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arge the fort,
orts, to build
garrison, and
nnoy an ene-
Accordingly
h a reinforce-
el guns, and
els: but these
h craft, that,
battoes, with
nd we had a
the harbour,
, to the great
lements; our
he soldiers to
n that the in-
overlet them,
than six men
no care was
e serviceable
and to main-
t there was
n those, who

Capacious
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anagers had
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he first acci-
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necessary

A. D.
1756.

necessary instrument, would stop all the operations
of the forge at once.

The next step, towards improving the naval
force at Oswego, was a schooner of 40 feet in the
keel, with 14 oars and 12 swivel guns, launched
on the 28th of July 1755. This was the first
vessel of force we ever had on this lake, and, with
320 men, was all the strength we had to defend
this post in the beginning of July, that year: and
the French were expected daily to attack it, on
the 13th of the same month, when General
Shirley, with all his forces, was 300 miles dis-
tant, without making all the expedition, the ser-
vice required: for, it was the 8th of August be-
fore that General arrived at Oswego, and the 31st
before the last division arrived under Colonel
Mercer. Where this army, at that unseasonable
time of the year, served only to eat up the pro-
vincial stores, and brought on such a scarcity of
provisions, that they were almost famished, and
the party, left to secure the important Carrying
Place at Wood's Creek, were actually obliged to
desert it for want of food.

About the middle of September four other ves-
sels* were got ready, as per margin, with which
armed vessels, and a considerable number of those
battoes, which had been reported unserviceable,
or too small to live, and to dispute with an ene-

* A decked sloop, eight guns four pounders, thirty swivels.
A decked schooner, eight guns four pounders, twenty-eight
swivels. An undecked schooner, fourteen swivels, 14 oars.
Ditto, twelve swivels, fourteen oars.