

the only gun—a six-pounder—that he had managed to bring with him. Tecumseh and his warriors were posted in the swamp, where the mounted infantry of the Americans could not advance, and where their trusty rifles might work havoc among the foe. When all was ready, Tecumseh took leave of Proctor with the encouraging words "Father! have a big heart!" and joined his warriors to await the signal to begin the fight, which was to be the firing of the gun.

Never did the warrior present a more heroic picture. His every movement bespoke the soldier, and as he joined his braves all eyes looked trustingly to the commander who had for two years led them through so many hard fought fights. This day was an important one for him, and while the British officers donned their uniforms bedecked with gold and silver lace he rolled his handkerchief in the form of a turban, and as a mark of his rank stuck in it a white ostrich feather that nodded royally in the breeze as he passed along the British line.

Proctor seems to have acted with great negligence. He awaited the foe without making an effort to entrench or protect his men by barricades. There were abundant trees about him, and the two hours that elapsed before the battle would have given his troops ample time to erect a protecting barrier.

Stealthily the enemy advanced, sheltering themselves by the trees growing along the river bank, till almost on the British line; and then charged with great dash. They were met by a bold resistance, but the British, outnumbered, and exhausted by their trying march, gave way before the impetuous charge, and the gun was soon in the hands of the Americans. Proctor saw that all was lost, and left the field in headlong flight, nor did he stop till he was safe at Burlington Heights.

While the right division of the foe had been sweeping everything in the open before them, the left division under Colonel Johnson were meeting worthy foes in the swamp. They saw that the only hope of success was to draw the Indians from their strong position and twenty brave fellows under their Colonel advanced into the very "jaws of death." Johnson alone lived to return to his soldiers. Tecumseh and his braves, overjoyed at this first success, rushed boldly to the battle and fought with dauntless courage.