

army and Wilkinson had soon his command once more concentrated. There was only one sentiment in that army about him, and it was, that he was an incapable. The defeat of the previous day was due to his lack of executive ability. The flotilla had spent eight days in making eighty miles enabling Mulcaster and Morrison to overtake them. A log, set adrift in the channel, would have made the distance in two days. With proper management the army ought now to have been on the island of Montreal. As it was, between the weather and their pursuers, they looked for continued disasters. Among those who greeted Wilkinson on his landing on Barnhart island was Colonel Atkinson, who explained he had come from Four Corners and had waited at St Regis for the flotilla. The letter he bore from Hampton stated he would have been glad to join Wilkinson at St Regis but had not provisions for his men or forage for his horses to make the march. Professing to be indignant, Wilkinson secretly rejoiced over the message—it gave him an excuse to abandon the expedition and shoulder its failure on Hampton. He called a council-of-war and laid Hampton's letter before them. On Hampton's refusal to obey his order to be at St Regis, he dwelt with voluble severity. Just when the grand object of the expedition was within grasp it had been snatched away by Hampton's extraordinary, unexampled and unwarrantable conduct, which was an outrage on every principle of subordination and discipline. He told the officers that, without Hampton's army, he would not undertake to go to Montreal. All but two agreed to going into winter-quarters. Speaking among themselves, the officers were ready to go on under Brown: none desired to proceed farther with Wilkinson. Despicable as were Hampton's motives in refusing to march to St Regis, his not going saved the Republic from another disaster to her arms. St Regis was a miserable Indian village on the edge of what, in 1813, was a wilderness. The country affording no supplies his army would have been reduced to starvation before the flotilla appeared.

The council decided the flotilla should make for the Salmon river, as a safe place for it to winter, and that it go at once. Wilkinson then issued a general order to that effect in