

Well might the Commander-in-Chief, Sir George Prevost, believe that, unless large reinforcements were sent speedily from England, there was little hope of the Canadian Provinces being retained to the British Crown. General Brock, although he had but recently been defeated in carrying through the House of Assembly a measure which would enable him to strengthen the militia, and thus put the country into a better state of defence, knew the people better. He believed in the loyalty of the majority, as well as in the ability of a small force, fighting for their homes, to defend them against an invading army ten times their number.

"Everyone with whom I have had an opportunity of conversing," he writes to Sir George Prevost, on May 16th, "assures me that a good disposition prevails among the people."

The Militia Bill passed, Brock was still forced to acknowledge that, although every man capable of carrying a musket along the whole line of frontier was prepared to fight to the last to preserve the country from the foe, he had not "a musket more than would suffice to arm part of the militia from Kingston westward."

If you will also remember that the militia of 1812 were not equipped in any way as well as are the militia of to-day, and that they were without uniforms, regular arms or camp equipages, you will realize that it was their loyalty to Britain which fired them to defend her colony from invasion. Many, animated by a bitter antipathy to the United States and their Government, born of dastardly persecutions