important fort of Detroit was surrendered on the 16th of August, with 2500 men and 33 pieces of Ordnance.† This was doubtless a severe mortification to the Americans, as it gave a decisive proof of the inferiority of their military prowess or skill to those of the enemy they had provoked, and damped their hopes of the Conquest of Canada. That these had been sanguine may be inferred from the refusal of the President of the United States to continue an Armistice, which had been temporarily agreed upon between General Prevost, the Governor General of Canada, and General Dearborn, the Commander-in-Chief of

* Christie.

† London Gazette.