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A
NARRATIVE

OF
CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING

THE
Retreat of the British Army

UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE LATE
Lieut. Gen. SIR JOHN MOORE, K. B.

WITH
A Concise Account

of the memorable

BATTLE OF CORUNNA,

AND SUBSEQUENT

EMBARKATION OF HIS MAJESTY'S TROOPS;

AND A

FEW REMARKS CONNECTED WITH THESE SUBJECTS;

IN

A LETTER,

ADDRESSED TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LORD VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH,

One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, &c. &c.

BY H. MILBURNE,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, LONDON,
AND LATE SURGEON IN THE SPANISH SERVICE.

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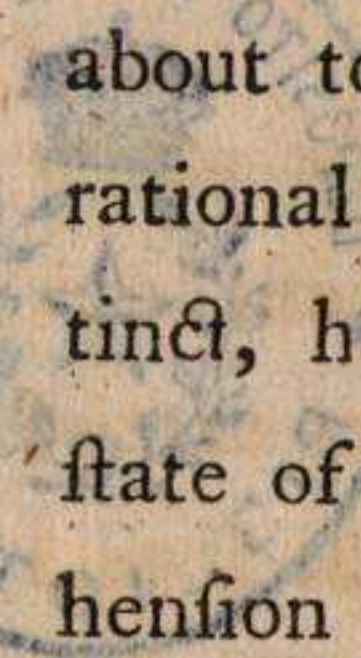
1809.





INTRODUCTION

THE writer of the following pages, in the early part of his professional career, entered into the military service of his country, where he had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the diseases of the army, which induced him to undertake a work on the subject, and on the nature and treatment of gun-shot wounds. He had arrived at this part of his treatise, when circumstances, already too well known to require enumeration, seemed



about to rekindle in Spain that spirit of rational liberty, which, though not extinct, had so long continued in such a state of apathy, as to excite an apprehension in unreflecting minds that its revival was, if practicable, extremely remote. The British nation, ever ready to assist in so glorious a cause as the emancipation of Europe from the fetters of an insatiable despot, sympathized most cordially with the patriots of Spain; and the solicitude to cooperate in their cause, seemed to pervade all ranks of society in the United Kingdom. The writer, naturally participating in the same feelings with the rest of his countrymen, and actuated by a solicitude to obtain that additional knowledge on the subject of his professional investigations, which can only be acquired on actual service, resolved, if possible, to accompany the forces which the British Govern-

ment so promptly supplied for the assistance of the Spanish patriots : but unfortunately finding the medical department of the first expedition was already filled, and his anxiety to witness the casualties of an army engaged in a state of warfare still remaining, being totally uninfluenced by any views of rank or emolument, he immediately made a tender of his gratuitous services to his Excellency the *Comte de Materosa*, as the accredited representative of the Spanish patriots. This nobleman received his offer with the most polite attention, but regretted that the nature of his mission did not authorise his acceptance of the services of any British subject.

Thus disappointed a second time, the writer determined to proceed immediately to the seat of war, merely as a private individual, and without any appointment

whatever.—His Excellency the British Ambassador to Spain kindly interested himself to promote this intention, and obtained for him the following letter from their Excellencies the Spanish Deputies :

AO SOR. DON JUAN DE AREJULA,
MEDICO CIRUGANO DE CAMARA DE S. M. C. Y DEL
EXERCITO DE ANDALUSIA, QUARTEL GENERAL.

SOR. DON JUAN AREJULA,

Muy Sor. nuestro y estimado amigo, el Sor. Ministro nombrado para España, por este Gobierno, se ha interesado con nosotros para que recomendemos á Vmd. al venerito Profesor de Cirugia, Mr. Henrique Milburne, que pasa á esa con objetos facultativos ; y no dudando del favor de Vmd. que coadyubara á sus observaciones y buenos deseos, nos tomamos la libertad de recomendarfelo ; esperando de su bondad atenderá á este sugeto, en lo que le permitan

fus facultades, y á que le quedaremos agradecidos.

Nro. Sor. que la vida de Vmd. Ms. As.

London, 2 de Oct. de 1808.

B. L. M. de Vmd. fus mas atentos fervres,

ADRIAN JACOME.

JUAN RUIZ DE APODACA.

(Translation.)

TO SOR. DON JUAN DE AREJULA,

SURGEON OF THE HOUSEHOLD TO HIS CATHOLIC
MAJESTY, AND OF THE ARMY OF ANDALUSIA, AT
HEAD-QUARTERS.

JUAN AREJULA, ESQ.

Dear Sir, and our esteemed friend, His honour the Minister, appointed for Spain by this Government, has used his influence with us, in order that we should recommend to you the very deserving professor of surgery, Mr. Henry Milburne, who pro-

ceeds to that place with a professional object; and not doubting, from your kindness, that you will contribute assistance to his observations and good wishes, we take the liberty of recommending him to you; hoping from your goodness you will pay attention to this gentleman, as far as your abilities will allow; and for which we shall remain thankful.

May our Lord preserve your life many years.

London, October 2, 1808.

Your most obedient humble servants,

JUAN RUIZ DE APODACA.

ADRIAN JACOME.

With this credential, he was on the eve of departing for Spain, when he had the honor to be introduced to Mr. Gordon,*

* This gentleman represents Worcester in the present Parliament, and his donation of 1,000l. to the fund in aid of the Spanish patriots, placed him for some time at the head of the respectable list of subscribers.

the friend of Colonel Murphy, whose patriotic zeal and liberality induced him to raise, clothe, arm, and equip a legion of 2,000 men, at his own private expence—a munificent instance of genuine patriotism which requires no comment.—Colonel Murphy having written to Mr. Gordon to request he would engage a professional gentleman, properly qualified to act as principal Surgeon to his Legion, the writer accepted this appointment without hesitation; and having selected every medical article and surgical instrument, necessary or likely to be useful, proceeded to Portsmouth, and embarked on board the Primrose sloop of war on the 28th day of November, 1808; and on the 10th of December he debarked at Corunna, and was proceeding with all expedition to Madrid, when at Astorga he received intelligence of the captivity of Colonel

Murphy, and met the British army on the memorable retreat which forms the subject of the following Letter:—

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 which requires no comment—Colonel
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 was proceeding with an expedition to
 Madrid, when at Alfova he received
 intelligence of the capture of Colonel

TO THE
 RIGHT HONOURABLE
 LORD CASTLEREAGH, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

HAVING had the honour of stating to your lordship my solicitude to accompany the British army to Spain, and what the objects were which excited my anxiety to proceed to the seat of war; the politeness with which I was honoured on that occasion, induces me to take the liberty of submitting to your lordship a narrative of events of which I was an eye-witness, and each of which, however trivial, must ever be an object of the most lively interest to the British nation.

When I debarked at Corunna, on the 10th of December, I immediately waited on the Junta of Galicia, from whom I

met the most polite reception, and through whose mediation I obtained, without delay, a special passport to Madrid, from *Don Joaquin Garcia Morena*, Captain General of that province; and having procured horses and mules for myself and servants, I set off in company with an escort under the command of *Captain Thackwell, of the 15th Light Dragoons, who were conveying specie for the use of the British army. Being entrusted with the care of some important papers, and also with a valuable selection of surgeons' instruments, intended for the use of the Spanish army,

* I am happy in this public manner to express the high sense of obligation I entertain of the very polite attention I experienced from this officer; whose exertions in executing the important duties of the trust reposed him, were exemplary and meritorious in the extreme, as were those of the officers under his immediate command, to whose civilities and kindness in general, I likewise consider myself greatly indebted.

I thought it prudent to continue in company with the escort.

On the 20th Dec. we arrived at the foot of one of the highest mountains in Galicia, which we were to pass over, in the road from Nogalaz to Villa franca, seven English miles in ascent, in the most severe weather I ever experienced, the cold being intense, and accompanied by a heavy fall of snow; on this occasion, I had an opportunity of witnessing the superior physical strength of the British soldier; for while the native drivers and cattle were exhausted and unable to proceed, some dying, and others actually dead with the severity of the weather, the soldiers who formed the detachment, although principally composed of convalescents, encountered every severity with cheerfulness, and overcame every difficulty with spirit. I cannot here omit an instance of another predominant

trait in the character of my countrymen. A foldier of the 76th Regiment having found a Spanish child almost exhausted in the snow, wrapped it in his great coat, and carried it to a hut nearly at the summit of the mountain, where I was obliged to take refuge in consequence of my mules being unable to proceed, and where I had the satisfaction to see the poor child preserved from premature death by the humane exertions of this *man*.

“ All are not *men* who wear the human form.”

KOTZEBUE.

On the 27th I arrived at Astorga, and waited on the Junta of Castile, where I had the mortification to learn that Colonel Murphy had fallen into the hands of the French; and that the British army were on the retreat, and hourly expected at Astorga. Finding it impossible to accomplish my original object, of joining Colonel

Murphy's legion, I tendered my professional services to the Spanish government, which were most thankfully received; here I found the hospitals, convents, and many private houses crowded with the sick and wounded of the Spanish army; many labouring under contagious diseases, and all badly accommodated, and in want of almost every medical necessary; the wards were all full, and many who were dying with mortification of the extremities, occasioned by the severity of the weather and scarcity of provisions, were lying on the floors and stairs, some under the piazzas, and others on the cars on which they had been conveyed, there being no room to receive them: this scene of unspeakable distress was aggravated by the want of medical and surgical assistance, many of the wounded whom I dressed having remained for several days in the state in which they had

been brought in. Under all these circumstances, and aware of the danger to which the British troops would be exposed on their arrival at a place where the sick of contagious diseases were indiscriminately lodged in almost every house; I thought it a duty incumbent on me to wait on General Frazer, then commanding the British troops at Astorga, to represent the danger to him, and to tender my services in the removal of such part of the sick as could with propriety be removed, and to mark such houses as I considered improper for the reception of healthy troops.

The General, with his usual affability, paid every attention to my representation, and addressed the following letter to the Junta of Astorga.

Astorga, 29th Dec. 1808,

GENTLEMEN,

It being deemed expedient, for the preservation of the health of the British army, that the sick of the Spanish army should be collected in one place, and separated from the former as much as possible, I have to request that you would, without delay, give authority to Professor Surgeon Milburne to remove and dispose of them in such situations out of the town as he may think most proper.

I remain, with respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

M. M. FRASER, Lieut.-Gen.

Commanding H. B. M. Troops at Astorga.

To their Excellencies the

Junta of Astorga.

I had the honor to deliver this letter from General Frazer to the Junta; and, in consequence, orders were immediately issued, enabling me to carry my intentions into effect, copies of which are as follows:—

Ne se impida al Profesor, contenido en la antor. Licencia el reconocer los enfermos Espanoles, y dar la razon que se le pide.

Junta de Astorga, Dec. 29, de 1808.

(Accordado)

MOLINA.

Lizdo. Costilla.

(Translation.)

Let not the Professor named in the foregoing Licence be hindered from examining

the Spanish sick, and giving the account required of him.

Junta of Astorga, Dec. 29, 1808.

(Granted.)

MOLINA.

The Licentiate Costilla.

Si la Junta tiene facultades para disponer de los enfermos, que residen en el Comisario Ordenador, Don Josef Orm, Inspector de los Hospitales; dispondrá este ministro (segun me parece) de que se practique este reconocimiento, é igualmente referbará este oficio para su gobierno.

Astorga, 29 de Diciembre, de 1808.

RAMON ORELL.

(Translation.)

By the Senorio.

If the Junta should have the authority to dispose of the sick which rests with the

Commissary Ordenador, Don Josef Orm, Inspector of the Hospitals, let this officer direct (according as appears to me) that this examination have effect; and likewise he is to keep this document for his own government.

Astorga, Dec. 29, 1808.

RAMON ORELL.

El Contralor Don Leopoldo Sagueté, acompañado del Cirujano Tardio reconocerán los Emfermos así de los Hospitales como de los Depositos con el facultatibo Ingles que cita este oficio y le permitiran el examen os todos ellos, así de sus dolencias como del numero de Enfermos que sobiese en el dia, instruiendole el mismo Tardio con todas las noticias propias de su profesion; y el Contralor conserbara en su poder este documento para lo que pudiese ocurrir en lo subcesibo.

ORTIZ.

The Deputy Accomptant, Don Leopoldo Sagüete, accompanied by Surgeon Tardio, is to examine the sick both in the Hospitals and the Depots, with the English Professor referred to by this document, and they are to allow him the inspection of the whole of them, as well of their complaints, as of the number of sick there may be at the present time. The same Surgeon Tardio is to give him all the information belonging to their profession; and the Deputy-Accomptant will keep in his possession this document, in case any thing should occur in future.

ORTIZ.

I endeavoured as far as possible to carry into effect what I had purposed, in removing the sick and wounded Spaniards from the houses I had selected as proper for the reception of the English troops; but the

hurry and confusion which unavoidably prevailed, prevented me from being as fully successful as I could have wished.

* On the 29th of December the very

* The late lamented hero, Sir John Moore, whose memory must be long and fondly cherished in the bosoms of his grateful countrymen; in his official dispatch detailing this affair, concludes in the following words: "The affair was well contested. The numbers with which Brigadier-general Stewart attacked were inferior to the French; it is the corps of the greatest character in their army; but the superiority of the British, was, I am told, very conspicuous." Lord Paget's report on this occasion is as follows: "About nine o'clock I received a report that the enemy's cavalry was in the act of crossing the river at the ford near the bridge. I immediately sent down the picquets of the night under Lieutenant-colonel Otway, of the 17th. Having left orders that the cavalry should repair to their alarm posts, I went forward to reconnoitre, and found four squadrons of Imperial Guards formed and skirmishing with the picquets and other cavalry in the act of passing. I sent for the 10th Hussars, who having arrived, Brigadier-general Stewart immediately placed himself at the head of the

brilliant affair took place, in which the British cavalry, under the orders of Lord Paget, and the immediate command of Brigadier-general Stewart, so eminently distinguished themselves against the Imperial Guards of Buonaparte, near Benevente; and a considerable number of prisoners being subsequently sent into Astorga, I had the satisfaction of rendering material assistance to some of these poor fellows, by immediately dressing their wounds, many of which were extremely desperate. One in particular, a fine stout good-looking young man, must have fought very obstinately, as he had received no less than six severe cuts of a sabre

picquets, and with the utmost gallantry attacked. The 10th Hussars supported in the most perfect order."

Among the prisoners taken, was General Lefebvre, who commanded the imperial guards, and two captains.

on the head and body. He stated that he received *all* these wounds from *one* of our dragoons, who eventually succeeded in disarming him, by a severe cut on the right shoulder. I must here observe, that these unfortunate men expressed the deepest sense of gratitude for my professional attention, and spoke in terms of the highest admiration of the gallantry and courage of the British troops, whose charge they affirmed was made with such regularity and impetuosity, that it was impossible to withstand its effect. The commander in chief arrived at Astorga on the 30th of December, and on the following day proceeded with the reserve of the army and the cavalry to Villa Franca, at which place the division under the command of Major-general Frazer had arrived the preceding evening. The gallant and illustrious Marquis de Romana entering Astorga on the same day

with Sir John Moore, I had the honour of an audience, and again on the next day, when hearing that his army were not only in want of medical assistance, but nearly destitute of surgical instruments of every kind; I made him a tender of my professional services, and the use of the very complete sets of instruments which I had in charge. The noble marquis received me with the greatest politeness and condescension, thanked me in very handsome terms for my offers, and informed me he should be at Pomfeferada on the following day, where he requested I would meet him. It was with considerable regret that I was prevented from meeting the Marquis, as I fully intended, from the impossibility of procuring a conveyance for my baggage, as my mules, from fatigue and want of provender, were utterly unable to travel. The Junta of the town, on my application to them, had

sent out persons to endeavour to procure mules for my accommodation, and in the expectation of their succeeding in this object, I remained in Astorga till late at night.—At this period advice was received that the advance of the French army were approaching, and that some of the picquets were actually within the town.—It is impossible for me to describe the scene of confusion and dismay which took place, the inhabitants flying in every direction, loaded with bundles of apparel, and other articles, which had been previously packed up. In this state of affairs, it being impossible for me to expect any assistance towards conveying my baggage, I loaded my horse, and commenced my journey towards Villa Franca on foot. About two o'clock in the morning I came up with the British army, which were halted at a village called Manzanal, fourteen miles from Astorga.

On the road between this place and Astorga, I fell in with a division of the army, who were proceeding to Pomfeferada, and also with five cars, conveying some sick men, women, and regimental baggage, following the grand army, on one of which I took the opportunity of placing a chest of instruments. Having waited several hours in vain expectation of the arrival of these cars, I was so extremely anxious for the preservation of the instruments, which were of the utmost importance, that I resolved to return towards Astorga, my servant being from illness incapable of the task.—After walking about eight miles, I met the cars at the foot of a very steep hill, not a great distance from the spot where I had left them, there not being oxen sufficient to drag them to the summit, the roads having been rendered extremely difficult from the depth of snow.

As the French army was rapidly approaching, I advised the non-commissioned officer in charge of the party to destroy two of the cars and their baggage, and to add the oxen belonging to them to the remaining ones, which he did, and was enabled to proceed; and I had the satisfaction of afterwards seeing them safe at Manzanel.

When I reached this place again, I found the army had continued its march, with the exception of some sick, who were obliged to be left behind.—After having rested some time, the cars before-mentioned proceeded towards Bembebre. A very heavy fall of snow induced me to take shelter in a large barn adjacent to the road, half way between that place and the former, where I found about ten English soldiers, and sixty or seventy armed Spaniards. During the period I remained here, an alarm was given that a party of

French chasseurs were approaching, and myself and some others had scarcely time to escape ere they surrounded the barn.— Several shots were fired at us, by one of which I was slightly wounded. At Bem-bibre I again came up with the rear of the army, having on the road passed a great number of stragglers, sick, women, and children, most of whom no doubt fell into the hands of the enemy.*—A most distressing object attracted my notice during this day's march, which powerfully awakened my sensibility, and occasioned deep and sincere regret that I had not the means of effectually relieving. The object which I allude to was a poor soldier's wife, who had been taken in labour, and

* I communicated to the commanding officer of the English picquet the circumstances already detailed, and they had subsequently some skirmishing.

who, with the infant of which she delivered herself, were lying by the side of the road. All I could do was to render my professional aid ; but I had the satisfaction of seeing the poor woman and her child placed on a car, by the humanity of a Spanish officer, who was escorting a party of his sick and wounded compatriots. I should have previously mentioned that I passed through a division of the Marquis De Romana's army, in my way from Manzanal to Bembebre, who were pursuing their route to Pomfeferada.

Having marched nearly fifty miles, without rest or refreshment, my servant's illness preventing him from affording the slightest assistance, and the accident I had met with on the preceding day becoming painful, rendered it impossible for me to proceed farther on foot. In this situation, and the enemy pressing extremely close, I

was unfortunately obliged to abandon the whole of my baggage, leaving it, together with a very valuable assortment of instruments and medicines, which had been selected with particular care at great expence in England, in Bembebre, into which the advance of the French army actually entered before I was out of sight of the place.—Soon after quitting the town of Bembebre, I came up with the rear of the army, and meeting Captain Thackwell, of the 15th Light Dragoons, with whom I had previously the honor of marching to Astorga, he strongly advised me to push on as fast as possible, as, from the force in which the French appeared, and the rapidity of their movements, an immediate attack was apprehended: indeed, immediately afterwards, much skirmishing took place between the advance and rear of the two armies.

The rear of the army halted at Caballos for some hours, and the enemy's cavalry continuing to press upon them very much, our dragoons formed on a plain about a mile distant, on the right of the town, and offered them battle. Some severe skirmishing ensued, and our troops eventually succeeded in compelling the French to retire.

On the 3d of January the whole of the British army arrived at Villa Franca; and although, from the extreme rapidity of its movements, considerable numbers, through excessive fatigue, want of sufficient refreshment, and other causes, remained on the road, and in the different villages in its vicinity: all things considered, the retreat to this place was attended with less loss and confusion than might have reasonably been expected, where the difficulties to be

surmounted were so arduous, numerous, and distressing.

It was expected that the army would have received considerable supplies of provisions and other necessaries at Villa Franca ; but were unfortunately disappointed, great numbers of the inhabitants having quitted their houses, taking with them every thing portable ; and those that remained were in such a state of terror and confusion, as to render them apparently incapable of discriminating between friends and foes, it being impossible for the British soldiers to obtain from them, even by purchase, articles which their French visitors would not have scrupled to extort by force.

On the following morning the army recommenced its march towards Lugo, which, although a distance of eighteen Spanish leagues, or seventy-two English

miles, may with propriety be affirmed to have been performed almost without halting, as the short intervals allowed for rest at Nagolaz and Constantine can scarcely be considered as such.

The fatigues endured by the troops was incredible, labouring under every species of privation; they had also to encounter with extreme inclement weather, and roads intolerably bad. The cavalry horses in particular suffered most severely, and many becoming unable to proceed, were shot; as were numbers employed in the artillery and commissariat departments, and in the conveyance of baggage. Indeed hundreds of horses and mules were left dead on the road between Nagolaz and Lugo.

Some idea may be formed of what the British dragoons underwent, from the circumstance of their having performed a march of seventy-two miles in twenty-six hours,

twenty-four of which they were actually on horseback. At this period the stragglers constantly augmented; and as the enemy's cavalry kept close on our rear, numbers of them were either killed or taken prisoners.—Several of the English were seen dead on the road, having perished from excessive fatigue, privations, and extreme cold; as well as many of the Spanish muleteers. A report having got into circulation that the French inhumanly massacred all the prisoners that fell into their hands during the march, occasioned additional terror and confusion amongst the sick: the women and children, for many of whom there was no conveyance, and being unable to keep pace with the troops, were unavoidably abandoned to their fate.—The lamentations and cries of these unfortunate people, imploring assistance, which it was impossible to render

them, were truly distressing; and perhaps a scene more calculated to excite sympathy and compassion never occurred than in the following instance:—A poor woman, the wife of a soldier belonging to an Highland regiment, exhausted by hunger and fatigue, sunk lifeless on the road, with two children in her arms, where she remained; and when I passed the corps, one of the little innocents was still endeavouring to extract that nourishment from its parent's bosom which nature no longer supplied.

On the night of the 4th, and in the morning of the 5th of January, the whole of the army arrived in Lugo; and the miserable and exhausted condition of men and cattle rendered it absolutely necessary to halt. The arrival of the troops during the night occasioned the utmost confusion and alarm amongst the Spaniards, inasmuch as those who still remained in their houses

barred their doors against our men, which were in consequence obliged to be forced open. This of course occasioned many quarrels and scuffles between them and the soldiers; and as, in many instances, the Spaniards unfortunately made obstinate resistance, the former were compelled to oppose force by force.

On the 6th of January the enemy's advance approached near the town, and in the afternoon of that day were engaged with our troops, by whom they were repulsed with considerable loss.

From the movements of the enemy after this affair, it was considered probable they meditated a general battle, and under this impression I presume it was that the Commander in Chief took up the position, on the 7th, in which he purposed to await the attack, having previously sent forward as many of the sick and wounded, and as

much of the baggage as practicable.—
 However, no such event taking place, the
 army proceeded on their retreat towards
 Corunna.

Notwithstanding the misery and confusion which prevailed on the march from Villa Franca to Lugo, and which I have endeavoured faintly to describe, was extremely great, all these circumstances were now considerably augmented; indeed, words are inadequate to depict the scenes of distress which every moment presented themselves to notice.

At Lugo and near it a considerable quantity of treasure was obliged to be abandoned, as also great quantities of commissariat stores, and public and private baggage.*

* Major-general Fraser's division having marched seven or eight leagues on the road towards Vigo, was recalled by the

The vicinity of Lugo was peculiarly picturesque and romantic, and near it was a handsome bridge of three very lofty arches, which I understand was ordered to have been destroyed as soon as the rear of the army should have passed over; but from some reasons or other, with which I am unacquainted, this measure was not effectually accomplished.*

The army continued its march through

Commander in Chief, in consequence of his apprehending an attack from the enemy, which occasioned that part of the army to suffer more severely than the other.

* A medical officer of the 51st regiment, who, from particular circumstances, remained in the town till the French had actually entered it, but who escaped at day-light, informed me that the bridge was so far from being rendered impassable, that some of the men in the engineer department were at *that time* employed in removing the loose stones, which had been displaced by the previous explosion of gunpowder.

Vaumondè and Betanzos to Corunna, where, and in its vicinage, they arrived on the 10th and 11th of January.

This retreat, from the distance marched, and the numerous difficulties by which it was attended, will long remain a proud and honourable proof of the energy, perseverance, and valour of the British soldier.*

* As I was not present on the retreat previous to the arrival of the army at Astorga, I cannot possibly resort to information equally accurate as that contained in the official dispatch of the late Lieutenant-general Sir John Moore, of which the following is an extract:—

“ On the 21st (December) the army reached Sahagun ; it was necessary to halt there, in order to refresh the men, and on account of provisions. The information I received was, that Marshal Soult was at Saldana with about sixteen thousand men, with posts along the river from Guarda to Carrion.

“ The army was ordered to march in two columns at eight o'clock on the night of the 23d, to force the bridge at Carrion, and from thence proceed to Saldana. At six o'clock I received

I may venture to assert, that it has no parallel in the annals of modern history,

information that considerable reinforcements had arrived at Carrion from Palencia, and a letter from the Marquis de la Romana informed me that the French were advancing from Madrid either to Valladolid or Salamanca. It was evident that it was too late to prosecute the attempt upon Soult, that I must be satisfied with the diversion I had made, and that I had no time to lose to secure my retreat. The next morning Lieutenant-general Hope, with his own division, and that of Lieutenant-general Fraser marched to Majorga. I sent Sir David Baird with his division to pass the river at Valencia, and followed Lieutenant-general Hope on the 25th with the reserve and the light brigades, by Majorga and Valderas, to Benevente. The cavalry under Lord Paget followed the reserve on the 26th; both the latter corps entered this place yesterday. We continue our march on Astorga. Generals Hope and Fraser are already gone on; General Baird proceeds to-morrow from Valencia, and I shall leave this with the reserve at the same time. Lord Paget will remain with the cavalry to give us notice of the approach of the enemy; hitherto the infantry have not come up; but they are near, and the cavalry surround us in great number: they are checked by our cavalry, which have obtained, by their spirit and enterprize, an as-

and that it reflects equal honour on the talents of the late lamented hero by

cendancy over that of the French, which nothing but great superiority of numbers on their part will get the better of.

“ The diversion made by our march on Sahagun, though at great risk to ourselves, has been complete; it remains to be seen what advantage the Spaniards in the South will be able to make of it, but the march of the French on Badajoz was stopped, and when its advanced guard had reached Talaviera de la Reine, and every thing disposable is now turned in this direction. The only part of the army which has been hitherto engaged with the enemy has been the cavalry, and it is impossible for me to say too much in their praise. I mentioned to your Lordship, in my letter of the 16th, the success Brigadier-general Stewart had met with in defeating a detachment of cavalry at Rueda. Since that, few days have passed without his taking or killing different parties of the French, generally superior in force to those which attacked them. On their march to Sahagun Lord Paget had information of 600 or 700 cavalry being in that town. He marched on the 20th from some villages where he was posted in front of the enemy at Majorga, with the 10th and 15th Hussars. The 10th marched straight to the town, whilst Lord Paget with the 15th endeavoured to turn it. Unfortunately he fell in with a patrol, one of whom

whom it was conducted, and the surviving officers and men who were individually concerned in its accomplishment.

When the troops arrived at Corunna, the transports in which they were to embark had not come round from Vigo; therefore, as the enemy were so rapidly advancing, it became necessary for the Commander in Chief to occupy the most favourable positions that presented themselves, for the purpose of covering the embarkation. The reserve, under the command of the Hon. Major-general Paget, was stationed near the bridge of Burgo, which

escaped, and gave the alarm. By this means the French had time to form on the outside of the town before Lord Paget got round. He immediately charged them, beat them, and took from 140 to 150 prisoners, amongst whom were two Lieutenant-colonels and eleven officers, with the loss on our part of six or eight men, and perhaps 20 wounded."

had been previously destroyed, but not so effectually as could have been wished.*

Here some sharp skirmishing took place between them and the advance of the enemy.—Sir David Baird's and General Hope's divisions were the same evening advanced about two miles in front of Corunna, near to which the French had also taken a position. During this period the British engineers and artillery were busily employed in assisting the Spaniards in repairing and improving the batteries and fortifications on the land front of the town, which were in a very defective condition.

The guns and carriages most unfit for service were now replaced by others from

* In carrying the object of destroying this bridge into execution, an officer of the engineers unfortunately lost his life during the explosion.

the citadel; amongst the former were several brass ones of extraordinary large calibre. New mortar-batteries were also erected, and the parapets lined with provision-barrels, filled with gravel by the artillery-men, for the purpose, I imagine, of protecting the gunners from the shots of the enemy's marksmen. It is but doing justice to the Spaniards to observe, that in these efforts they were extremely active and assiduous; and in a visit I paid to the batteries I saw two young women in male attire, and armed with sabres, assisting and encouraging the workmen, and supplying them with wine and other refreshments.

On the morning of the 13th, between eight and nine o'clock, a powder magazine, situated on the heights about two or three miles from the town, was blown up, to prevent its contents from falling into the hands of the enemy. However, seve-

ral hundred barrels of gunpowder had been removed on the preceding day to the citadel ; nevertheless, the explosion was tremendous, the whole of Corunna being convulsed as if by an earthquake ; many windows were broken, and even the shipping in the harbour experienced its effect. The inhabitants not having been apprized of this circumstance previous to its taking place, were thrown into a momentary state of confusion and affright.

On the 14th several sail of the line and transports arrived from Vigo, and the cavalry and artillery commenced their embarkation, with the exception of two or three brigades of guns, and a few dragoons for the duties of the picquet ; the sick were also sent on board.

On this day I rode considerably beyond the British lines, as far as the most advanced of their videttes, and had a full

view of the French army, which at this period occupied the heights on the left, next the sea, their picquets being stationed at a village in the main road leading from Corunna to Betanzos, within a mile of the English. It occasioned me no inconsiderable surprize, from not being perfectly acquainted with military etiquette, to observe the British and French videttes so near to each other, as to be within hearing; and I also noticed several riflemen, concealed on the side of the road, ready to direct their aim at any of the enemy's officers who might advance to reconnoitre. Two English officers inadvertently rode past their own videttes, and would in all probability have fallen into the hands of the French, had they not been called to by some of the soldiers, and made sensible of their danger, which they escaped by returning as quick as possible.

The same day I saw two French officers, apparently amusing themselves by picking up shells on the sands of the bay at low water. They might to a certainty have been shot by the riflemen, had they been permitted to fire on them, being far within the range of their pieces. On several parts of the road in this neighbourhood, walls of loose stones were thrown across, for the purpose of obstructing the progress of cavalry, which also afforded excellent cover for the riflemen to conceal themselves behind. The houses and villages on both sides of the road were completely abandoned by the Spaniards, and of course taken temporary possession of by the armies. As I was returning to Corunna, I overtook a Spaniard who had just made his escape from the enemy, and who related an anecdote of two young women, who having remained in a village

disguised in male attire, were discovered and seized by a party, consisting of upwards of twenty French soldiers, and treated in a manner too brutal and inhuman for me to describe.

During the night the French fires, from their number and extent, evinced their force to be very considerable, and in the morning it was discovered they had received a large reinforcement, and that they had moved their position to the heights on the right.

On the 15th the advanced guard of the British army, which was stationed on the heights near a place called Villaboa, was attacked by the enemy, as were the other outposts, probably with the view of ascertaining with more certainty the nature of their position, and the amount of their force. This was considered as a preliminary measure to a general battle,

which was confirmed by the events of the following day.

The French this day posted two guns at a detached house on the road, from whence they fired on the British lines. They were soon silenced by two English field-pieces, and obliged to retire with precipitation. The English guns were so extremely well served and pointed, that a shot from one of them was seen to kill several of the enemy, whilst their efforts were attended with little effect, the shots mostly falling short of the objects they were aimed at; indeed, I neither saw nor heard of any mischief done by them, unless the killing of a mule may be considered deserving of that appellation. One shell passed over the advanced post it was directed against, falling near the road amongst several British soldiers, without occasioning any of them the smallest

injury. The whole day was passed in continual skirmishing, during which the cool and intrepid conduct of the British troops was eminently conspicuous and exemplary. The late Lieutenant-colonel Mackenzie, of the 1st battalion of the 5th regiment, particularly distinguished himself by his activity and bravery. Having had one horse shot under him, he remounted on another, advanced again to the attack, and unfortunately received a wound from a musket-ball, which occasioned his death in a few hours afterwards.—A most interesting spectacle presented itself during this day in the movements and operations of the contending parties, being sufficiently near for me plainly to distinguish every thing that took place. In one instance I noticed a detachment, consisting, I should think, of more than a hundred of the enemy, take posses-

tion of a house on the side of a hill, from whence they were speedily dislodged by the British artillery, the first shot from whom penetrated completely through the house, compelling them to seek safety on the height by a precipitate flight.

This day and the preceding a great number of horses and mules which had been disabled were shot in the square of the arsenal at St. Lucia, near Corunna.

I have already mentioned, that in consequence of the enemy's movements on the morning of this day, a general battle was expected immediately, but that nothing more took place than a series of skirmishing. The delay, in all probability, was occasioned by the reinforcements expected by the enemy not having arrived in due time.

The firing did not entirely cease till the evening, when the outposts were relieved,

and the brave English troops who had been engaged were withdrawn to take that rest which their vigorous and arduous exertions rendered so requisite. The army in general had been supplied with their due proportion of rations since their arrival at Corunna, which the uncommon rapidity of the retreat, and the local circumstances previously detailed, prevented their receiving with regularity during their march. Those soldiers who required them were also furnished with shoes, stockings, and other articles of clothing, and new arms were delivered out, to replace those that had been lost or rendered unfit for service.

On the morning of the 16th an unusual degree of bustle and animation appeared to prevail amongst the Spanish troops and inhabitants, his Excellency the Commandant, *Don Joaquin Garcia Morena,*

having by proclamation and other methods exhorted them to exert their utmost efforts in co-operating with their brave allies to repel the assaults of the enemy, and to afford them every possible facility towards effecting their embarkation, declaring at the same time it was his determination to defend the place to the last extremity.— This venerable and patriotic officer, though apparently upwards of seventy years of age, evinced the utmost activity and zeal in the performance of his duties, being the greatest part of every day on horseback, personally inspecting the progress of the works, and the organization of the volunteers.*

* The confidence of the inhabitants appeared to be considerably increased by the events of the preceding day. At the house wherein I had apartments, the females of the family, who were in high spirits, amused themselves by dancing to their

I again this morning visited the English advanced posts, which had not altered their position since the preceding day; at this period, every thing appearing perfectly quiet, the soldiers, excepting those on sentry, were resting and taking refreshment, but still in a situation ready to turn out at a moment's notice. The men had erected for themselves huts, formed of boards, straw, and other materials, hastily collected from the buildings in the neighbourhood, there being very few tents.

Notwithstanding the fatigue the English soldiers had already undergone, and the severe conflicts they had recently been engaged in, they appeared in excellent

eastanets, at the same time expressing their admiration of the English, and contempt for the French, who they stigmatized with the appellation of *Piccaroon*.

spirits, expressing the highest confidence in their officers, and seemed anxious, by being again opposed to the enemy, to bring to a conclusion the object of their illustrious General in Chief, of the favourable issue of which they entertained no doubt. It was between the hours of ten and eleven, that I rode to the English outposts.— The morning was extremely fine, and I had a very distinct view of the enemy's army. A large body of cavalry and infantry, evidently a reinforcement, at this time were marching up to the heights in front, accompanied by bands of music, drums, and fifes. A few shots were fired at their rear by the British, but I believe the distance was too great for them to do execution. The extent of the French lines could plainly be ascertained through a telescope, and I could distinguish engineers and artillery-men busily employed

in their front, as I imagined erecting a battery. Were I permitted to offer an opinion of the numbers of which the enemy's army consisted, to judge from the extent and depth of their line, I should certainly estimate them at upwards of thirty thousand. Soon after I reached Corunna, where I had business with the Inspector of Hospitals, the French army commenced their attack on the British outposts, which I had just visited.*

* Having settled my business with Dr. Shapter, to whose polite attention I feel myself greatly indebted, I rode back to the scene of action, where I took a station from whence I could see what passed, and also be at hand to afford any professional assistance in my power that might be required. This enables me to offer what I trust may be deemed not altogether an uninteresting detail of events that passed under my actual inspection; and as I subsequently ascertained the names of officers and corps engaged, I hope it will be found tolerably correct.

A heavy discharge of artillery took place about one o'clock from the enemy's batteries on the heights in front of the army, which was returned by such of the British artillery as had not been embarked, a brigade of which had been previously stationed in the main road, ready to act as circumstances might require. The commanding position of the enemy's guns enabled them to have a superior effect to those of the English, who were so much below them. The principal attack of the enemy was directed to the division under Sir David Baird, which was undoubtedly the weakest portion of the British line, against which they advanced three very strong columns. Nothing could possibly exceed the intrepidity, firmness, and good order with which this division sustained the attack. After a very arduous struggle, the British succeeded in driving the enemy

down from the heights whereon they had attacked them, and charged them with the utmost spirit and ardour half way up the hill, on the other side, which they had before occupied, to the place where they had posted their guns, which very nearly fell into the hands of the English, and were only preserved by being hastily withdrawn.

A village to the right of General Baird's division became an object of obstinate contest between the two armies. It was situated at the foot of a hill, and crowded with French troops; these were gallantly attacked by the English no less than three several times, who at length succeeded in carrying the place, after an immense slaughter of the enemy. The fiftieth regiment and the Guards were chiefly concerned in this affair, during which I am informed they lost two field

officers, and three subalterns, and about one hundred men killed, and a considerable number were wounded.

The fifty-second light infantry, and the ninety-fifth rifle corps, also particularly distinguished themselves near to this place, being engaged on the right of the village, and actually pursued the French up the hill, who fled before them with confusion and dismay.

During this attack, Lieutenant-general Sir David Baird, who throughout was most ably supported by Lord William Bentinck, and the brigade under his command, received a very severe wound, which obliged him to be taken from the field, and the Commander in Chief, who was near this division, shortly afterwards also fell by a cannon-shot.

This portion of the British army it was that suffered the most severely, and parti-

for embarkation about eleven o'clock, taking with them as many of their wounded as were in a condition to be moved; the remainder they were under the painful necessity of leaving on the field along with those of the enemy. The order in which the troops marched from their positions was such as to reflect high credit on the character and discipline of British soldiers, the artillery taking the lead. The picquets, however, remained at their respective posts until between four and five o'clock on the morning of the 17th, when they were likewise withdrawn, without any movements of the enemy having taken place indicative of their being acquainted with what was passing; although it is more than probable, from past experience, he felt no inclination to offer any obstruction to the execution of their plans, until they were too far removed

to have it in their power to recriminate.

The Commissioner and Captains of the Royal Navy* exerted themselves in the most strenuous and praise-worthy manner in co-operating with the commanders of the land forces, in effecting the embarkation, which was accomplished with a degree of expedition perhaps never equalled upon any similar occasion.

The brigades under the command of Major-general Hill and Major-general

* Commissioner Bowen.

Captains---The Hon. H. Curzon.

———— Gosselin.

———— Boys.

———— Rainier.

———— Saret.

———— Digby.

———— Carden, and Mackenzie,

Beresford received directions to remain on shore, as a rear-guard, and to watch the motions of the enemy. The remainder of the army got safely on board the transports before day-light. The brigade of Major-general Hill was stationed on the promontory at the rear of the town, and that commanded by Major-general Beresford took post on the inland front of Corunna.

Nothing could possibly exceed the gallantry and resolution displayed by the British soldiers under the very trying circumstances in which they were placed; by which, in defiance of every difficulty, in the face of an enemy's army of far superior numbers, they were enabled to effect the object of embarkation, without any other loss than what had previously taken place in the field of battle.

No further movements of the French

riority of the enemy in point of numbers, and the advantages of the commanding position they possessed, they were completely and decidedly foiled in every one of their reiterated attempts to turn the right of the British army, and their loss in killed and wounded was certainly infinitely greater than those whom they attacked.

A great deal of the successful opposition to these attempts must in justice be attributed to a judiciously-timed and well-concerted movement of the Honourable Major-general Paget's, who marched the reserve under his command from their cantonments, in support of the right wing of the army, and by a most vigorous and effective attack, completely defeated his intention. The extremely judicious station occupied by Lieutenant-general Fraser's division, still further added to the

security of the right of the army, and disappointed the enemy in his hopes of success in that quarter, compelling him at length totally to abandon his purpose. At six o'clock in the evening the firing on both sides ceased, the advance of the British army remaining upwards of a mile beyond the position they had occupied previous to the commencement of the action, so that they may with justice and truth be pronounced the conquerors on this memorable occasion.

The exact number of the killed and wounded during this conflict has not, and perhaps may never be ascertained; but from the best information I have been enabled to procure on the subject, I should imagine did not amount to one thousand, whilst that of the French must have been nearly double.

The British army commenced its retreat

cularly Lord William Bentinck's brigade ; the left was so strongly posted, that the enemy did not consider it prudent to hazard an attempt at forcing them, contenting themselves with directing at them a very furious cannonade. Towards the evening, however, the fourteenth regiment of infantry, who formed part of the left of the line, were detached, and who executed a most gallant and glorious enterprize. A very numerous body of the French troops having occupied a village at a considerable distance in their front, they were ordered to dislodge them. This they succeeded in effecting at the point of the bayonet, but not without sustaining severe loss, as the French disputed the possession of the place with determined obstinacy and perseverance, the conflict only ending with the flight.

Notwithstanding the immense supe-

army was perceptible till the morning of the seventeenth, when they appeared to be again in motion, and between eight and nine o'clock a considerable body of their light troops took up a position on the heights near St. Lucia, which in some measure commanded the inner harbour of Corunna. However, it was not apprehended that the enemy could derive any very material advantage from the occupation of this position, at least not that would enable him to impede the operations of the British troops in effecting their embarkation; and as the Spaniards evinced every inclination to support and zealously cooperate with their allies, and certainly did exert themselves to the utmost; the commanding officer, Lieutenant-general Hope, it appears, did not consider the rear-guard as in any danger of being forced. Therefore, the brigade under

Major-general Hill, stationed on the promontory at the back of the town, was ordered to be withdrawn, and its embarkation to commence immediately. This object was completely accomplished between the hours of three and four in the afternoon.

It should here be mentioned, that towards the middle of the day the enemy commenced a cannonade on the shipping, which occasioned considerable confusion, obliging them to slip their cables, and get under weigh with all possible dispatch.

In doing this, several of the transports ran on shore, and unfortunately three or four were so situated that they could not be got off again, and were consequently left behind; the troops, however, were removed, and put on board other vessels.

From the unavoidable confusion and

uncertainty which must ever attend all the operations of an army during the night, it was impossible to pay that regard which would have been desirable towards effecting the embarkation with precision and regularity, and therefore it happened that the regiments became completely intermixed, the troops getting on board any of the ships that could receive them, without paying the slightest regard to their original destinations. This circumstance occasioned the sick and wounded in many instances to be deprived of the requisite medical and surgical assistance, as on board many of the transports there were no professional men, whilst in others there were several. It was intended to have remedied these inconveniencies the first fine day that should occur after the sailing of the fleet, which, however, the uncommon quickness of their passage to

England prevented being accomplished, and fortunately became a matter of less importance.

The boats belonging to the men of war rendered the most important services, being employed during the whole of the embarkation; and were it not for the wonderful intrepidity and exertions of their crews, for which British sailors are proverbially remarkable, much greater inconveniencies would have taken place than were actually experienced. The boats continued rowing from the shore to the ships and back again the whole of the night of the sixteenth, and during the greater part of the following day, with little intermission; and although it blew a very heavy gale, and the sea ran extremely high, and was very rough all the morning, these gallant fellows, regardless of danger, and despising bodily toil, continued their

meritorious exertions with the utmost alacrity and cheerfulness, their solicitude to render every assistance in their power to the soldiers evincing the most striking and honourable proofs of their generosity, courage, and humanity.* Most of the men of war also weighed at the same time, with the exception of the flag-ship, which remained at anchor.

Several of the enemy's shots passed very near and over the transport on which I was embarked, and many fell around

* "In consequence of the good order maintained by the troops, and the unwearied exertions of Commissioner Bowen, the captains, and other officers of the navy, the agents, as well as the boats' crews, many of whom were for *two days without food* and without repose, the army has been embarked to the last man."---Vide the Hon. Rear-admiral De Courcy's dispatch to the Hon. W. W. Pole, dated 18th January.

her, without doing the slightest injury; and I noticed a few which struck other ships without doing material damage.

Soon after dark, Major-general Beresford having taken a friendly leave of the Governor, who appeared perfectly satisfied with the necessity of the British movements, withdrew his brigade from the land front of the town, and together with the whole of the sick and wounded who had not been previously moved, were embarked by one o'clock on the morning of the 18th of January.

The transport* on board which I em-

* Having applied for a passage to England to the Hon. Major-general Broderick, and offered to Dr. Shepter, the Inspector of Hospitals, my professional assistance whilst on board, he was pleased to give me a letter to Staff-Surgeon Taggart, who was in charge of the sick in the Alfred hospital ship, desiring I might be accommodated in her; and I am happy to acknow-

barked was one of the last that quitted the harbour, as the master, a bold and experienced seaman, was determined to preserve his anchors if possible, which he fortunately accomplished, notwithstanding the shots were flying about in every direction. The appearance of the shipping after dark, from the varied disposition of the lights on the men of war, agent ships, and transports, was extremely beautiful, and had an interesting and grand effect, and the enemy's fires on the heights, as well as those of the British, added considerably to the brilliancy of the scene.

By order of Admiral De Courcy, the

ledge this Gentleman's politeness, and to bear testimony to the humane attention with which (though in a bad state of health) he discharged the duties of his station, as did Assistant-Surgeon Roe.

transports were directed to get clear of the harbour as soon as they had received on board their complement of troops, and then to lay too for further instruction. It blowing extremely hard, it was not possible in every instance to comply with the Admiral's orders.

The wounded men being very uncomfortably accommodated, and destitute of every necessary their condition required, the master of the Alfred, with the concurrence and approbation of the medical officers on board, was induced to make sail at three o'clock in the morning, and arrived off Plymouth on the twentieth, anchoring in the Sound on the following day.

Having brought my narrative to this point, I hope I may without presumption add my feeble tribute to the general applause that has been bestowed on the

exertions of the officers and men concerned in the Spanish expedition.

That the enemy were so successfully opposed, and finally repulsed, was owing to the incomparable conduct and intrepidity of the British troops, and that the embarkation was so completely effected, may be attributed to the judicious means employed to support and encourage their extraordinary efforts. In regular succession from one affair to another, opportunities were given, as they were universally employed, to display the skill and bravery of the British military character.

The death of every individual who gloriously terminates his existence in the service of his country, is in some degree a matter of public interest and general concern; but when an officer of the high and distinguished rank in which the merits of the late Commander of the

British forces in Spain had placed him,* from whose splendid military ta-

* General Moore entered the service early in life, and as he soon displayed his military talents, his rise was rapid. In the year 1801 he was appointed Colonel of the 52d regiment, and rose to the rank of Major-general in 1802. Corsica was the theatre in which he primarily distinguished himself as an officer of superior skill; and on many occasions in that island he gave proofs of his personal bravery and good conduct. He afterwards accompanied the late Sir Ralph Abercrombie to the West Indies, where his conduct was so exemplary as to acquire the unbounded confidence of that excellent General, by whom he was selected to serve under his command in the expedition to Holland in 1799, where he received a slight wound. It was, however, on the Egyptian expedition that he had a more ample opportunity for establishing his character as an officer of the first-rate abilities. He commanded at the disembarkation of the troops on this occasion; and it is reported that even Bonaparte expressed himself in terms of the highest admiration of his conduct, which he affirmed was a master-piece of Generalship, and worthy of the ablest Commander that ever lived. General Moore was severely wounded at the battle of Alexandria at the head of the reserve, which he was leading

lents and those superior endowments
 which grace a foldier, we might with
not only of this kingdom,
but eventually of all Europe, is cut off in
 the meridian of a brilliant career on the
 field of battle, and dies in the arms of
 forward with his usual gallantry; and, on his return from
 Egypt, his Majesty in the most gracious manner conferred on
 him the honour of Knighthood, and invested him with the
 Order of the Bath. During the whole of the present war Sir
 John Moore was with little intermission engaged in active ser-
 vice. He commanded at Shorncliffe in Kent, and afterwards
 succeeded the Honourable General Fox in the command of the
 forces in Sicily. Sir John was entrusted with the chief com-
 mand of the expedition to Sweden; and although this was not
 attended with the satisfactory result which was hoped for, Mi-
 nisters have unanimously acquitted the General of the slightest
 misconduct on the occasion.---From all that has been related
 respecting the character of the late Sir John Moore, he appears
 to have devoted himself exclusively to the profession of arms.
 He was in every respect a complete soldier, and a strict discipli-
 narian; so that the 52d regiment, of which he was Colonel,
 and which was under his immediate inspection during the
 time he commanded at Shorncliffe, was generally looked up
 to as a model in point of manœuvres and discipline. He
 seems to have possessed all those talents which, had he been
 invested with a continental command on an extensive scale,

confidence have anticipated future achievements, adding to the glory, happiness, and honour, not only of this kingdom, but eventually of all Europe, is cut off in the meridian of a brilliant career on the field of battle, and dies in the arms of victory, his fate becomes an object of the deepest regret ; at the same time the spirit of national exultation his heroic actions must naturally give rise to, in some degree reconciles us to his fate, and inspires us with an ardent though rational curiosity to become acquainted with the minutest circumstances with which it was attended.

In this point of view, although several

and during a protracted warfare, would in all human probability have placed him high upon the list of the most celebrated modern Generals.

details have already been presented to the public, more or less correct, I trust it may not be considered altogether irrelevant, if I take the liberty of introducing such accounts of the last moments of the hero of Corunna, as I received from an eye-witness of unquestionable veracity.

It has been previously stated, that the late Sir John Moore was with the division of Lieutenant-general Sir David Baird, on which the first and most determined attack was made by three strong columns of the enemy; here, at the head of the 50th regiment, the Commander in Chief was struck by a cannon-shot, which shattered his arm, and lacerated the muscles of the left breast, so materially injuring the parts adjacent, as to preclude every hope of the wound not proving mortal.

The shot brought the General immediately to the ground; but so far was he

from expressing the slightest concern for himself, or evincing symptoms of the excruciating agony he must have sustained, that I am positively assured he surveyed his wound with rather a smiling countenance, and with the greatest coolness and composure observed, that he was sensible all aid would be useless; desiring the officer who proffered his assistance to go immediately and inform General Hope of the circumstance, on whom the command now devolved, Sir David Baird having been previously wounded, and reluctantly compelled to leave the field. I cannot forbear in this place mentioning a trait in the conduct of Lieutenant-general Baird, which, in my opinion, reflects great honour on his character as a soldier, and on his feelings as a man. Having been wounded (as before stated) in the upper part of his arm, professional assistance was

immediately tendered, when hearing that the Commander in Chief was also wounded, he insisted on the surgeon's immediately leaving him, and going to Sir John Moore ; and he himself was taken on board the Ville de Paris, where his arm was amputated near the socket by the surgeon of that ship. Six soldiers, with tearful eyes, and sorrowing hearts, conveyed their beloved Commander from the field of battle, in a blanket, to his quarters at Corunna ; on the way to which he anxiously inquired if the enemy had been compelled to retire : being answered in the affirmative, he said, " then I am perfectly happy, and my life or death is of no consequence whatever," or words to the same effect. From the necessity there was of proceeding with the utmost caution and gentleness, the soldiers were near an hour in conveying the General to his quarters,

during which he spoke very little, and scarcely uttered a groan. The short period that this gallant soldier continued an inhabitant of *this* world, after he arrived at his quarters was passed in giving directions as to the disposal of his papers, and expressing his wishes relative to the future prospects of those officers of his staff and friends to whom he was particularly attached. He expressed himself extremely solicitous that his country should approve of the endeavours he had exerted to promote her interests, and declared he had ever served with zeal and fidelity, and died in the manner he had always been desirous of. After this he spoke of family concerns, particularly as to what related to his mother; but at this period his speech faltering considerably, he was obliged to desist. Sir John thanked his medical assistants in very kind terms for

their care and attention ; and after taking an affecting farewell of his Aid-de-Camps, and the mourning friends by whom he was surrounded, his manly soul winged its flight to *another* and a better world, escaping from its fragile tenement of mortality without one convulsive struggle, about twelve o'clock on the night of the 16th of January.

Between the period of our arrival and the 25th, near two hundred fail of transports came in, but owing to the heavy gales that prevailed, the sick and wounded were not immediately sent on shore ; this, however, took place as soon as possible, and the scene that presented itself was truly distressing, though I must remark that most of the descriptions that I have met with have been greatly exaggerated. It is but paying a just tribute to the disinterested humanity of the inhabitants of

Plymouth, to state that nothing could possibly exceed their anxiety and exertions to afford every assistance in their power towards the accommodation of the sick and wounded officers and soldiers, and to alleviate their sufferings; and the Mayor* and Corporation took the lead in these laudable endeavours, in a manner highly creditable to them in their official and individual capacities. †

A transcript of the return of the sick and wounded received on board the Al-

* William Langmead, Esq.

† I am personally indebted to the attention of Mr. Cleather and Mr. Dunsterville, of the Corporate Body, who at my request were so kind as to procure the attendance of a Physician (Dr. Remmett) on Assistant-Surgeon Campbell, of the Royal Artillery, for whom I was particularly interested; and who, by the care and skill of that Gentleman, recovered from a very dangerous typhus fever.

fred, on which I took my passage, will perhaps afford a more accurate idea of the state of the troops in general on their return from Spain than any description of mine, and I therefore subjoin a return of the number of sick and wounded officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, received on board the transport No. 309, at Corunna, January 18, 1809:—

Regiments.	Number.
18th Light Dragoons.....	2
Guards.....	39
2d, or Queen's.....	1
4th Regiment of Infantry.....	1
5th Ditto.....	1
9th Ditto.....	43
14th Ditto.....	1
26th Ditto.....	2
28th Ditto.....	15
36th Ditto.....	18
42d Ditto.....	8
43d Ditto.....	82
50th Ditto.....	2
51st Ditto.....	1

Regiments.	Number.
52d Regiment of Infantry	1
59th Ditto	24
71st Ditto	7
76th Ditto	5
81st Ditto	2
Purveyor's Clerks	2
	257

Of the above were ill of

Dysentery	68
Fever	56
Wounded	36
Trifling complaints	20
Convalescents	77
	257

*Officers who were passengers

3

* These three officers got into a boat with the intention of joining the transport on which their corps was embarked.— After rowing about a considerable time without success, the boat became so leaky as to be in danger of sinking, and they therefore were received on board the Alfred. These Gentlemen were Captain Kelly, Adjutant Jennings, and Assistant-Surgeon Reid, 51st regiment.

Brought forward..... 260

Servants to attend the sick and wounded
officers..... 5

Medical officers..... 3

Women..... 20

Making a total of..... 288

Who were received on board on account of his Majesty's service.

It has been with a considerable degree of regret, that since my arrival in this country I have heard a variety of reports in circulation relative to the events attending the expedition to Spain, and particularly of the circumstances that occurred during the retreat of the army to Corunna, which have not only been very different from the truth, but in many instances totally devoid of foundation.—

Amongst other things, it has been asserted that great numbers of the soldiers composing his Majesty's German Legion had deserted to the enemy; but in common

justice to this excellent and deserving body, I must declare, that whilst I was on the Continent I never heard of any such circumstance having taken place; on the contrary, every officer with whom I have conversed respecting the King's German Legion (and they have been many), has assured me that they behaved on every occasion with the discipline, fidelity, and bravery, which are the characteristics of good soldiers.*

It gives me great pleasure to have it in my power thus publicly to contradict a re-

* The third regiment of German Dragoons were part of the troops composing the picquet, in the gallant affair in which Major-general Stewart acquired such well-merited reputation, by the defeat of a large body of French Imperial Guards, and taking prisoner their Commander, General Lefebvre.

port, which could alone have originated in motives the most base and malignant.

Respecting the death of the late Major-general Anstruther, several contradictory stories having been circulated, the following account, as I received it from a Gentleman of the highest respectability and unimpeachable veracity, may be relied on as correct; and as it may afford a melancholy satisfaction to his surviving friends, I hope the introduction of it will not be deemed improper:—

General Anstruther died of an inflammation of his lungs, brought on by exposure to the extreme inclemency of the weather, and remaining long in wet clothes.

The gallant General neglecting to use the precautions and remedies his situation required, continued his praiseworthy exertions to the very last, and did not give up

till his complaint had reduced him to a state evincing his approaching dissolution, when he became unable to mount his horse, and was then placed in a carriage and conveyed to his quarters, where he expired the next day, universally regretted.

The Spaniards, too, have been accused not only of apathy and indifference towards the cause of their rightful Sovereign, but of absolute hostility towards our troops, particularly the inhabitants of *Benaventè, Toro, Astorga, and Villa Franca, &c. I have in a preceding part of this letter adverted to petty disputes which occasionally took place between the British soldiers and the inhabitants of some of

* I did not personally visit either of the two places first mentioned.

the towns through which I passed, but they were by no means of a serious nature, or deserving of the appellations with which they have been branded.

It is undeniable, that on many occasions, where provisions and other necessaries were expected to have been cheerfully and abundantly supplied by the inhabitants of towns through which the British troops marched, that little or none could be obtained on any terms whatever. This, however, did not originate, as has been erroneously asserted, in any dislike of the Spaniards to the English, but merely from the extreme distress in which they were themselves involved. Great numbers of the cattle had been driven to the mountains for security against the rapacity of the French; and their stores of other provisions were almost exhausted by supplies for their countrymen in arms; and as

the operations in agriculture were in a great measure suspended, they had a dismal prospect to look forward to for future exigencies ; these circumstances of course rendered these poor unfortunate persons (exposed to all the calamities of a residence on the theatre of war, of which an adequate idea can scarcely be formed by any one but an eye-witness), reluctant to part with the slender pittance in their possession.

To the above may be added, that the unexpected retreat of the British army increased all their apprehensions in an eminent degree, whilst its sudden appearance in their towns precluded the possibility of the inhabitants supplying themselves from the adjacent country with the articles required. The total ignorance of the Spanish language on the part of the English soldiers, and *vice versa*, also occasioned

mutual misunderstandings, which were in a few instances attended with disagreeable consequences. Another cause why the expectations of the British army as to receiving requisite accommodations and assistance from the inhabitants were so frequently disappointed, was the immense numbers of their sick and wounded countrymen, who were flocking from the seats of war in the different quarters of the kingdom towards their respective homes, with whom the towns were continually crowded. The situation and wretched appearance of these unfortunate people were truly pitiable; those unable to walk were conveyed on cars, whilst others through hunger, sickness, and fatigue, scarcely able to crawl, were compelled to make their way on foot, almost naked, and generally without shoes or stockings. Even in the Spanish hospitals and other

places set apart for the reception of the sick and wounded, the unhappy patients were nearly destitute of every requisite to sustain existence, not to say of the conveniencies and comforts necessary for their condition. Some judgment may be formed of their distresses, from the circumstance of one poor man, who, according to the interpretation of my native servant, asserted that he had been fourteen days without any other sustenance than a little bad wine, and sometimes a small quantity of broth made of vegetables and oil: indeed, his appearance fully established the veracity of his statement.

In many instances the British soldiers, with that liberality, feeling, and generosity, which are equally their characteristics as spirit, intrepidity, and courage, would share with these miserable objects their

own scanty pittance, the deprivation of which they must have felt most severely.

I met a great number of sick and wounded Spaniards on my journey *from* Corunna, particularly between Lugo and Villa Franca, escorted by armed men, scarcely in a better condition than those under their care. The officers and men exhibited similar appearances of wretchedness and intense fatigue; and the whole advanced at a rate of not more, on an average, than a mile an hour.* Should this statement require confirmation, I can, with confidence, appeal to almost every

* Some of these men on being asked what was the matter with them, replied: "Muchas Enfermos tango hambre, tango mucha sed," which is in English, "very sick, very hungry, and very dry." And on giving them a piece of bread, they expressed themselves thus: "I thank you for it, and may you live many years!"

it may be said, that they push the machine forwards.

The shocking inconvenience of such a jolting conveyance for sick and wounded persons may be easily conceived; added to which, the noise they make is the most disagreeable possible, the revolution of the axletrees producing a kind of humming, monotonous sound, something similar to the drone of a bagpipe, which may be heard at the distance of a mile, or upwards.

Having accompanied the escort who were in charge of the money for the use of the army from Corunna to Astorga, I had opportunities of observing the method adopted for the transportation of the military equipage, and which, in my humble opinion, in a great measure accounts for the loss that was sustained, as nothing could be worse calculated to faci-

litate dispatch. In making this observation, I am far from intending to attach the slightest imputation of neglect on any Gentleman of the Commissariat Department, as I am sensible they had uncommon difficulties to encounter in the discharge of their official duties, and indeed I do not feel myself competent to decide.

I have nevertheless heard, from undoubted authority, that this department of the public service, so material to the successful operations of an army, is conducted on a much superior plan by the French, and it certainly can be no disgrace to profit even by the example of an enemy

Fas est ab Hoste docere.

Notwithstanding their bigotry and hatred of heretics usually ascribed to the Roman Catholic priests, I with pleasure observed that these persons on all occasions appeared

extremely anxious to do every thing in their power to promote the comfort, and contribute to the accommodation of the sick and wounded of the British army.— Many English officers were greatly indebted to the hospitality and kindness of Spanish monks and friars, who (though by no means in possession of an abundance of the good things of this life) were emulous to share their stores with the distressed.

An instance of goodness and humanity in one of these clerical gentlemen, which I am about to relate, will place the sentiments and conduct of this class of men in the most favourable point of view. My servant being extremely ill, I procured him admission into a room which was occupied by an English serjeant and his family at Lugo; but having neither bedding or covering, a benevolent monk instantly offered to supply him with his

own, which he accordingly brought from his cell.

I am sensible that what I have asserted on this subject is in direct opposition to the statements furnished by many British officers since their return from Corunna, who have indiscriminately accused the inhabitants of the peninsula of every denomination, class, and profession, as having exhibited the most perfect apathy and indifference, not only to the physical wants of the English troops, but towards the cause in support of which they visited their country as disinterested and generous allies. But may it not be fairly presumed, that several of these officers rather withdrew from, than put themselves in the way of receiving or witnessing those kindnesses and attentions that others liberally partook of, and from the reports alone of some who perhaps might have indivi-

dual cause of complaint, have taken occasion to include the whole Spanish nation as deserving of the reproach which in justice should only attach to a few.

Indeed, the manners, customs, and mode of living in Spain are so widely different from those of England, that every candid and liberal-minded person should make great allowances for these circumstances, in forming an estimate of the sentiments and disposition of the inhabitants, more especially at a period during which they were exposed to such alternations and vicissitudes, privations, and distresses, as might rationally be presumed to have a material influence on the natural bias of their temper, which has ever been allowed to be "*noble, generous, and humane.*"

Englishmen are so accustomed to the enjoyment of every comfort and accommo-

officer of the British Army, most of whom must have witnessed similar scenes during their service in Spain.

As I have often mentioned the great use made of the cars drawn by oxen, a short description of them may not be considered uninteresting. A more inconvenient, ill constructed, clumsy, carriage, cannot be well conceived. The body of the carriage is merely a platform of rough boards, which is placed on two wheels, rather lower than the front ones of an English waggon, composed of pieces of timber, pinned together, and secured by others nailed across;—these do not revolve on the axle-tree, but are fastened to it, the whole of which turns in grooves sometimes secured with iron. The pole passing between the oxen, is fastened to a yoke bound to their horns, so that the poor animals draw by the head, or rather

dation in their own country, that they feel more sensibly than the inhabitants of other nations the difficulties and inconveniencies to which they are under the necessity of submitting in their visits to the Continent. There is no country in Europe perhaps so well calculated to conquer British prejudices as Spain, the hardships and privations the traveller must sustain, in a short period, inuring him to the patient endurance of what cannot possibly be avoided. The passados or inns, except a few in the principal towns, are, generally speaking, little better than hovels, affording shelter from the inclemency of the weather, but scarcely any thing else. The beds are commonly nothing more than heaps of straw, usually well stocked with inhabitants of a fable hue; and in lieu of sheets, blankets, and quilt, the traveller must depend on his own cloak or cloth-

ing for covering during the period of his repose.*

As to their cookery, nothing can possibly be more disgusting to an English palate, most of their favourite dishes being seasoned with articles, amongst which, garlic and rancid oil generally compose

* The difference of travelling post in Spain and in England, is very striking, and I cannot but feel surprized, that the Spaniards, who are naturally extremely intelligent and acute, should not have profited by the inventions of their neighbours in this particular. The Post Carriages are exactly similar, at this period, to those described by the ingenious Author of Gil Blas; clumsy and inconvenient. They have only two wheels, and have some resemblance to an old-fashioned English one-horse chaise, with curtains in front. Mules are generally used for drawing these carriages. In one particular, the Spanish posting possesses a decided preference to that in England, as there is no possibility of the traveller being imposed upon. The rates are fixed by the Government, and heavy penalties annexed to a deviation from them.

the principal ingredients. Custom, however, easily reconciles these matters to a person possessed of a common portion of energy and fortitude of mind, and he is amply recompenced by the interesting and sublime scenes which the traverse of any part of the peninsula affords him numerous opportunities of contemplating.

Immense bodies of armed men marching through the country in every direction, and the glorious and important struggle in which they are engaged, for the preservation of every thing that is or ought to be dear to humanity, at the present momentous æra, renders Spain an object peculiarly interesting.

Every sympathizing mind must feel sensibly hurt that their exertions in opposing the lawless and unprecedented pretensions of an overbearing and insatiable tyrant have hitherto been unsuccessful; but

still hopes of ultimate success should never be abandoned, whilst there exists a cause which, as founded in justice, and having freedom for its object, never should be considered as desperate. Many people in this country are of opinion that the animation and ardour stated to exist amongst the Spaniards on behalf of their legitimate sovereign, is merely imaginary, and only to be found in the higher classes of society; and indeed it is certain that nothing could be more artful and judicious than the means adopted by Bonaparte to reconcile the lower orders to the change of government he proposed. The abolition of the inquisition, feudal rights, and unequal taxation, were the rewards he offered to the community at large for their submission to the authority of Joseph Napoleon; and therefore it is by no means surprising that some of the common people, who seldom

reason upon circumstances but as they immediately affect themselves, should be induced to look with indifference upon the operations of the Corsican usurper.* I am, however, inclined to believe that nine-tenths of the Spaniards are still loyal to the unfortunate House of Bourbon; and out of forty provinces of which the kingdom of Spain is composed, no more than three have been accused of lukewarmness in the cause of Ferdinand the Seventh. As this may be considered as the true state of the case, it may be fairly inferred that the cause of patriotism in

* "A ruffian, who unites with the treachery, dissimulation, remorseless cruelty, insatiate rapacity, and ungovernable ambition of a Tiberius, the meanness of a pickpocket, and the cunning of a sharper."

Spain is not yet wholly desperate, and therefore it is to be hoped that the further zealous co-operation of the British Government will not be withheld, in consequence of the temporary advantages that have recently been gained by the Gallic despot.

There cannot possibly be more than one sentiment, as to the necessity and advantage of rescuing Spain from the grasp of her sanguinary ambitious usurper; the justice of the measure is unquestionable. Not only the national honour so solemnly pledged by our Gracious Sovereign and the Parliament, and the sympathy which the unmerited sufferings of the Spanish people must naturally excite in every humane heart, but even our *interest* must encourage us to a perseverance in the most vigourous efforts to assist them. That our interest is concerned in persevering to

lend the Spaniards all the aid in our power, there can be no doubt of, for should Bonaparte succeed in his designs of subjugating all the continent of Europe, the invasion of Britain would certainly be the next object of his ambition. Although our insular situation, and other incidental circumstances, have hitherto preserved us from the visitation of war, and its concomitant calamities, it is still within the verge of possibility that such an event may happen. Many persons who are averse to our sending another armament to Spain, assert that an invasion of this country will ever be impossible, from the superiority and vigilance of the British Navy; but others, more reflecting, entertain a different opinion. Should Bonaparte succeed in his designs on Spain and Portugal, he will then become unquestionably, and absolutely, the Arbiter of the destinies of

the Continent, and all its immense resources will become under his immediate direction.

He will then be master of the population of Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, and Ruffia, and in that case would, doubtless, collect all the shipping of those countries, to transport his troops, and make use of their resources towards promoting his views of eventually wreaking his vengeance against Great Britain, the only remaining sanctuary of independence and freedom. I should be extremely sorry that any thing I may have advanced, should be construed into a wish of inculcating sentiments of a gloomy or desponding nature; so far from it, I feel the fullest conviction in my own mind, that should such an event take place, the expedition would end in disgrace and defeat on the part of the enemy, but still the

mifery, devaftation, and diforder, that it would neceffarily occafion, are heartily to be deprecated, and feduloufly guarded againft. It has been faid by a writer of fome celebrity, in a recent publication, that the calamitous occurrence of the invafion of this country, muft fooner or later take place, fhould the enemy become uncontrouled mafter of the Continent, by the conqueft of Spain. Admitting this to be a fact, we muft confequently fix our earneft attention on the occurrences of that country, and however alarming or unpromifing may be the prefent afpect of its affairs, the ftronger inducement has the Englifh nation to increafe its exertions towards fecuring the independence for which it ftuggles.

The advantage of fighting the common enemy on any other ground than our own, is too obvious to require pointing out,

and therefore, although honour and the satisfaction derived from the consciousness of being engaged in the glorious effort of rescuing justice and innocence from the ferocious fangs of villainy and oppression, should be put out of the question, the imperious duty of self-preservation demands a punctual and scrupulous adherence to the engagements which have been entered into with the Patriots of Spain.

In truth, the fate of England appears to be in a great measure implicated with that of Spain, and therefore our assistance should be correspondent with the conviction. Clothes, arms, and money, must be plentifully supplied to them, and nothing withheld which can in any degree encourage their hopes, or excite their perseverance, under the arduous difficulties with which they have to contend. To the support of the British Government

alone can the patriotic inhabitants of Spain look with confidence for the ultimate success of the cause for which they are fighting; and notwithstanding the checks and disasters they have recently sustained, there is little reason to doubt of their perseverance should that not be withheld; for their real character is, they are faithful to their engagements, constant in their pursuits, and possessing a sense of honour bordering on romantic.

The retreat of the British army, the losses it unavoidably sustained, and the subsequent embarkation at Corunna, which have been more particularly the subjects of this letter, have been considered by some people who are accustomed to dwell on the gloomy side of the prospect, as decisive and convincing proofs of the inutility of endeavouring to render farther assistance to the Spaniards, by sending

troops to that country; but so far from this, I trust the observations already made on the sentiments and disposition of the majority of the Spanish nation, will establish the contrary fact.*

*In order to form a correct idea of the retreat, it may not be amiss to state not only the distances, and the names of the villages and towns the British army passed through, but to give a complete route from Madrid to Corunna, viz.

	Leagues.
From Madrid to Abulagas	2
To el Puente	2
Galapagar	2½
Guadarama	3
San Rafael	2½
Villacastin	3
Labajos	2
Adanero	2
Arrevalo	3
Attaquines	3
Medina del Campo	3
Carried over	28

Indeed the performance of the arduous and unprecedented severe service in which

on the sentiments and disposition of the majority of the Spanish nation with

the contrary fact you observe the

	Leagues.
Brought over	28
To Rueda	2
Tordesillas	2
Vega	2
Villar de Frades	3
Villalpando	4
San Esteban	2
Benevente	2
Puente de la Bisana	3
La Beneza	4
Astorga	3½
Manzanal	3½
Bembibre	3½
Cubillos	2½
Villa Franca	3
Ruitalar	4
La Venta de Noceda	3½
Becerrea	3
Sobrado	3
Lugo	3
Carried forward	84½

the army was engaged in Spain, must inspire the firmest conviction, that Great Britain yet possesses the power of arresting the career of Buonaparte before he arrives at the acmè of his ambitious designs for the complete subjugation of the Continent of Europe. The final action in the neighbourhood of Corunna certainly may be considered as the most honourable display of the intrepidity, valour, and discipline of

		Leagues.
Brought forward	-	84½
Valdomar	-	3
Guitiriz	-	3
Monte Salguero	-	2½
Betanzos	-	2½
Corunna	-	3
		—
Total distance from Madrid to Corunna		98½

H

the British troops; and from the inequality of numbers with whom they were engaged, it may with the greatest propriety be classed with the victories obtained over the French in former days on their own plains of Cressy and Agincourt.

After such an example as this event has afforded to the world at large, and the impressive lesson it has given to the *Emperor* of the French in particular, surely no true Briton can recommend a relaxation of the exertions on the part of the English Government; or, in consequence of the enemy's superiority of numbers, feel desirous of adopting a cautious line of conduct, which will not only tarnish the laurels we have gained, but cast a mortal damp on the hopes, and depress the energies of our noble, brave, though unfortunate and ill-treated allies.

In the different parts of a kingdom so

extensive as that of Spain, it is natural to imagine that a difference of political sentiment must prevail; and it is an admitted fact that the inhabitants of the northern portion of the peninsula never have been considered as capable of being made such good soldiers, or to be equally adapted to the performance of military duties as their countrymen in the south.

The most warlike and the most populous provinces of Spain, are said to be those of Andalusia, Valencia, Catalonia, and Arragon, and therefore, it might perhaps be the most judicious policy to furnish them with more abundant supplies of men, money, and warlike stores, than those of the north. In these provinces it is stated they require only arms and ammunition to render the whole of their inhabitants (not incapacitated by age or

infirmities) soldiers; for I have been assured from unquestionable authority, that the spirit, or rather fury, which prevails against the French amongst every rank exceeds all description. It is therefore presumable, if the people were properly led on, and their resources properly directed and augmented by succours from England, that they would be finally enabled successfully to resist their invaders.

The advantages hitherto gained by the enemy over the Spaniards have in a great measure been occasioned by the treachery of some of their leaders, and serve to prove that they have not been beaten from a deficiency of courage, but betrayed rather than conquered. The firmness and patriotism displayed by the Supreme Junta of the kingdom, though compelled to quit the capital, as declared in the proclamation they published on their arrival

at Seville, affords a noble proof that there still exists an energy and ardour in the bosoms of the members of government worthy of the character the Spanish nation has so long sustained, for incorruptible and heroic loyalty to its sovereigns.*

*“ If the fortunes of war (say the Junta) have compelled us to quit the centre of the kingdom, and to seek a point from whence, actuated by a spirit of patriotism, we may serve the monarchy, and give a new impulse to the common defence; if, for the salvation of the country, and in order to answer the confidence of the Spanish nation—to fulfil the desires of those provinces which have suggested to the Central Junta the necessity of retiring to a place of safety, as the only means of preserving union, avoiding anarchy, and perfecting the great work of liberty, we have endeavoured to avoid the blow aimed against us by the profound subtilty of the tyrant; if our endeavours are incessant in establishing the basis of subordination, and the unity of the Government; if not seeking their own interest or glory, then, as the generous people of Spain

Were it possible for eighty or one hundred thousand British troops to be sent into that part of the peninsula wherein the spirit of patriotism is of the highest and most decided character, under the command of generals possessed of equal abilities, spirit, and perseverance, so eminently distinguishing the late lamented

have sworn not to survive their liberties, but freely to follow the impulse of government, the Supreme Junta will never value their own existence any longer than it can be useful to the nation, which has made it the depository of their sovereignty. The Supreme Junta have sworn that they will perish rather than abandon or leave their duties unaccomplished, if the fate of our arms should be adverse: if Providence has resolved in its inscrutable decrees to exterminate the Spanish nation, still let the inhabitants of Seville, and the rest of their countrymen preserve their tranquillity; let them be assured that their representatives, while there remains a foot of ground yielding obedience to our lord and king, to the laws of our

hero of Corunna,* or the conqueror of the newly-dignified *Duc de Abrantes*, the success of the cause in which its loyal inha-

country, and to the holy religion of our forefathers, not one of us will ever bow to the yoke of the despot.

* Notwithstanding the official dispatch of the gallant General who succeeded to the command of the army in Spain (which has justly been considered a master-piece of military arrangement and perspicuity), in consequence of the death of Sir John Moore, and the wound of Sir David Baird, has so long been before the public, it is presumed the introduction of an extract therefrom in this place will not be considered impertinent. Indeed, it is impossible to dwell too long on a subject so interesting, or to repeat too often a publication which reflects equal honour on the head and heart of the accomplished friend and successor of the lamented General by whom it is written :

“ His fall (says General Hope) has deprived me of a valuable friend, to whom long experience of his worth had sincerely attached me. But it is chiefly on public grounds that I must lament the blow.

“ It will be the conversation of every one who loved or re-

bitants are engaged, would be rendered to a certainty successful, and the national

spected his manly character, that after conducting the army through an arduous retreat with consummate firmness, he has terminated a career of distinguished honour, by a death that has given the enemy additional reason to respect the name of a British soldier. Like the immortal Wolfe, he is snatched from his country at an early period of life spent in her service; like Wolfe, his last moments were gilded by the prospect of success, and cheered by the acclamation of victory; like Wolfe, also, his memory will for ever remain sacred in that country which he sincerely loved, and which he had so faithfully served."

The General Orders to the Army issued by Lieutenant-general Hope are equally entitled to admiration, as the foregoing extract from his Letter to Sir David Baird; and as they record the particular merits of the Officers and Army during the service on which they were employed in Spain, cannot, with propriety, be omitted.

GENERAL ORDERS.

His Majesty's ship Audacious, January 18, 1809.

"The irreparable loss that has been sustained by the fall of the Commander of the Forces, and the severe wound which

fame, reputation, and prosperity, of this country, placed on a pinnacle of exalted

has removed Sir David Baird from his station, render it the duty of Lieutenant-general Hope to congratulate the Army upon the successful result of the action of the 16th.

“On no occasion has the undaunted valour of British troops ever been more manifest. At the termination of a severe and harassing march, rendered necessary by the superiority of numbers which the enemy had acquired, and which had materially impaired the efficiency of the troops, many disadvantages were to be encountered.

“These have all been surmounted by the troops themselves, and the enemy has been taught, that whatever advantages of position or of numbers he may employ, there is inherent in the British officer and soldier, a bravery that knows not how to yield, that no circumstances can appal, and that will insure victory when it is to be obtained by the exertion of any human means.

“The Lieutenant-general has the greatest satisfaction in distinguishing such meritorious services as come within his observation, or have been brought to his knowledge.

“His acknowledgments are in a manner particular due to

pre-eminence, unequalled in the annals of the world.

Major-general Lord William Bentinck and the brigade under his command, consisting of the 4th, 42d, and 50th regiments, and which sustained the weight of the attack.

“ Major-general Manningham, with his brigade, consisting of the Royals, the 26th, and 81st regiment, and Major-general Warde, with the brigade of Guards, will also be pleased to accept his best thanks for their steady and gallant conduct during the action.

“ To Major-general Paget, who, by a judicious movement of the reserve, effectually contributed to check the progress of the enemy on the right, and to the first battalions of the 52d and 95th regiments, which were thereby engaged, the greatest praise is justly due.

“ That part of Major-general Leith's brigade which were engaged, consisting of the 59th regiment, under the conduct of the Major-general, also claims marked approbation.

“ The enemy not having rendered the attack on the left a serious one, did not afford to the troops stationed in that quarter, the opportunity of displaying that gallantry which must have made him repent the attempt. The picquets and advanced

It is greatly to be lamented, that at the commencement, circumstances which no

posts, however, of the brigade, under Major-Generals Hill and Leith, and Colonel Catlin Crawford, conducted themselves with determined resolution, and were ably supported by the Officers commanding the brigades, and by the troops of which they are composed.

“ It is peculiarly incumbent on the Lieutenant-general to notice the vigorous attack made by the 2d battalion of the 14th regiment, under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Nicholl, which drove the enemy out of the village on the left, of which he had for a moment possessed himself.

“ The exertions of Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, Quarter-master-general, and the other Officers of the General Staff, during the action, were unremitting, and deserve every degree of approbation.

“ The illness of Brigadier-general Clinton, Adjutant-general, unfortunately deprived the Army of the benefit of his services.

“ The Lieutenant-general hopes the loss in point of numbers, is not so considerable as might have been expected. He laments, however, the fall of the gallant soldiers and valuable officers who have suffered.

human foresight could prevent, unfortunately placed the conduct of the affairs

“ He knows that it is impossible, in any language he can use, to enhance the esteem, or diminish the regret, that the army feels in common with him for its late commander. His career has been unfortunately too limited for his country, but has been sufficient for his own fame. Beloved by the Army, honoured by his Sovereign, and respected by his Country, he has terminated a life devoted to her service by a glorious death, leaving his name as a memorial, an example, and an incitement to those who shall follow him in the path of honour; and it is from his country alone, that his memory can receive the tribute which is its due.

The following elegant tribute of the illustrious Commander-in-Chief, to the memory of Sir John Moore, by his General Orders of the 1st of February, is truly deserving of record.

GENERAL ORDERS.

“ The benefits derived to our army from the example of a distinguished Commander, do not terminate at his death: his virtues live in the recollection of his associates, and his fame remains the strongest incentive to great and glorious actions.

of the Spanish patriots, under the superintendence of the persons previously alluded

“ In this view, the Commander-in-Chief, amidst the deep and universal regret which the death of Lieutenant-general Sir John Moore has occasioned, recalls to the troops the military career of that illustrious Officer for their instruction and imitation.

“ Sir John Moore, from his youth, embraced the profession with the feelings and sentiments of a soldier; he felt, that a perfect knowledge, and an exact performance of the humble but important duties of a Subaltern Officer, are the best foundations for subsequent military fame; and his ardent mind, while it looked forward to those brilliant achievements for which it was formed, applied itself, with energy and exemplary assiduity, to the duties of that station.

“ In the school of regimental duty, he obtained that correct knowledge of his profession so essential to the proper direction of the gallant spirit of the soldier; and he was enabled to establish a characteristic order and regularity of conduct, because the troops found in their leader a striking example of the discipline which he enforced on others.

“ Having risen to command, he signalized his name in

to; men who were incompetent to discharge with propriety the arduous duties of military command, and to whose incapacity were added the crimes of corruption and treason; being biassed, not by a sense of honour and patriotism, but by avarice, and their own ease, safety, and riches. These despicable creatures of intrigue and favour, however, have been

the West Indies, in Holland, and in Egypt. The unremitting attention with which he devoted himself to the duties of every branch of his profession, obtained him the confidence of Sir Ralph Abercromby, and he became the companion in arms of that illustrious officer, who fell at the head of his victorious troops, in an action which maintained our national superiority over the arms of France.

“ Thus Sir John Moore at an early period obtained, with general approbation, that conspicuous station, in which he gloriously terminated his useful and honourable life.

“ In a military character, obtained amidst the dangers of

unmasked, and exposed to the contempt and hatred of which they are so richly deserving from their injured countrymen : and we may now with confidence expect

climate, the privations incident to service, and the sufferings of repeated wounds, it is difficult to select any one point as a preferable subject for praise : it exhibits, however, one feature so particularly characteristic of the man, and so important to the best interests of the service, that the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to mark it with his peculiar approbation.

“ The life of Sir John Moore was spent among the troops.

“ During the season of repose, his time was devoted to the care and instruction of the Officer and soldier ; in war, he courted service in every quarter of the globe. Regardless of personal considerations, he esteemed that to which his country called him, the post of honour, and by his undaunted spirit, and unconquerable perseverance, he pointed the way to victory.

“ His country, the object of his latest solicitude, will rear a monument to his lamented memory ; and the Commander-

that the disasters or treachery of a *Castanos or a † Morla will soon be counterba-

in-Chief feels he is paying the best tribute to his fame by thus holding him forth as an example to the army.

“ By order of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief,

“ HARRY CALVERT, Adj.-gen.

“ Horse Guards, Feb. 1, 1809.”

* General O'Neil in his dispatch to the brave Palafox, giving an account of what fell under his observation at the battle of *Tuleda*, describes the loss of it as attributable to the misconduct of Castanos, who was the Commander-in-Chief.—He was also accused of treachery, and that he sold the event of the day to Bonaparte. After praising the conduct of the other officers, and the different corps under his command, General O'Neil concluded by observing, that had his Division been supported as he expected by the centre of the army, the battle of *Tuleda* would have terminated most gloriously for Spain.

† The treachery of Don Thomas Morla is too well known to require comment; and his conduct in the surrender of Madrid

lanced by the successes and patriotism of a
 * Palafox and a Duke de L'Infantado. †

in the manner he did, was most contemptible. At the moment he was bargaining away his own honour, and as far as he was capable, the glory of his country, he capitulated for the preservation of their places to those who were in the situation of public functionaries!

This fellow had the consummate impudence to address a Letter to the inhabitants of Cadiz, in December last, exhorting them to submit to the Corsican Usurper, and another to the Supreme Junta, in defence of his infamous proceedings, both of which were consigned to the degradation they deserved.

* The extraordinary abilities and bravery of General Palafox are of the most distinguished kind, and the exertions he has made for the defence of Saragossa, justly entitles him to the appellation of an hero. From 40,000 to 50,000 French, under the command of General Moncey recently sat down before it; and Palafox, by a flag of truce, was offered very advantageous terms of capitulation if he would surrender, he returned for answer, "Never can I capitulate or surrender; talk of that when I am dead." Being farther told that all

There are doubtless also many other noble Spaniards in possession of equal enthusiasm

Spain was in the power of the French, and that he could have no hope of establishing a communication with any other country, he replied, "My communications are open with every part of Spain, and with the whole world! and if they were cut off, my bayonets would again restore them." He added, that he was not in a situation to apply for a capitulation; "for," said he, "if I had only a fifth part of the soldiers that I actually have, I should still vanquish you, as the plains of Arragon, covered with your bodies, can testify; and being now at the head of a numerous and invincible army, I will endeavour to effect your total extermination."

† The Duke de L'Infantado is an illustrious example of unshaken loyalty and attachment to his sovereign, having, as well as the wise and dignified Don Pedro de Cevallos, resisted every attempt of the usurper at Bayonne to induce him to take part in his designs of placing his brother Joseph Napoleon on the throne of Ferdinand the Seventh. The Duke is said to be about 26 years of age. He commands a numerous division of the centre of the patriotic army.

and ardour which distinguish these great and good men, anxiously awaiting a favourable opportunity of exerting themselves in the cause of their country.

The arrival in this country of so distinguished a character as *Don Pedro Cevallos*, no less eminent as a statesman, than amiable for his unshaken and incorruptible loyalty and fidelity to his unfortunate legitimate sovereign, inspires the most sanguine hopes that his Britannic Majesty's Government is *still* determined not to relax its efforts towards affording effectual assistance to the patriotic inhabitants of Spain, in the noble and glorious task of defending the rights of their beloved monarch, and asserting their liberty and independence against the usurpations of a ferocious and insatiable individual, who, by the Supreme Junta

of the kingdom, has been appropriately stigmatized as “*the enemy of God and man.*” *

I have infensibly enlarged this letter far beyond the limits originally intended ; and I feel that I may (perhaps) have been guilty of too great presumption, in having taken the liberty to obtrude my humble sentiments on the public through the medium of an address to one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State.—On this point, I have only to offer as an apology, the assurance that I have been influenced

* His Excellency Don Pedro Cevallos is Knight of the Grand Cross of the Royal and distinguished Order of Charles the Third, Lord of the Bedchamber, Privy Counsellor and principal Secretary of State, and Ambassador Extraordinary from the Government of Spain to his Majesty the King of Great Britain.

alone by a good intention, and the real and sincere interest I feel in behalf of the cause in which the people of Spain are engaged against a tyrant, who may with propriety be termed the scourge of the universe.

I have the honour to be,

With great respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
humble Servant,

HENRY MILBURNE.

London,

March 1, 1809.

alone by a good intention, and the real
and sincere interest I feel in behalf of the
cause in which the people of Spain are
engaged against a tyrant, who may with
propriety be termed the scourge of the
universe.

ERRATA.

Page 59, line 20, for *flight* read *night*.

72, line 4, for *lay* read *lie*.

Ibid. for *instruction* read *instructions*.

HENRY MILLBURN.

London
March 1, 1809.