

persons only were the remarks of Brock levelled, and justly so. In another respect, too, Brock showed his appreciation of the Canadian people. While it was common for some officers of the regular army to sneer at the militia force of the country, Brock never withheld the generous word of praise to our militia. And, indeed, had it not been for the militia and volunteer force of the country, it had been utterly impossible for the small force of the regular army to defend such an extensive frontier. The young farmers who with their fathers came forward, leaving their fields unploughed and their crops unharvested, often tended only by their wives and daughters, the business men, law students and others who left their warehouses and offices neglected in order to repel the invader, to these as well as to the regular army, do we owe that when the war closed not a foot of our land was in possession of the enemy. Britain engaged in that Titanic struggle with Napoleon could send out but little help, and indeed when the struggle seemed ended and the despot safe in Elba and a force of 16,000 was sent, we blush to say that through mismanagement there were humiliating retreats.

It is not necessary here to enter into the reasons for the war of 1812, the orders-in-Council, the British right of search, the desire to possess Canada, or to show that while France was really the cause of much of the loss to the shipping of the United States, Britain alone was blamed. Suffice it to say that in spite of the opposition of the New England States, war was declared on the 17th June, 1812. Brock had been for some months Administrator of the Government in the absence of Governor Gore, and had been preparing for the expected invasion of the country, as far at least as the means at his command would allow. We cannot but admire his promptness and swiftness of movement, his decision of character, his apparent ubiquity. As the writer "*Veritas*" expressed it 'He appears to have flown, as it were.' The writer of the first biography tersely expresses it: "Today at York engaged in his civil and military duties, tomorrow at Fort George superintending the defences of the Niagara frontier, or at Kingston reviewing and animating the militia; today at Fort George watching the enemy, the next at York dissolving the Legislature, and a fortnight later returning from the capture of Detroit; today at Fort George again, a few hours later at Fort Erie endeavoring to re-take the brigs 'Detroit' and 'Caledonia.'