

Wilkinson withdrew his artillery with much difficulty and began his retreat. The rising floods which impeded this movement prevented any pursuit except by the Indians, who hung on his rear for a few miles. All night the rain fell in torrents, and a general thaw set in which put an end to the proposed attack on Kingston and rendered any military operations impossible.

The British loss on this occasion was officially stated next day to amount to eleven killed, two officers, two sergeants and forty-two rank and file wounded, and four missing. Corrected returns considerably increased it. The Grenadier Company of the 13th alone lost eight killed and thirty-four wounded, and the total loss of that regiment was thirteen killed and fifty-one wounded.¹ The Americans removed twenty-three sleigh loads of dead or disabled men; and subsequently admitted a loss of thirteen killed, and six officers and 122 non-commissioned officers and men wounded, besides thirty missing.

The efforts of General Wilkinson, and his successor, General Izgard, to prevent the introduction of supplies into Canada, proved equally abortive.

"From the St. Lawrence to the ocean an open disregard prevails for the laws prohibiting intercourse with the enemy," Izgard reported as late as 31st July, 1814; "The road to St. Regis is covered with droves of cattle and the river with rafts destined for the enemy. The revenue officers see these things, but acknowledge their inability to put a stop to such outrageous proceedings. On the eastern side of Lake Champlain, the high roads are found insufficient for the supplies of cattle which are pouring into Canada. Like herds of buffaloes, they press through the forest, making roads for themselves. . . . Nothing but a cordon of troops from the French Mills to Lake Memphremagog could effectually check the evil. Were it not for these supplies the British forces in Canada would soon be suffering from famine or their government be subjected to immense expense for their maintenance."

Extravagant as this statement may appear, it is amply corroborated by the correspondence of the Governor-General himself, who observed, in a despatch to Lord Bathurst, on 27th August, 1814:

"In fact, my Lord, two-thirds of the army in Canada are at this moment eating beef provided by American contractors, drawn principally from the States of Vermont and New York. This circumstance,

¹ Cannon, Historical Record.