

“The flotilla arrived at the ‘White House,’ opposite Matilda, about eighteen miles below Ogdensburg, on the eighth, and there Wilkinson called a council of his officers, consisting of Generals Lewis, Boyd, Brown, Porter, Leonard Covington, and Swartwout. After hearing a report from the active chief engineer, Colonel Swift, concerning the reported strength of the enemy, the question: Shall the army proceed with all possible rapidity to the attack of Montreal? was considered, and answered in the affirmative. General Brown was at once ordered to cross the river with his brigade and the dragoons, for the purpose of marching down the Canada side of the river in connection with Colonel Macomb, and the remainder of the day and night was consumed in the transportation.

“Meanwhile Wilkinson was informed that a British reinforcement, full one thousand strong, had been sent down from Kingston to Prescott, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Morrison. * * * They were joined at Prescott by provincial infantry and dragoons under Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson, and on the morning of the ninth they were close upon Wilkinson with the vessels in which they came down the river, and a large portion of the land troop were debarked near Matilda for the purpose of pursuing the Americans. General Boyd and his brigade were now detached to reinforce Brown, with orders to cover his march, to attack the pursuing enemy if necessary, and to co-operate with the other commanders.

“Wilkinson now found himself in a perilous position. The British armed vessels were following his flotilla, and a heavy British force was hanging upon the rear of his land troops, ready to co-operate with the water craft in an attack upon the Americans. They constantly harassed Brown and Boyd, and occasionally attacked the rear of the flotilla. The forces on the shore also encountered detachments coming up from below, and were compelled to make some long and tedious circuits in their march because of the destruction of bridges in the front.

“On the morning of the tenth, when Wilkinson was approaching the ‘*Long Saut*,’ a perilous rapid in the St. Lawrence, eight miles in extent, he was informed that a considerable body of the enemy had collected near its foot, constructed a block-house, and were prepared to attack him when he should come down. General Brown was ordered to advance at once and dislodge them, and at noon cannonading was heard in that direction for some time. At the same hour the enemy came pressing upon Wilkinson’s rear, and commenced cannonading from his gun-boats. The American gun-barges were so slender that the eighteen pounders could not be worked effectively, so they were landed, placed in battery, and brought to bear upon the enemy so skilfully that his vessels fled in haste up the river. In these operations the day was mostly