

United Empire Loyalists or their descendants, and Wilkinson's threat, if found in arms they would be treated as enemies, did not frighten them. They kept up a guerilla or rather a predatory warfare on the Americans as they marched along and, when the British troops finally did come, joined their ranks. The promise about respecting their homes was not kept, for the American soldiers, under both Macomb and Brown, harried cellars, barns, and stables ruthlessly, making no compensation for what they took. With a few exceptions, the farmers saved their horses and cattle by concealing them in the bush. The forage they had saved for winter feed, the U. S. cavalrymen used.

The day after he passed Ogdensburg Wilkinson received a message from his agent there, that two armed schooners had arrived at Prescott, accompanied by several open boats filled with soldiers, and his belief was that they would follow and try to do what harm they could to the flotilla. Of this pursuing party more was soon to be learned. Fine weather continued. The 9th was sunny but, from trivial causes, the flotilla was hindered, and made only ten miles. On tying up for the night reports from spies told that the British had perfected arrangements to obstruct by batteries running of the Soo rapids. Wilkinson ordered the flotilla to stay where it was until the shooting of the rapids was made safe, so he directed Brown to march early next morning and clear the bank of the enemy. Brown, an energetic man, set about his task at daylight and found it troublesome. The enemy, too weak to face him, placed obstructions in the road and kept up a dropping fire from under cover, which delayed his progress. Soon after Brown left, the British schooners hove in sight and opened fire. On the Americans sending ashore two heavy cannon whose shot reached them, they drew out of range. In the afternoon a trooper arrived from Brown, telling he had cleared the bank of the enemy and was encamped at Cornwall. There was still daylight enough to have made the short trip over the rapids to Cornwall, and the flotilla got under weigh. Before it had sailed far Wilkinson changed his mind, saying it was too late to shoot the rapids, so the boats tied up at Cook's Point, nine miles from the head of the rapids. The Americans were now fully aware that they were being closely tracked on land and water. Mulcaster with his gunboats hovered as near as