

soldiers, requested the implacable chief not to allow his excited warriors to ill-treat the prisoners, the chief replied disdainfully, "No, I despise them too much to meddle with them." But the fear of Brock was groundless, for it had ever been the humane policy of Tecumseh to restrain his warriors from all deeds of cruelty and torture in dealing with their captives, nor was he himself ever guilty of wanton bloodshed. In this he stood forth in striking contrast to the customs of his tribe and race.

The collapse of the Hull campaign touched the torch to Indian hostile activity in various parts of the Northwest. The garrison at Chicago was attacked and destroyed and about one hundred men, women and children were massacred. Attacks were made on Fort Harrison and other interior points. The Indians of the whole Northwest seemed ready for an uprising and Tecumseh's confederacy bid fair to become a terrible reality. Hundreds flocked to his standard and he is said to have had at his command, soon after Brock's occupancy of Detroit, between three and four thousand Indian warriors. The whites of the West were aroused to instant action. Volunteers in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and the West sprang forth and "an army was ready as if by magic to retrieve the fortune of arms." A leader was needed and all eyes looked with a common impulse to the "hero of Tippecanoe." William Henry Harrison was brevetted a major general, with directions to take charge of the Northwest army.

While Tecumseh was traversing the forests of the Indiana and Illinois country, enlisting his Indian recruits from the Northwest and while General Henry A. Procter, successor of Brock, who had been killed in battle, was mobilizing the British forces in Canada, General Harrison was organizing the American army and on February 2d began the construction of Fort Meigs at the Rapids of the Maumee. This citadel of the American forces was naturally the first point of attack by the enemy. The assault occurred in April (1813) and was led by General Procter commanding 600 British regulars, 800 Canadian militia and 1500 Indians under the Shawnee chief. It was a memorable siege. Harrison had only 600 troops to defend his position but was expecting hourly the arrival of General Green Clay with 1500 Kentucky volunteers. Clay arrived in the midst of the onslaught by Procter and Tecumseh. The details of the battle cannot be recited here, save to say that Tecumseh formed an ambushade of his savages and entrapped 800 of the Kentucky troops under Colonel Dudley. It was a masterpiece of generalship, 600 of Dudley's soldiers, and Dudley himself, were slain and scalped by the savages. But Tecumseh's superior tactics and gallantry were fully equaled by the nobility and humanity of his conduct when his enemy was at his mercy. The tribesmen sought to massacre the prisoners, whereupon Tecumseh sprang from his horse and, drawing his tomahawk and