

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 journey. 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. With two dissentients they endorsed his decision. Despicable as Hampton's motives may have been in not marching to St Regis, his not doing so 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 the 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 which he declared "He with lively regret and the deepest mortification suspends the attack on Montreal, but he assures the army it is not abandoned." The two regiments of dragoons were ferried to the U. S. bank and left that afternoon for Utica, and then the flotilla sailed for Salmon river, where the first boats ended their career at 3 in the morning of the 13th November.

There was no justification for Wilkinson's abandoning the capture of Montreal. He was within three days' easy sail of it and had an overwhelming force for the purpose. On the 8th December, when the Salmon river camp had been got into something like shape, a roster was taken, and it showed an army of regulars of 8,143, and that after 3 weeks during which desertions were of nightly occurrence and there had been many releases on furlough, so that