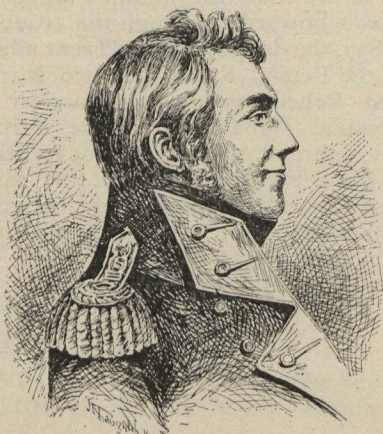


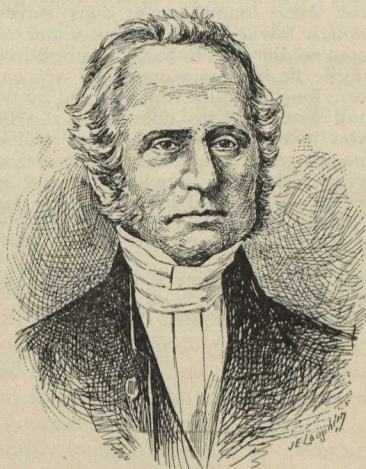
cry of Fenians and filibusters and foreigners prevailed over the calm common-sense of the community, as it would have done in 1862, had not the South proved in the meantime too formidable an antagonist.

Canada at once prepared to do its best. But the defences of the country were in a deplorable condition, and England was straining every nerve in Europe. To man its few fortresses and its immense frontier there were only some 5,000 regulars, and of these Upper Canada had little more than 2,000, with perhaps 1,800 militia. And despite the warnings of Governor Simcoe, and the belief of General Brock that war was inevitable at some time in

Wellington crossed the Agueda to commence the Salamanca campaign and carry the Peninsula conflict to its glorious conclusion. To the side of Brock there at once rallied all the best men of Upper Canada, as well as the mass of the population. Although the entire people of British America, scattered as they were over a vast wilderness and forest, numbered but 300,000 souls, there was no hesitation in facing this tremendous struggle with a nation of 8,000,000, possessed of immense resources, and having considerable military experience. When the special session of the Legislature of Upper Canada was called on 29th July, Brock's clear and patriotic words rang



SIR ISAAC BROCK.



SIR JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON, BART.

the future and should be prepared for, hardly anything had been done to defend Little York—as Toronto was then called—although it was the General's head-quarters and became the centre of his operations and administration. In February, however, matters appeared so menacing that he obtained from the Legislature after much pressure a special militia act, a vote of \$20,000, and the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act, the latter as a protection against the numerous body of American citizens then in the Province.

War was proclaimed on the 18th of June following, and three days later

out in language as memorable and noble as any ever addressed to the Swiss mountaineers, the Waldensian Protestants or the followers of Wallace or Bruce:

"We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils and vigour in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson, that a country defended by free men enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and constitution can never be conquered."

Amongst the men who rallied to the standard in this hour of peril were many who afterwards became well known in Canadian history. Lieut. James B. Macaulay, who formed the