

when, at that eventful council on Barnhart island it was decided to give up the advance on Montreal, Wilkinson must have had nigh 10,000 apart from cavalry and boatmen, and he knew full well there were not hundreds for his thousands in front of him. The defeat inflicted by Colonel Morrison explains his eagerness to escape further contest. Morrison was about to pursue him in Mulcaster's boats when he was astounded by the surprising information that the Americans had fled the scene.

Three miles above the mouth of the Salmon river, where the first rapid gave power, there stood a small grist-mill and a saw-mill, and clustered about them the shanties of those who found employment in them, together with two taverns and a store or two. On a knoll near these was a blockhouse, where a small garrison was kept. Late in the afternoon of the 13th a courier brought to the little hamlet the surprising word that the army of the north was coming and to prepare for the reception of the wounded. Hours passed before the head of the melancholy procession of boats was seen stealing up the moonlight waters. The wounded men were carried to the blockhouse until it was filled and other cover had to be sought. General Covington died before he could be borne ashore. His body was taken to Ware's tavern and buried with military honors the following day. His name is perpetuated by the pretty village of the present day, its original name, French Mills, giving place to Fort Covington in 1817, when a municipality was organized. The word "Fort" was prefixed to distinguish the new town from Covington, Ky. The body of the General with those of two other officers were, after the war, exhumed for final interment at Sackett's Harbor.

Not all the boats found moorings in the Salmon river. A few openly rowed to the Canada shore, the soldiers preferring desertion to the hardships before them. Worse still was the conduct of many officers, who sold the stores on their boats and pocketed the money. With what boards were in the millyard flimsy sheds were run up, but they were far too few and the majority of the men had to live in tents. On the 1st December winter set in. The wretchedness of their condition can hardly be exaggerated. The country was a wilderness, with no store of provisions to draw upon except what had been brought in the boats and that was speedily exhausted. Before a fortnight rations had been reduced to barely enough to main-