

shallow Lakes, or rather one known under different designations—that nearest the city being called Lake Pontchartrain which communicates with the sea through Lake Borgne. Surrounded by impassible swamps it was only by ascending some of the bayous or creeks falling into those Lakes that an invading army could hope to effect a landing—there are two of those bayous alone adapted for such a purpose, the bayou St. John, but is too well guarded, and the bayou Catalan, about 10 miles below the city, and through this the landing was effected.

While engaged in reconnoitering Lake Borgne the 38-gun frigate *Armidé* ascertained that there was an American flotilla in possession thereof—as the distance between the anchorage and Bayou Catalan was 62 miles, and the means of transport open boats, it became necessary to capture the gunboats composing the American flotilla before any movement could be made—on the night of the 12th December, 42 launches armed with twenty-four 18 and 12-pounder carronades with three unarmed gigs carrying altogether about 980 seamen and marines in three divisions pushed off on that service. The American gunboats which were the objects of attack, consisted of No. 156 mounting one long 24-pounder on a traversing carriage, four 12-pounder carronades and 4 swivels, with a crew of 41 men. No. 33 mounting one long 32-pounder on a traversing carriage, six long 6-pounders, two 5-inch howitzers and four swivels, with a crew of 39 men. No. 162 one long 34-pounder, four 6-pounders and four swivels, with a crew of 25 men. Nos. 5 and 163 each mounting one long 32-pounder on a traversing carriage, six long 6-pounders, two 5-inch howitzers and four swivels; No. 5 had a crew of 26 men and 163 a crew of 31 men. The schooner *Sea Horse* of one 6-pounder and 14 men; the sloop *Alligator* of one 4-pounder and 8 men. This force was anchored at the Malheureux islands, and on the 15th December at 10 a.m. the British boats were discovered, whereupon the *Sea Horse* was detailed to bay St. Louis to destroy the stores there, and at 3h. 30m. p.m. when the flood tide made the remaining vessels got under way and stood towards the *Petites-Coquilles*—at 3h. 45m. some boats were detached from the British flotilla to cut off the *Sea Horse* who had been moored advantageously under a battery of two 6-pounders mounted on a commanding point—by a judicious and well directed fire the boats were repulsed, but finding the position untenable the American commanding officer set fire to his vessel and the warehouse containing the stores.

On the 14th at 1 a.m. the five gunboats came to anchor with springs on their cables and boarding netting triced up in a close line abreast athwart the narrow channel called *Malheureux* island passage. At 9h. 30m. a.m. the *Alligator* in endeavoring to join her consorts was captured by the British without much opposition. The main body of the flotilla after a fatiguing pull of 36 miles closed with the gunboats, and after an obstinate

struggle captured the whole with a loss of 17 killed and 77 wounded, the loss of the Americans was 6 men killed and 35 wounded.

This obstacle to the passage of the Lakes being removed the disembarkation of the troops commenced on the 16th, the first division landed at *Isle aux Poix*, a small swampy islet at the mouth of the *Pearl River*, about 30 miles from the anchorage and the same distance from *Bayou Catalan*, but it was not till the 22nd that the first division consisting of 1688 men commenced ascending the *bayou Mazant*, the principal branch of the *Catalan*, and at 4 a.m. landed at the extremity of *Velleris* canal running from the *Mazant* to the *Mississippi*. After a succession of the most astounding blunders the British army of about 5000 men attacked the American position before *New Orleans* on the 8th January, 1815, and were totally defeated with a loss of nearly two thousand men in killed and wounded including the commander-in-chief, Sir E. Packenham, and Major General Gibbs—a retreat, conducted with far more skill than the advance had been, brought off the remnant of the troops.

In the month of December possession was taken of *Cumberland* island off the coast of *Georgia*. On the 13th January an attack on a fort at *Point Petre* mounting two 24, two 18 and one 9-pounder with 3 brass six pounders was successful, and the entrance to the *River St. Mary* was laid open; on the 14th that river was ascended by a squadron and the town of *St. Mary's* occupied without opposition—soon afterwards a detachment of boats went up the river and brought down the *Countess of Harcourt*, *Indiaman*, which had been captured and carried in by a *Charleston* privateer, also a beautiful gunboat named the *Scorpion*, a present from the town of *St. Mary* to the *United States*. Rear Admiral *Cockburn* fortified a large house on *Cumberland* Island making it his headquarters. On the 22nd February a flotilla of boats manned by 186 officers and men ascended the *St. Mary's* river for a distance of 120 miles, but were compelled to retreat with a loss of four killed and 25 wounded. On the 25th February a notification reached him from the American General commanding in his vicinity that peace between *Great Britain* and the *United States* had been negotiated on the previous 24th December. This concluded all operations on the coast and the *Canadian* frontier, but as news of the peace did not reach the squadrons cruising on other stations till a later period some important naval engagements occurred afterwards.

The American Government had decided on an expedition to the *East Indies* for the purpose of crippling *British* commerce, having succeeded in the pleasant operation of having her own annihilated, and calculating on the ignorance of the actual condition of her seaports as to defences on the part of *British* naval officers determined to risk the consequences of leaving them without the semblance of naval protection by despatching the *President* frigate, ship-sloops *Peacock* and

*Hornet*, *Macedonian* and *Tom Bowline* brigs, with orders to proceed to the bay of *Bengal* and there cruise to the annoyance of *British* trade.

The *British* squadron cruising off the port of *New York* towards the end of the year 1814 consisted of the 56-gun ship *Majestic*, the 40-gun frigate *Endymion* and the 38-gun frigate *Pomare*. On the 9th October the *Endymion*, off the shoals of *Nantuckett*, fell in with the American privateer brig *Prince de Neufchatel* of 18 guns and 120 men, it being calm the boats were detached for her capture, but were repulsed with a loss of 27 men killed and 35 wounded. On the 31st *Endymion* fell in with the 56-gun ship *Saturn* and received two officers and 33 men to replace her loss.

On the 13th January, 1815, the squadron off *New York* was joined by the 38-gun frigate *Tenedos*, but the same evening the whole were blown off the coast by a violent snow storm. As the American squadron had been seen at anchor previous to the gale and as it was impossible to close it on the 14th, the *British* commanding officer correctly judging that the American squadron would take advantage of the favorable state of the wind to get to sea stood away to the *Northward* and *Eastward* with the view of taking a station near the supposed track of the American squadron. On the 15th, an hour before daylight, having arrived at that point, *Sandy Hook* bearing *West-North-West* distant 15 leagues, singularly enough the principal object of search to all *British* cruisers appeared near them.

Considering the chances of escape greater by taking a separate departure with the ships of the squadron, the *President* and *Macedonian* having appointed the island of *Trisdan d'Acunha* as a rendezvous with the *Peacock*, *Hornet* and *Tom Bowline* weighed on the afternoon of the 14th and put to sea at 8h 30 p.m. Owing to a mistake of the *Pilots*, and to the increased draught from being deeply laden with stores the *President* struck on the bar and did not get off for an hour and a half, having slightly damaged her rudder and shifted her ballast: she would have put back but the strong gale prevented her. In company with the *brig* she shaped her course along the shore of *Long Island* for 50 miles, they steered south-east by south, until at 5 a. m. on the 15th, when she encountered the *British* squadron. Three of the ships appearing right ahead the *President* hauled up and passed about two miles to northward of them. The *British* immediately chased in the following order—the *Majestic* about five miles astern the *Endymion*, a little further in the same direction, the *Pomare* six or eight miles on her larboard quarter, and the *Tenedos* barely in sight to the starboard, the latter being parted from the squadron in the gale of the preceding evening, was taken for an enemy's ship and the *Pomare* was ordered to bear away in chase of her.

A most exciting chase, under all sail, now