

When war was declared Brock was at York, an extra session of the Legislature was called, and steps taken to prepare for this emergency. On the 12th July General Hull crossed the Detroit, sending out a bombastic proclamation. Brock could not leave York till the 6th August, as he must meet the Legislature there. His small force reached Burlington Bay, thence by land to Long Point, calling at Mohawk village, on the Grand River; part went by water along the north shore of Lake Erie, while others marched by land. The weather was rainy and stormy. Five days and nights of incessant toil brought them to Amherstburg on the 13th, only to find that Hull had retreated to Detroit. The meeting with Tecumseh was a picturesque scene, and the admiration of each for the other shows the generous nature of both. The red warrior, with well cut features, athletic form, alert, brave, was so struck with the soldierly appearance of Brock that he exclaimed: "Here is a man." The chief rapidly sketched the plan of the fort on a piece of bark, and the most feasible way of taking it. The council of officers was almost unanimous against risking an attack, but here again Brock's prompt decision settled the matter. "Gentlemen, I have decided on crossing, and instead of any further advice I entreat you to give me your cordial and hearty support." The audacity of this decision and the bold attack on the fort were rewarded with the astonishing surrender of the fortress with 2,500 men, valuable stores, and the whole of the territory of Michigan, and all without the sacrifice of a single drop of British blood. An American historian says: "In the short space of 19 days he had met the Legislature, arranged public affairs, travelled about 300 miles, returned, the victor of a vast territory." The remaining six weeks of his life were crowded full of events. To his great mortification on his return with plans for active warfare—to seize Fort Niagara and attack Sackett's Harbor—he found Prevost had arranged for an armistice.

The period between the conquest of Detroit and the battle of Queenston Heights, gave opportunity to the enemy to prepare for another invasion and Brock's time was fully occupied. The problem was how to place his few soldiers so as to defend the Niagara frontier, as it was not known at what point the attack would be made, at Fort Erie, Chippawa, Queenston or Niagara, and night and day the force was on guard. Early on the morning of the 13th of October the