

on the ground from which Boyd's force had been driven, they gallantly attacked the enemy, seized the principal ravine, and, with a severe fire at short musket-range, drove the British back and saved the day.

"Meanwhile Boyd had reformed his line in battle order on the edge of the wood from which Swartwout drove the foe at the beginning, and there awaited another attack. It was not made. Both parties seemed willing to make the excuse of oncoming darkness a warrant for suspending further fighting. The Americans, under cover of night, retired unmolested to their boats, and the British remained upon the field. Neither party had gained a victory, but the advantage was with the British.<sup>1</sup>

"On the morning after the battle the flotilla and gun-boats passed safely down the Long Rapids without discovering any signs of an enemy, and the same time the land troops marched in the same direction unmolested. At Barnhart's, three miles above Cornwall, they formed a junction with the forces of General Brown. \* \* \* \*

"On the following day, at noon, when information came that there was a considerable British force at *Coteau du Lac*, the foot soldiers and artillerymen were all embarked on the transports, under the direction of General Brown, and departed for the Salmon. The horses of the dragoons, excepting about forty, were made to swim across the cold and rapidly-flowing river, there a thousand yards wide, and the squadron proceeded to Utica. The flotilla passed up the Big Salmon River about six miles to its confluence with the Little Salmon, near the French Mills, when it was announced that the boats were scuttled, and the army was to go into winter quarters in huts.

"Thus ended in disaster and disgrace an expedition which, in its inception, promised great and salutary results. It was composed of brave and patriotic men; and justice to those men requires the humiliating confession from the historian that their failure to achieve complete success is justly chargeable to the incompetency of the chief commanders, and the criminal indulgence on the part of those commanders of personal jealousies and animosities.

"The appointment of Wilkinson to the command of the northern army was a criminal blunder on the part of the government. His antecedents were well known, and did not recommend him for a responsible position. The weakness of his patriotism under temptation, and his too free indulgence in intoxicating liquors, were notorious. Hampton was totally unfitted for the responsible station in which he was placed, and [General] Armstrong [secretary-of-war], who was a fellow-soldier with them both in the old war for independence, lacked some of the qualities most essential in the administration of the extraordinary

<sup>1</sup>"The loss of the British in the engagement was 22 killed, 150 wounded, and 15 missing. The Americans lost 102 killed and 237 wounded."