

patrolling the frontier with his French-Canadian regulars for more than a year. Hampton finally retired to concentrate at the Four Corners of Châteauguay, a place just inside the United States and not to be confused with La Fourche de la Rivière Châteauguay, where the battle was fought, or with Châteauguay the Canadian settlement on the St. Lawrence. This concentration gave Hampton the advantage of puzzling the British, who could not tell whether he would go westward to meet Wilkinson at St. Regis or northward, along the left bank of the Châteauguay, to meet him at the Canadian village of Châteauguay, which was only fifteen miles from Montreal. In the meantime the Americans on Lake Champlain raided Mississquoi on the 12th of October and took 100 prisoners.

Hampton at last declared his intentions by moving down the left bank of the Châteauguay on the 21st after opening communications with Wilkinson, who was still at Sackett's Harbour. By the 25th his own thousands had come into close touch with De Salaberry's hundreds. He naturally expected to drive in all the little British outposts on his way to the St. Lawrence. De Salaberry, however, had determined to dispute his advance by taking up a strong position near La Fourche, where several tributary creeks of the Châteauguay, greatly strengthened by *abattis*, could be held against superior numbers.

Meanwhile the news of Hampton's advance had reached Prevost at Kingston on the 20th. As Kingston was then being threatened by an equally strong force under Wilkinson not one Imperial regular could safely be spared. So Prevost sent for Colonel "Red George" Macdonell, late of the Glengarries, and now commanding a "Light Battalion" formed in the previous April by bringing together both flank companies of the 2nd and 5th Select Embodied Militia of Lower Canada and the right flank company of the 3rd. Nine-tenths of all ranks were French-Canadians and the