

Brock carefully examined the whole frontier, studying the country, and making preparations for the struggle that must take place.

In the year after his arrival in the Upper Provinces, Francis Gore, Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, went to England, and our hero was left in entire control of the Province, being first both in civil and military affairs.

On the 18th of June, 1812, the long anticipated war was declared, and seven days later Brock received word of it at Fort George. He at once saw to the defences of the entire West, visiting in person every important point from Niagara to Detroit. The Eastern frontier, with Kingston as its chief point, was in equally imminent danger, and this he confided to an able officer, Major-General Shaw.

The blow was not long in falling. On the 12th of July, Brigadier-General Hull marched into Canada with a strong force, and issued a proclamation threatening dire vengeance to all who dared resist his progress, and promising peace and plenty to those who would aid him. Brock was not in the least alarmed, and replied to his arrogant threats that England was prepared, not only to defend, but to avenge, all her subjects, whether red or white. And the province was prepared to aid him in making good his reply. No sooner was the invasion known than men from all districts rushed to his standard, and he soon had more soldiers than he could supply with arms, and hundreds had to return disappointed to their homes.

Hull had not the success he expected. The Canadians held aloof from him, and he soon found himself in a foreign country with a large body of troops, and without means of providing food for them, except by carrying it long distances. He sent letters by Major Van Horne to the American headquarters, in which he stated his difficulties, and added further that his army was in a demoralized condition. Proctor was in command at Amherstburg, and hearing of Van Horne's mission sent out Tecumseh, a brave Shawnee chief, to intercept him. Tecumseh was successful, and captured not only a large amount of spoil, but the very important letters that had been intrusted to Van Horne. When news of this disaster reached Hull, he became alarmed for his own safety on Canadian soil, and on the 7th and 8th of August withdrew his men to Detroit, after having wasted a month.

All this time Brock 'ad been busy making hurried preparations