

"braves" descended the Wabash by canoes from Tippecanoe to Vincennes. That council was one of the spectacular scenes in western Indian history. The governor, with his military retinue, was seated on the portico of his residence, surrounded by the government troops; before him under the tall trees, in a semi-circle sat the assembled chiefs, some forty in number, with their escorts, all attired in the gorgeous costumes of the warpath. Tecumseh made two addresses in which he boldly set forth the claim of his people and the wrongs inflicted upon them by the whites. For glowing rhetoric, lofty sentiment and patriotic persuasion, these speeches are unsurpassed in Indian literature. They are reported in full in the American Archives and evidence Tecumseh's nobility of character and incomparable powers of oratory. The council was held in vain; it closed with the firm belief both by the Governor and the Chief that war was inevitable.

Again Tecumseh appealed to the distant tribes of his people, visiting the tribes, South, West and North. It was during his absence on this final "rallying round" that the Prophet, impatient for action and neglectful of his brother's instructions to remain inactive, engaged in battle with Harrison and the government troops, at Tippecanoe. It proved a Waterloo for the forest warriors, the Prophet's followers were routed and the Prophet's town destroyed. Tecumseh returned just after this terrible repulse to his cause but undismayed he continued his plans for a great and final war.

In June, 1812, the United States declared war against Great Britain. This afforded Tecumseh the psychological moment for the fulfillment of his life effort. He would ally his great confederacy to the British cause and the alliance must surely regain the Northwest for the defrauded and defeated tribesmen. William Hull, territorial governor of Michigan, and general of the American army of the Northwest, issued a proclamation that this was a white man's war and asking the Indians to remain neutral. Tecumseh decried the request of Hull, called loudly upon his people to rally to the British cause and personally hastened to Malden, Canada, where he offered his services to General Isaac Brock, military commander of Upper Canada. The services of the great chief were gladly accepted and he was the first, while at the head of a small band of his tribe, to draw the blood of the Americans, in an encounter near Brownstown, on the American side, a few miles from Detroit. From this event on, Tecumseh bore a conspicuous part in the war, recruiting hundreds of his tribesmen for the British cause and becoming one of the chief advisers to the British officials in the movements about the Detroit River. Commanding the Indian allies, under General Brock, Tecumseh was a jubilant witness of the inglorious surrender by General Hull, of Detroit, and when Brock, the British general, on receiving the American