

The Indians in the British camp were represented as being eager for hostilities. On the 8th of July Colonel St. George wrote to General Brock :

I now think it fortunate that your letter of the 29th came too late to stop the messengers sent out to the distant Indians. On my return from Sandwich yesterday we had a grand council of chiefs, etc., from the neighborhood, and the usual ceremonies of the wampum, etc., were gone through. There were present about 200, and besides those present I am informed 100 had gone to their camp. Tecumtha (the prophet's brother) acted a conspicuous part on the occasion.

On the 15th he observed, "As to the Indians, I wished those here to act when I could support them; but as they are so anxious, I must let them on and sustain them as I see occasion to the utmost of my power." In the course of the same day Elliot reported that "the Indians with us are between 300 and 400, who have resisted every allurements which General Hull laid before them. Teckumthai has kept them faithful. He has shown himself to be a determined character and a great friend to our Government."

On the other hand, Hull asserted that the number of "hostile Indians" was daily diminishing, and took means to circulate widely his well-known proclamation in which he declared "that the first stroke with the tomahawk, the first attempt with the scalping knife, will be the signal for one indiscriminate scene of desolation. No white man found fighting by the side of an Indian will be taken. Instant destruction will be his lot."

Still he did not relax his efforts to gain the Indians over and even sent agents with a message to the Six Nations on the Grand River. Tarhè, the eldest chief of the Hurons, was summoned from Sandusky to exert his influence with his tribe, and on the 19th day of July Hull wrote to the Secretary of War, "I have now a large council of ten or twelve nations sitting at Brownstown, and I have no doubt the result will be that they will remain neutral."

Several chiefs of the Hurons were sent across the river to confer with Tecumtha and Roundhead, who had refused to attend this council. Both these chiefs, after a stormy discussion which in the usual Indian fashion continued for three days, declared their unalterable determination to take sides with the British, and after exhausting every argument in their power the baffled Hurons returned to Detroit.