

every reason to expect the almost unanimous support of the two Houses of the legislature to every measure the Government thought it necessary to recommend, but after a short trial I found myself egregiously mistaken in my calculations. The many doubtful characters in the Militia made me anxious to introduce the oath of abjuration into the bill: there were twenty members in the house when this highly important measure was lost by the casting vote of the chairman. The great influence which the numerous settlers from the United States possess over the decisions of the Lower House is truly alarming, and ought, immediately by every practical, means, to be diminished." . . . "The bill for the suspension of the habeas corpus, I regret to say, was likewise lost by a trifling majority. A strong sentiment now prevails that war is not likely to occur with the United States, which, I believe, tended to influence the votes of the members. I mean of such who though honest, are by their ignorance easily betrayed into error." On the 24th Feb. 1812, four months before the declaration of war, General Brock issued the following proclamation:—*"To all whom it may concern:—Greeting. WHEREAS, information has been received, that divers persons have recently come into this Province, with a seditious intent to disturb the tranquillity thereof, and to endeavour to alienate the minds of His Majesty's subjects from his person and government, I hereby require and enjoin the several persons authorized to carry into effect a certain statute, passed in the forty-fourth year of His Majesty's reign, intitled 'An Act for the better securing this Province against all seditious attempts or designs to disturb the tranquillity thereof,' to be vigilant in the execution of their duty, and strictly to enquire into the behaviour and conduct of all such persons as may be subject to the provisions of the said Act; and I do also charge and require all His Majesty's good and loyal subjects within this Province to be aiding and assisting the said persons, in the execution of the powers vested in them by the said Act."*

The great success which crowned the prompt efforts put forth by Brock in the early months of the war tended very largely to silence the doubtful, discourage the unfaithful, and strengthen the waning. Still traitors, rebels, and spies existed in every neighbourhood. An Act was finally passed in the winter of 1814 "to empower His Majesty, for a limited time, to secure and detain such persons as his Majesty shall suspect of a treasonable adherence to the country." Commissioners were appointed for the several districts of the Province to carry into effect the provisions of the Act. For the midland district, were, we learn the following gentlemen:—The Hon. R. Cartwright, Alexander McDonell, Alexander Fisher, Thomas Dorland, Timothy Thompson, Thomas Markland, Peter Smith, John Comming, James McNabb, Ebenezer Washburn, Robert C. Wilkins, James Young, William Crawford.

We will now proceed to give a brief account of two brothers, one of whom, from a devoted U. E. Loyalist, became an active and dangerous ally of the Americans. The scenes of his daring exploits were along the St. Lawrence, the Bay of Quinte, from Kingston up to Bath, and the lake west of Trenton, toward York.

In addition to the family of Sir William Johnson, there were a large number of that name who remained loyal in the colonies at the time of the rebellion of the American Colonies. A considerable number of them were combatants and mostly all conspicuous for their gallant deeds of arms.