

1776.

State of  
the Ame-  
rican  
force.

Engage-  
ment  
near the  
isle Vali-  
cour.

shipping, were fully engaged at the sea ports in the construction and fitting out of privateers, whilst the the remoteness, and difficulty of communication, rendered the supply of bulky materials extremely tedious. When we consider the difficulties on their part, we think it not just to deny the Americans the praise, of having combated, and in part overcome them, with an assiduity, perseverance, and spirit, which did not in the least fall short of what had been employed against them. For their fleet amounted to 15 vessels of different kinds, consisting of two schooners, one sloop, one cutter, three galleys, and eight gondolas. The principal schooner mounted 12 six and four pounders. They were commanded by Benedict Arnold, who was now to support upon a new element, that renown which he had acquired on land in the Canada expedition.

General Carleton was too full of zeal, and too anxious for the event, not to head the British armament, and having proceeded up the Lake, discovered the enemy's fleet drawn up with great judgement, being very advantageously posted, and forming a strong line, to defend the passage between the island of Valicour and the western main. Indeed they had at the beginning placed themselves with so much skill behind the island, that an accident only discovered their position. The King's Squadron, without this seasonable discovery, would have left them behind; an event, which if it had happened, might have been attended with the most serious consequences. It is said, that the unexpected sight of a three masted ship of such force, upon the Lake, threw the enemy into the utmost, and most visible consternation. It does not seem, however, probable, that a matter of such public notoriety in Canada should have been so long with-held from them.

A warm action ensued, and was vigourously supported on both sides for some hours; but the wind being

CHA

being  
some  
to the  
schoo  
sustain  
dinary  
men a  
est ap  
presun  
given  
on our  
part a

The  
tillery,  
essenti  
impedi  
being  
gle, w  
it nece  
were e  
night,  
line, an  
to prev

In th  
to the  
three  
form s  
done u  
sensible  
nity wh  
endeavo  
danger,  
Crown  
design v  
favoura  
fight b  
however  
that, an