

hovered over and inspired the men fighting for their hearths and homes to the end of the war."

He further says:—"That the memory of the General commanding, and of those who aided him in his arduous labors in the field, may ever be preserved, is the constant wish of all Canadians," and this latter aim Mr. Read has kept in view throughout the book; names here are embalmed that belong to the earlier epoch of the Province—the Macdonell, Babys, Ryersons, Robinsons, Nichol, Bostwick, Rolph, Hatt, Heward, McLean, Dickson, Chisholm, Brant, Tecumseh, and a score of others, most of whom have descendants still among us, and all of whom gave a good account of themselves when the defence of the Province called for their aid.

Within half a dozen pages is contained the record of the birth, parentage, and early life of Brock, and Chapter II. brings him to Canada as Senior Lieut.-Colonel of the 49th Reg't. (now the 1st Royal Berkshire Regiment), into which he had exchanged from the 8th King's Royal Regiment (now the King's Liverpool Regiment), in 1791. "In the fall of 1805—Trafalgar year—Brock was made full Colonel of the Regiment, and, on receiving this promotion, proceeded at once to England on leave, where he had an opportunity of laying before His Royal Highness the Duke of York, Commander-in-Chief, the outlines of a plan for the formation of a veteran battalion to serve in the Canadas." Of this plan the author wisely gives the full text, shewing, as it does, the far-sighted and practical views of the man on whom, chiefly, at that period, depended the defence of both the Canadas. His Royal Highness conveyed to Colonel Brock "his thanks for the communication of his very sensible observations respecting the distribution of troops in Canada, and which His Royal Highness will not fail to take into consideration at a seasonable opportunity."

A couple of years later, Brock received, as Commander of the Forces in Upper Canada, a proposal from Colonel Macdonell, of Aberchalder, himself a veteran of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, for raising a corps among the Scottish settlers—nearly all old soldiers of the Revolutionary War—in the Glengarry district; a proposal he supported in a strong letter to the Hon. William Wyndham, Secretary of War, in Downing-street. Mr. Read seizes this occasion to give a highly interesting and graphic account of the Macdonells of Glengarry, and their services to the British Government, both before and after their settlement as U. E. Loyalists in Canada. He then proceeds to sketch, with a firm and vigorous hand, under the head of "England and the Liberty of Europe," the political situation on both continents, Europe and America, and shows conclusively what ex-

cellent reason Brock had for his uneasiness in view of the unprepared state of Canada in case of war being declared by the neighboring Republic. While in Lower Canada, Brock perceived a coolness towards British interests among the French-Canadians, which had been greatly augmented by the attitude of the Governor, Sir James Craig, who, while an able and just man, lacked the sympathy necessary for dealing with a people who had not even the consolation of having been conquered, but had been handed over to another power without even a by-your leave. This condition of things in the Lower Province intensified the dangers of the situation, and our author deals with the period well.

On June 4th, 1811, Brock was made a Major-General on the staff of British North America. "At this time the Duke of York was at the head of the English Army, very much to the satisfaction of the English people." The brave doings in Europe naturally led Brock to desire fields wherein he could develop the talents he was conscious of, and he applied for leave. But though he knew it not, the fate of Canada was in his hands, and Mr. Madison's speech of the 5th November, 1811, left no further doubt as to the intention of his government.

The exciting period of the war of 1812-15 is comparatively known, but in the brilliance of his military exploits and the tragic circumstances of his death, the genius of Brock as a Civil Governor and administrator is generally lost. Mair, in his fine drama of *Tecumseh*, gave us a taste of it, but Mr. Read has gone into this part of the hero's career very adequately, and has earned the thanks of the true student by doing so. Of our Indian allies, our author has a great deal to say, throwing thereby much light on the conduct and loyalty of a people often too lightly held. Nor is the fact that a large and important section of the American people were strongly opposed to the war overlooked. The text of their remonstrance to the Government is given, and the attitude of the Opposition press shown. The Battle of Queenston and the death of Brock bring to a close the career of the "Hero of Upper Canada," a title conferred by the people he saved. The honors conferred by the Home Government, the monuments raised to his memory by a grateful country, and the sad details of these occasions, form not the least interesting portion of this reliable book. To many the portrait which graces the front page will prove a treasure; it is taken from an oil painting executed, from authentic sources, by J. W. L. Forster, of Toronto. Several illustrations are scattered through the volume, the covers of which are ornamented with fac similes of the Brock token issued in 1816.