

make up any arrears of pay due them by the U. S. government. As the weary winter days passed discontent in the camp grew into mutiny, so that one morning a big crowd of them actually started to march to Sackett's Harbor and were with difficulty persuaded by the commanding general to return. Their only excuse was, that anything was better than the hardships they were enduring.

While his army was in this dreadful state, Wilkinson was living in comfort at the residence of a leading citizen of Malone, whither, the day after his troops went into camp, he had been borne in a litter on the shoulders of eight men. Whether his illness was the result of unavoidable causes or arose from drink is in doubt, but it certainly had no effect in checking his boastful inclinations. He kept writing to Washington advising what ought to be done to capture Montreal, speaking as if his army were intact and ready for service and he was the general to direct the campaign. The disappointment of the American people at the failures of Hampton and Wilkinson was intense and their expressions of indignation loud. Had the army on the Salmon river been kept intact it could, when spring came, have taken again to its boats and occupied Montreal before reinforcements arrived by sea, but its disorganization went on so rapidly that to save the remnant the order was sent from Washington to divide what was left of it, 2000 to march to the barracks at Sackett's Harbor and the remainder to those at Plattsburg. On the 3rd February preparations for abandoning camp were begun. The masts of part of the boats were cut and the hulls then sunk. The remainder were set fire to and burned to the water's edge. In all, 328 boats were destroyed. The huts and stores that could not be moved were burnt or dumped into the river.

The grand campaign to capture Montreal and with it all Canada west of the fortress of Quebec thus ended in defeat and disaster, in mutiny and shame. Wilkinson was court-martialed and Armstrong was compelled to resign, but neither they nor any responsible for the miscarriage of the campaign were punished. While Hampton, Wilkinson, and Armstrong were primarily responsible, the cause of failure lay with the American public. The success of the revolution of 1776 had intoxicated them with pride and to those who took part in it they attributed qualities to which they could lay no claim. Men were rated as heroes who