

the state of affairs on the Detroit frontier, again compelled its commander to fall back on Burlington heights.

The American forces were gradually collected at the lower ends of Lakes Ontario and Champlain, under Generals Wilkinson and Hampton, with the intention of making a combined attack on Montreal, while the chief part of the British regular force was in Upper-Canada. It was evident that if this attack should have succeeded, and the command of that City and the surrounding country been retained by the Americans, Upper-Canada was conquered, and every British soldier in it a prisoner, or forced to fight his way to Quebec. There was nothing to prevent Wilkinson, with suitable boats, and able pilots for the rapids, to land on the island of Montreal, with an army completely equipped, in three or four days after his leaving Lake Ontario. Hampton was only a couple of days march from the St. Lawrence. Sir George Prevost, who had returned to the Lower Province, called upon the people of Lower-Canada to defend their country, and never was the call of a commander, under similar circumstances, more cheerfully obeyed. The fighting, however, fell to the lot of the embodied militia and regular forces. There seemed to have been some misunderstanding or misinformation with respect to time, between the enemy's commanders. Hampton seems to have employed himself from the 20th of Sept. to the 20th Oct. in calling out and collecting the forces of Lower-Canada, by the time of General Wilkinson's arrival. On the 21st of Oct. the former entered the Province, with a force variously stated at from 3000 to 7000 men,* apparently with the intention of penetrating to the St. Lawrence by the River Chateaugay. On the 26th, he came upon Col. De Salaberry's position on that river, about 30 miles from the frontier. This officer, a native of Canada, belonging to one of its old and most distinguished families, had served with the British army in various parts of the world. To great activity and personal intre-

*Some American official accounts say 5500.