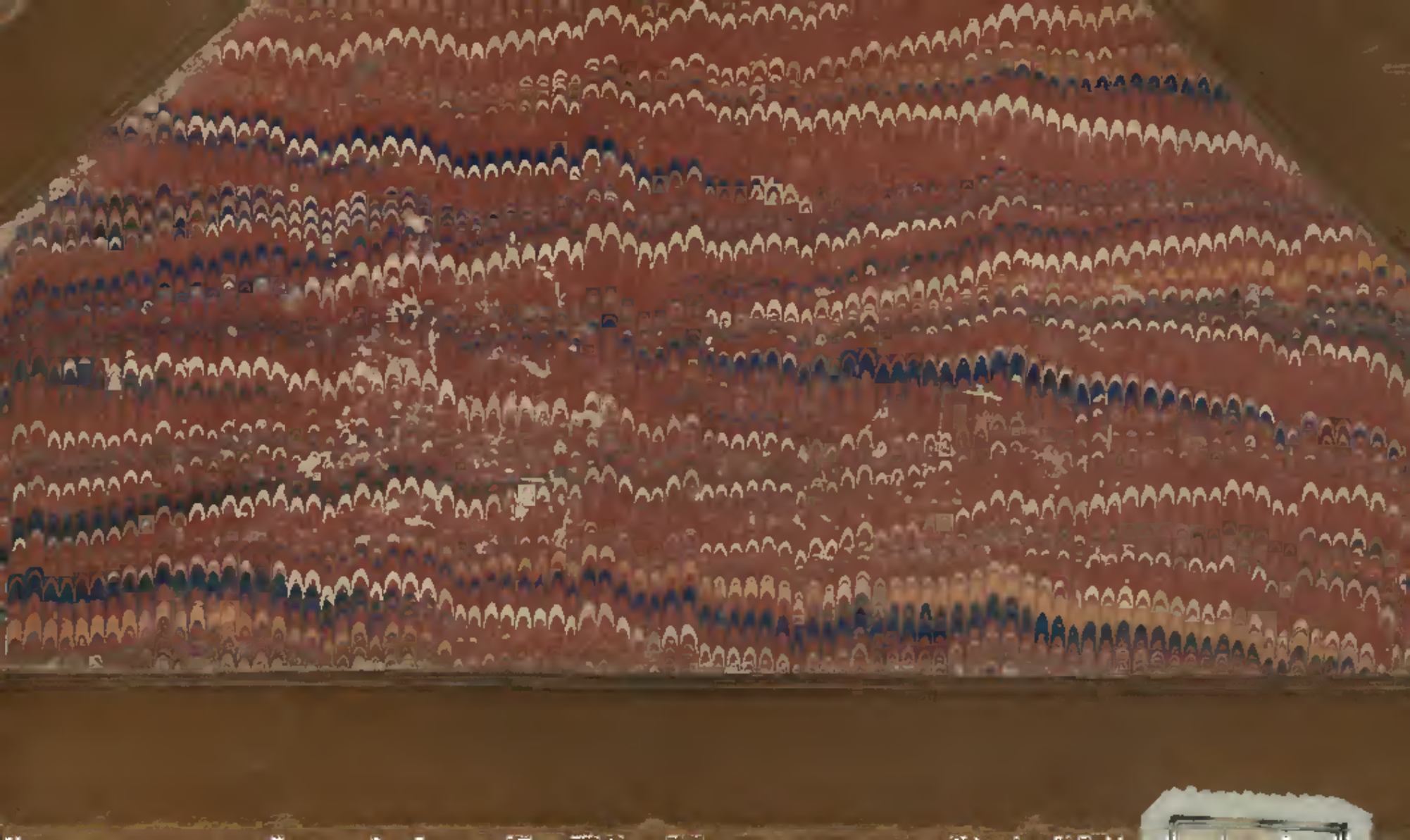

RECOLLECTIONS

OF THE LIFE OF

ROBERT EADIE,

PRIVATE OF THE 79TH. REGIMENT; CAMERONIAN HIGHLANDERS.

CONTAINING A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF

HIS CAMPAIGNS

IN IRELAND, DENMARK, WALCHEREN AND THE PENINSULA.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

FOR HE HAD BEEN A SOLDIER IN HIS YOUTH, AND FOUGHT IN FAMOUS BATTLES.

HOME.

SECOND EDITION.

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MDCCCXXX.

RECOLLECTIONS,

&c. &c.

After many reflections, suggested in retirement, occasioned by the urgent solicitations of my friends and acquaintances, on the propriety of publishing an authentic account of my eventful life, I have endeavoured to satisfy their request by the following narrative, which I hope will not be deemed unworthy of the public attention.

I was born at Dunblane, in the year 1764; as my infancy was spent in those juvenile amusements which are so peculiar to that age, I shall pass it over unobserved. As soon as I attained my sixth year, I was sent to school; when, besides being instructed in the principles of Christian Knowledge, I acquired a competent skill of the Arithmetical Science; the value of which I duly appreciated in my after journey through life: Whilst I was thus enjoying all the pleasures of a school-boy's

life, I evinced so extraordinary a predelection for angling, that I not unfrequently neglected the school to stroll along the banks of the river Allan.

This being my favourite sport, I shall here relate a short anectdote relative to it, which may suffice as an example of puerile depravity.—One day being busily engaged in preparing a fishing-rod with an axe, before the door of my paternal mansion, an old acquaintance of my father's happened to pass by at that time, whom he no sooner saw than he ran out of the house, and saluted him with great cordiality. Equal marks of respect being paid, they at length entered upon a conversation indicative of great familiarity: A large dog which accompanied the stranger sat down hard by the place where I was at work, and extended his tail, which appeared to me of more than ordinary length, directly across the clog on which I was preparing my fishing-rod; impelled by passion, I raised my axe, and with one stroke deprived the dog of his bushy tail! The excrutiating pain which the poor animal felt on the occasion, made him spring forward like an elastic body, and striking his master on the breast, tumbled him backwards into a puddle, to his great mortification, and the repeated laughs of the beholders. For my

part, the sight of such a misfortune inspired me with so much terror, that I threw every thing from me, and set out with so great speed that I did not discontinue my career until I arrived at my grandfather's dwelling, being a distance of more than five miles. Being exhausted with fatigue, and pale with fright, he anxiously enquired the cause of my alarming appearance. I satisfied him with a detail of the whole occurence in language truly affecting; he condoled with me in my sorrow, and showed me much indulgence, saying, that he would convey me home on horseback, and intercede in my behalf with my father,—all which he punctually performed.

At this period of my life I had acquired much celebrity through Dunblane for the dexterity I showed in swimming and diving and my ludicrous aquatic performances. Previous to my leaving this town, there happened to be in it a Fencing Master, and as I was exceedingly fond of learning the broad-sword exercise, I requested permission from my parents to go and be initiated in that discipline, which they accordingly granted. After remaining a considerable time at this military branch of education, I became so expert at it, that I began to challenge those who were my superiors, for which insult I usually received a beating.

When I had attained my tenth year, my parents deemed it proper to bind me an apprentice to my uncle, with the design of learning me to be a Cork Cutter; but I did not remain long at this occupation, for, instigated by the persuasions of a certain person, who exhibited highly the pleasures of a nautical life, I determined to become a sailor. Accordingly I set out without giving intimation of my design to any, and arrived at Greenock. Finding a ship there ready to sail for the north seas, I engaged with the Captain, and in a short time we put to sea; in a few days after having lost sight of land, we were overtaken by a tremendous hurricane. The sky overcast with blackening clouds poured down a deluge of rain. The roar of the thunder, accompanied with vivid flashes of lightning, made me imagine that my last day was come. The ocean, agitated by the storm, showed its resentment in a manner no less alarming. Billows of mountainous size, succeeded each other with inconceivable rapidity. Whilst the ship, a sport to their rage, seemed at one time to abandon her watery element, at another, to visit the depths of the ocean.

We continued to be thus tossed by the tempest the greater part of the day, until towards evening the storm subsided, and a

perfect calm ensued. Having never been at sea before, I experienced the most gloomy disquietudes, and foreboding apprehensions and I therefore resolved to encounter no more the dangers of the main, when I got my foot on terrâ firmâ.

In a few days we arrived at the place of our destination, and so I put in execution my determination by making my elopement. Returning to Dunblane, I resumed my former occupation, but being still inconstant in my disposition, I joined myself to another master. The person with whom I associated this time was a Mr —— in the character of a stage doctor; I accompanied him to Galloway Shire. We came to a town there called ———, in which we took up our quarters. Each day we visited the neighbouring towns and villages, performed various feats of horsemanship, and distributed drugs among the crowd for prizes. Having thus spent the day to the great satisfaction of the spectators, we returned to our quarters and passed the evening with much hilarity. Happy for me that this manner of living was soon interrupted by an unforseen casuality, for had I been destined to consume my time as the object of popular risibility, I should have never experienced the toils and dangers of warfare, which are productive of so

many agreeable reflections when viewed in retrospection. One evening when regaling ourselves with a copious supply of the juice of the grape, I was suddenly called upon to speak with two gentlemen, who it seems were desirous of seeing me. I instantly obeyed this intimation, and was shown into the room which contained these interesting individuals. Upon entering they saluted me with much complacency,—caused me to sit down, and began abruptly to interrogate me as to my name? The place of my nativity? My motives for associating with such an itinerant quack? Whither I had yet learned any occupation than the present? To all these questions, which appeared to me impertinent, I returned no answer; seeing my immobility of tongue, they assumed a loftier tone, by peremptorily assuring me that it was their resolution I should remain no longer with my present master. Struck with this unexpected address, I became inquisitive to know the cause of their determination. They then told me that a Company in the neighbourhood, carried on an extensive wine trade, and having been previously instructed of my first occupation, although they seemed apparently unacquainted with the matter, they resolved to employ me as their Cork Cutter. I was instantly all submission.

Then thanking them cautiously for their decision, I assured them I was at their subserviency, but at the same time observed, that it behoved me to acquaint Mr —— about my departure. Having consented to this, I went and acquainted Mr —— with my intention of leaving him, which he no sooner heard, than infuriated with passion, he rushed into the room where my new masters were, in a very unceremonious manner, and insultingly told them that I was his bound man by an agreement which he held from me. With urgent demands they requested him to produce the agreement, but not being able to do so, and finding himself detected of prevarication, he resigned the contest to his more successful rivals. Being thus liberated from my theatrical department, I began to serve my new masters with persevering alacrity, and in a few months so ingratiated myself into their favour, that I was honoured with the charge of the wine cellar, by the unanimous consent of the Company. I continued to lead this delightful life for some years, until a coincidence of events as unfortunate, as unexpected, forced them to dissolve their partnership.

Fortunately I was not long destitute of employment, for I received a letter from a wine merchant residing at Ramsey isle of

Man, in which he stated his compliance to afford me immediate work. This was most salutary information, and to reap the fruits of it I set sail without loss of time. Having arrived in safety, I soon found out my benefactor, and was instantly installed in my situation. Here I lived in princely plenty, enjoying every thing that luxury could invent, or opulence bestow.

As I acquired a perfect knowledge of that island during my residence there, an accurate description of it, it is hoped, will not be uninteresting to the generality of readers: The isle of Man is situated in the Irish sea, at almost equal distance from England, Scotland, and Ireland; it is computed to be about 30 miles in length, and 12 in breadth; its principal towns are Ramsey, Douglas, Peele and Castletown. The face of the country is in general level, except where the prospect is interrupted by two hills of considerable eminence, from the summits of which, a most delightful and extensive view can be obtained. The fertility of its soil, and the salubrity of its atmosphere, are equally advantageous to the inhabitants, some of whom are remarkable for their longevity. The Duke of Athol, in whose sovereignty it then was, but has recently been ceded to the crown, is invested with the authority of nominating

a Bishop, who has an annual income of £1200. The crown appoints a governor and lieutenant governor. The Bishop, the Attorney General, the Clerk of the Rolls, and two Deemsters constitute their council. The two Deemsters above-mentioned, have the toleration of deciding in trial, without the assistance of a jury; nor can any native be incarcerated for debt until evident proof of his attempting to leave the island has been given; it abounds in quarries of red free stone, rocks of lime stone, and slate, with mines of iron, copper and lead. The inhabitants are polite and hospitable; strongly attached to their native soil, and the various institutions of their ancestors. To the summit of one of the forementioned hills, I frequently used to ascend; there I enjoyed a captivating prospect, in whatever quarter of the horizon I turned my eyes. The surrounding sea, undisturbed by the gale, majestically displayed its surface, and reflected the resplendent beams of a summer sun; over which, when I directed my eyes towards the Hibernian shore, I could perfectly designate the bleak rocks of Magelegan, in the county of Antrim; my wandering gaze I here repressed, and sighed for that devoted land. I then turned my prospect to my dear native land, the sight of which inspired me with an

emotion till then unknown. Thoughts rapidly crowding upon my mind, made me glow with an almost enthusiastic love to the country that gave me birth, and made me say with the poet, "it is glorious and honourable to be a patriot."—Having thus given a short detail of the isle of Man, I may here be allowed the liberty of introducing a description of one of their fairs, which is a striking feature of the character of these insulated inhabitants. About midsummer an anniversary is kept at a place called St. Johns', in which almost every individual in the island assembles,—nor do I recollect to have ever seen a greater number of people congregated on a similar occasion than the present. No sooner had the sun illuminated their little island, than crowds began to appear. When all were assembled, no expressions of resentment could be peeceived; nothing but joy was pourtrayed in every lineament of the countenance. Friendship, the solace of human life, appeared to have possessed every breast. Acquaintances, who perhaps did not see each other till this periodical meeting, were innocently merry and cbeerfnl. The ills and misfortunes, with which this life is pregnant, were far removed from view by overflowing bumpers of mountain dew, pure as the nectar. From hand to

hand, these were joyfully circulated, and accompanied by rustic songs which recorded the achievements of their ancestors. For three days, during which this scene of pleasure lasted, festivity and mirth was the only concomitants of these happy islanders. For my part, the remembrance of it shall never be effaced from my breast; because, from that period I commenced my military career. The Duke of Athol had at this time resoived upon raising a regiment of Fencibles, and as this public sociality afforded many opportunities of enlisting men, it was attempted, and attended with great success. Whilst I, along with some other companions, were carousing most merrily, and at intervals replenishing the glasses with the contents of a bowl of extraordinary demensions, which was placed on the table; the current of our cheerful conversation was suddenly interrupted by the intrusion of one who wore the military uniform. The appearance of this costume naturally excited apprehensions not of a pleasant kind. When he entered he saluted us with much civility and deference, and as he remained standing, with a countenance irradiated with smiles, he was the first that broke the silence which, he was well aware, his presence had occasioned. Gen-

tlemen, said he, I beg your pardon for the delinquency I have committed, by thus intruding upon your company; but I sincerely request that you remove your suspicions, which my appearance may have raised, with regard to the nature of my intentions. After having addressed us thus, the immobility of our tongues, which had produced so much taciturnity, was instantly relieved, every one striving to be more loquacious than another; kindly inviting him to sit down, and partake of our delightful beverage; he needed no urgent demands, but with a smile, assented to participate with us, by drinking a bumper to the health of the company. He had not long seated himself, when he introduced as a topic of conversation, the pleasures of a military life, and enlarged on it in such a manner, as engaged the attention of every one present; inflamed with liquor, we all gave a concurrent approbation to what he had said, and without hesitation, we enlisted into the second batallion of Royal Manx Fencibles. As I was well aware, that there was not such a company imbodied, I received a crown from the serjeant without any apprehension of danger; after a few more hours' joviality, we parted each to his respective home, with abundance of good humour and satisfaction. On the

following day I resumed my occupation, quite unsuspicious of any event originating in our previous hilarity; but in this I was deluded, for failing to make my appearance within the stipulated time, I was immediately taken up, and got ready conveyance to Castletown, free of expense, being a distance of 10 miles. As soon as I arrived I was conducted into the presence of his Grace the Duke of Athol, before whom I pensively stood as one convicted of a capital crime; during all this time he surveyed me with a scrutinizing eye, as if I had made a favourable impression on him. This I received as no ominous sign of his displeasure, but wished to know the decision; instead, therefore, of subjecting me to punishment, for the inconsistency of my conduct, he began with a smile by saying, that though I had been so reluctantly forced to make my appearance, he had great hopes of seeing me become an expert soldier, and for my encouragement should receive 4 guineas above the common bounty, and be made the first non-commissioned officer in that regiment,—he spoke this with such suavity of voice, firmness and decision, that lasped years have not been able to efface the impression it then made on me: in a few days I was called

out to learn the military exercises, but this life, though quite new to me seemed a very disagreeable one. The regiment was a motely of different countrymen being composed of the natives, English, Scotch and Irish. In consequence of which the country you were born in became the object of ridicule and derision and yourself branded with the most opprobrious names. Many who were quite unaccustomed to such language, were filled with shame and indignation, which recoiled in blows upon the offenders. As an illustration of which, I shall here take the liberty of mentioning a short affair relating to myself, which may suffice as an example:—Being one day commanded by our officer to march in files, my foot came unfortunately in contact with the heel of a Welshman, upon which he instantly turned round and imprecated the most horrid curses upon me and my country and terminated his malignity by a most abominable epithet which modesty restrains me from mentioning here; irritated by such reproach, I drew my fist, and with one blow brought him to the ground The agent upon seeing this came running up and threatened to strike me with his cane, but I told him if he executed his threat and suffered the aggressor to pass with impunity, he should be immediately honoured

with a similar treatment. For such incivility towards a superior, I was ordered to be seized, deprived of my arms, and escorted by a corporal to the guard house.

We had not proceeded far on our way when we were met by the colonel, who immediately checked his horse, and standing in his stirrups, asked the corporal what crime I had committed? He told him I had knocked a man down in the ranks; having heard this, he turned towards me with an air of command and animadverting on the impropriety of such conduct, and the serious consequences which attended it, gravely inquired how it originated? I began, at his request, and gave him a brief account of the whole transaction; which, being corroborated by the evidence of the corporal, afforded him so much satisfaction, that he generously presented me with a few shillings, and requested me to drink his health that evening.

On the following day, after our parade was finished, we were ordered to form a circle, in the centre of which the colonel stood, and energetically addressed us to the following effect:—"I have assembled you, soldiers, at this time, because I feel anxious to address to you a few words, which I hope will be afterwards productive of instruction to you all. The secret enemy which has

insinuatingly pervaded the breasts of numerous individuals in this regiment has been developed the previous day, in a most flagrant manner. Although you were not all born in the same country, do you not enjoy the same administration, liberty and laws? Do you not as companions of arms, serve under the same banner? What then in the name of every thing that is sacred, prompts you to cherish in your bosom a malicious envy towards each other? I would therefore strenuously urge you to reform your conduct; and, to reciprocal acts of friendship, add candour and complacency;—let this be your prevailing character, and universal harmony will eventually ensue; but should any one in future be so base as betray the least sympton of an ungenerous disposition, in reproaching his neighbour with his country, I do openly declare, that he shall be made a public example to the whole corps." The whole of this address was spoken with such vehemence of tone, and expression of countenance, as impressed and overawed the mind of every one present; for I do not recollect of having afterwards heard of, or seen his threat put in execution, in consequence of its never being violated. After remaining some months in the isle of Man, during which time the strictest

discipline was observed, we embarked at Douglas for Liverpool, where we shortly landed in safety. We then marched to Scarborough, and lay there from the beginning of November 1797, to April 1798.

Shortly after our arrival Admiral Duncan, who had captured and destroyed the Dutch fleet at Camperdown, * happened to pass by Scarborough, in honour of such a distinguished personage, we fired 3 rounds from the garrison, which salute he returned by 21 guns from his fleet. Ireland, towards the close of this spring, began to be agitated by the spirit of discontent, and revolt, and in a short time assumed such a threatening aspect, as demanded the prompt assistance and determined bravery of the military. The prospect of seeing my country involved in the flames of an internal war, made me look forward with restless anxiety to the future, and ruminate on the dreadful effects that might result from it.

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* This sanguinary conflict was fought so nigh the Dutch coast, that thousands of anxious spectators for some miles covered the shore; who, to their inexpressible grief, beheld the demolition of their fleet, without any possibility of affording it the smallest assistance.

Military forces now began to pour rapidly into this country, among which we were included. We accordingly left Scarborough and proceeded to Liverpool, where we embarked for Ireland, and about the beginning of June landed at Dublin; when we arrived here, this city, owing to the unremitted vigilance and activity of the magistracy, was kept in a state of tranquillity. During the day every precaution was adopted to prevent crowds from assembling on the streets; and, towards evening, every one was compelled to be in his own house at a certain time.

Before our arrival much blood had been shed on the side of the insurgents; having therefore been informed by one, whose authenticity I could rely on, of the state of different places in the country at that time, I presume it may occupy a place in this narrative.—Lord Fitzgerald was a notable instigator of this conspiracy, and had the command of a considerable body of rebels, until he was apprehended and incarcerated. His place, however, was not long vacant; the rebel army were successful enough in finding one who was no less hostile to our constitution than his predecessor; but upon his attempting to liberate Lord Fitzgerald, who was then in Newgate, he failed in his enterprise, and was himself immediately

apprehended. The counties of Kildare and Carlow having evinced strong indications of an insurrection, were under the martial law, which was proclaimed the 24th May. The rebel army, amounting to 1400 men, on the following day after the promulgation of this law, made a vigorous attack upon the garrison at Carlow; but being received with such a destructive fire as totally disorganized their ranks, they were instantly put to flight. A dreadful carnage then ensued; numerous individuals who had fled to their houses for safety, when intercepted in their flight by the soldiers, shared a more melancholy fate than their companions who were cut to pieces in the fields. The houses instead of affording protection to their devoted heads, became the instruments of their destruction; a spectacle, the most revolting, was exhibited when these were enveloped in fire; the lamentable groans and shrieks, that the unhappy victims uttered, when they saw no avenue by which they could escape, were truly horrifying and appalling; but in a short time their struggles were over, and nothing was to be seen but a heap of embers glowing at intervals by the wind, which sighed mournfully over them. These, and similar to these, are the consequences that every where mark the progress of a Civil War,

which is stained with enormities that are neither equalled nor surpassed in any National War of Europe. We had not been long in Dublin when we received orders to proceed to Londonderry; as we advanced on our march, the direful effects of a Civil War became apparent. The different villages through which we passed, plainly indicated the rage of incendiaries; this was a long and fatiguing march to the north of Ireland, for so great was the inveteracy of many of the natives at the sight of a British soldier, that it was with difficulty they were prevailed upon to give him a cup of water: it was nearly sunset before we reached Straban, a town of considerable note, in the county of Tyrone; the way thither was very delightful, but to a weary soldier the most romantic scenery seems overcast with a lurid shade. Upon our arrival at this town we were surrounded by a vast confluence of the populace, whom curiosity prompted to obtain information, and to find what countrymen we were; among these, there was one who took particular notice of me, and having with much sincerity entered upon a footing of friendship, he conducted me to an elegant room in his house, and entertained me with civility and kindness; a gratuosity which I never had in my power to retaliate. Early

on the morning of the 20th June we set out for Londonderry, and arrived there on the 23rd.; immediately after our arrival we were marched into the barracks, which already contained the Cambridge Light Dragoons, the Aberdeen Fencibles, and Tipperary Militia, whose numbers we increased to 3500, all under the command of General Cavan. The warlike clang with which the country resounded, did not permit us to enjoy long repose. Detachments from each regiment were sent into different quarters, to seize all the fire arms which were in the possession of the country people, and to suppress a numerous band of nocturnal depredators, who were scouring the country like so many Tartarian fiends, burning and devastating the property of every individual who would not condescend to espouse their nefarious cause. These disturbers of public tranquillity conscious that their keeping together in a body, would be their only security, were each of them for this purpose, furnished with flint stones, which, by their percussion, produced bright scintillations, and if any happened to wander from, or lag behind the main band, he had immediate recourse to this signal of segregation; which, being answered by those of his companions, he instantly discovered where they were, and

speedily rejoined them.

One night, whilst in quest of these insurgents, a certain individual of our party thus engaged, happened to observe one of their signals, which was a manifest sign of their being at no great distance. He instantly levelled his musket at that quarter, and discharged it with so great aim, that the shot entered a little below the right eye and disfigured his countenance in a dreadful manner. Our Colonel, who attended us, rode up to the place where he thought him to be; as soon as he perceived him approach, he emptied the contents of a small musket, which providentially penetrated the upper part of our Colonel's hat without doing farther injury. He, with four others of his confederates, whom we succeeded in making prisoners that night, were put into the guard room. The unfortunate wretch who received the wound, and who shortly expired in great torture, was the son of a respectable farmer in the neighbourhood. Shortly after this, it was reported to the Sheriff of that County, that an immense number of people was to assemble upon a certain day, at a place previously marked out for that purpose. As all such meetings at this time were peremptorily forbidden, measures were immediately concerted to frustrate their

designs; the Sheriff no sooner received intelligence of it, than he communicated the same to our commanding officer, who immediately set out attended by the Sheriff, at the head of a strong party selected for the occasion, towards that quarter which it was said they were to assemble. Within four hours we were upon the ground before any appeared; in consequence of which, we were ordered to conceal ourselves in a very opportune place, and there to await their approach: Having continued here a considerable time, the veracity of the report began to be doubted. We at length came out and proceeded to a town at no great distance, to procure provisions, but had not gone far when we saw moving towards us upwards of 9000 persons, men, women, and children, all of whom were mostly armed with defensive weapons. When they came within musket shot of us they arranged themselves in such a manner as plainly indicated their hostility. Our officer accompanied by the Sheriff, rode up, and kindly addressed them,—bade them depart to their respective homes, and indulge no such inimical disposition, which if they permitted to gain the ascendency, would entail a stigma on their descendants. This mild address was so far from diverting the

channel of their intentions, that it caused the current to flow more rapid, and with loud vociferations they replied, that they had resolved upon assembling at a place, appointed by many without endangering the properties of any individual whatever. This they hoped would be ultimately accomplished. The officer seeing it was in vain to have recourse to verbal disputation gave us instantly the word of command, "prime and load," after this we were ordered to advance, but this did not intimidate them until we presented our arms. This produced the desired effect, for seeing themselves exposed to such impending danger in standing before the muzzles of loaded muskets, ready at the word of command to pour their contents among them, they turned their backs and dispersed in quietness.

Being not a little elated at having been so successful in dispersing such a refractory multitude, as it apparently was at first, we turned our attention to the getting of provisions. To obtain this, we advanced towards the town; which, when we entered, the inhabitants showed every respect that became loyalists, we were received into their houses, and every thing fit for allaying the cravings of hunger was afforded. After remaining in this town for more than two

hours, we were ranked up, and marched to head quarters.

One day whilst out in the country in search of fire arms, and missile weapons, we were casually led to examine the roof of a thatched house belonging to a farmer, of whom it was reported that he was concerned in the insurrection formed against the State, and after a diligent search, we found 15 pikes of a very peculiar construction. These were the first that were discovered in the north of Ireland. This being a clear proof of the reports then circulated concerning the disloyalty of the farmer, orders were given to demolish the house with fire; the inmates exceedingly terrified at seeing the dwelling, in which they had been born and brought up, enveloped in flames, ran out in distraction and through fear, left behind them an infant in the cradle, whose mournful wailings excited the sympathetic feelings of every one present. A soldier, whose intrepidity did no less honour to him, as a man, than his humanity towards his fellow creatures, boldly rushed forward, and with the end of his musket dashed the window in pieces; then darting through the opening, he made his way to the place where the child lay, took it up in his arms, and providentially pre-

served its life, to the great astonishment and approbation of the beholders.

Shortly after this, our regiment was called off to quell some alarming disturbances in the county of Donegal, and so actively was it employed in this service, and so numerous were the partizans of popular faction, that the goals were crowded almost to excess; great numbers of whom, for their instigatory conduct, expiated for their crime by the hands of the common executioner; one of the individuals who thus suffered, committed an atrocity, upon which when human nature ruminates, it recoils with horror.—A cottage which stood far remote from others, was inhabited by a woman and her two children, who were marked by this monster to become the victims of his rapacious cruelty; he accordingly set fire to the house, and to prevent them from escaping, stationed himself before the door with a pike in his hand, which he used in pushing them back into the flames whenever they attempted to escape. Their cries and groans, instead of exciting compassion, served only to harden his fiendish heart. He continued this diabolical project till they were literally roasted alive; which after he accomplished, he shunned the habitations of men, and skulked among the neighbouring marches.

For a long time he eluded our search, till one day we surprised him in his retreat; after a desperate struggle he was bound and brought to the town, and in a short time suffered punishment due to his crime. Matters were now getting to a dreadful height. The county of Antrim was displaying the most hostile appearance; at Balemoney some thousands well provided with fire arms and ammunition, were assembling around the standard of rebellion, and committing extensive depredations upon the properties of the loyalists. We received immediate orders to march against the insurgents. The rebels having been informed of our approach, had evacuated that place before our arrival, and encamped a few miles distant from it. As soon as we reached there, we were reinforced by a troop of cavalry under the command of Lord O'Neill. This county being then under the martial law, his Lordship gave up the town of Balemoney to be plundered and then set on fire. Upon the promulgation of this order we piled our arms on the streets and entered every house which we thought to contain the most valuable articles, and seized them as our lawful property, and carried them off in triumph. At the expiry of one hour, which was the allotted time for pillage, we re-

sumed our ranks and marched without the confines of the town to behold its demolition. A party of our regiment, whose orders it was to set fire to the town, did their duty with admirable dexterity; shortly after fire was communicated to it in different places, it was one terrific blaze. Whilst I was beholding this vast conflagration, I could not help deploring the fate of the wretched inhabitants, who now destitute of shelter, or an abode, had to contend with an army well disciplined, and inured to the hardships of war. * After this town was one heap of ruins, we marched off to a bleachfield in the vicinity, and consigned it to destruction in a similar manner; which, as I understood afterwards, was occasioned by the proprietor's son being one of the generals in the rebel army. During this scene of destruction we were not attacked by the rebels, owing to the abdication of two of their principal leaders, who were so struck with consternation at the calamitous disaster which had befallen their town, that they immediately contrived their escape, and fled over to England;

* Lord O'Neill was afterwards killed at Antrim, and when found among the slain, had no fewer than nine pikes thrust through his body.

where they only found a temporary asylum. A reward of £500 was put on their devoted heads. The captain who brought them over, hearing of this, made a most diligent search and succeeded in finding out the place of their concealment. Immediate information was given. They were seized, brought back to Coltraine, and condemned by a court martial to suffer an ignominious death. This sentence was, however, mitigated by the importunate supplications of two young ladies, whose humanity and tender sensibility, so much affected the feelings of Sir G—— H——, and Lord H—— M——, that they were at last prevailed upon to grant them their pardon The rebels, notwithstanding all this, determined to try what they could do by their valour, and for this purpose, they erected their standard at Ballynehench, a place which they had previously marked out as the ground on which they were to contend with British arms. Having collected our forces, we prepared for an attack against the enemy, whose number we afterwards learned, amounted to 10,000, all well supplied with ammunition, muskets, and pikes. We mustered 5000, including some troops of cavalry, and a considerable train of artillery. After we had reached that place, and taken up our position, the

battle was commenced with the most inveterate fury. The rebels, incited by despair, kept up a continued and destructive fire, during the heat of which, they captured two six pounders, and kept them from us for a considerable time, in spite of all our efforts. For the greater part of the day victory seemed to incline to neither side, until we were reinforced in the afternoon with 3000 men, commanded by General Leeke. Shortly after their arrival we succeeded in taking all their field pieces, and at last completely outflanked and surrounded them; seeing no way of escape, they surrendered their arms, and every one meanly clad was allowed to depart to his respective habitation unmolested. This long and sanguinary contest having terminated with ultimate success the royalists, gave a finishing stroke to the insurgents in the north of Ireland; in vain did they afterwards rally around the standard of rebellion, to retrieve their perishing cause. Their boasted expectations of seeing their country so soon enjoying the fruits of asserted independence, vanished like exhalations before the beams of a morning sun. Having left the field of battle we marched to Belfast with 1000 prisoners, lodged them in jail, and surrounded it with a body of armed men.

Belfast appeared likewise to partake of the existing commotion: One of the principal leaders of the rebel army, called Monro, was hanged and beheaded there, and his head put on the spire of the steeple. I was present at the apprehension of one Walter Graham, whose immoralities fitted him for taking an active part in this conspiracy. He was brought to Colraine at 1 o'Clock P. M., and thence escorted by a troop of dragoons to Maghave, a place about 10 miles distant, and before 4 o'Clock his head was the most elevated object of that town.

Wexford, at this time, had assumed a most formidable appearance. A numerous body of rebels, headed by a Roman Catholic Priest, called John Murphy, took possession of the hill oules, but here they did not long remain undisturbed; a detachment of the Corkshire militia, under the command of lieutenant colonel Foote, in conjunction with a strong party of cavalry was detached to attack them; when they reached the hill they surrounded it in order to prevent their escape. The rebels seeing themselves surrounded, rushed down upon the infantry with an impetuosity which they were unable to withstand, and so successful were they in the attempt, that every one was killed, with the exception of

the colonel and a few others The cavalry alarmed at the annihilation of the infantry, retreated in great confusion to Gorey. Nothing could exceed the general exultation that prevailed among the rebels in consequence of this victory; numerous parties which were every day flocking to their standard, swelled their number to 15,000, of whom a great number was armed with muskets. Flushed with this victory, which they deemed a prelude of more extensive conquest, and of the ultimate overturn of the existing constitution, they boldly advanced towards Ennescorthy, attacked the garrison there, and killed 90. They then seized upon Vinegar hill, and determined to make it their head quarters till they had secured the independence of Ireland. A dreadful consternation seized upon the peaceable inhabitants of Wexford when they heard of their propinquity. The whole regular force of the garrison there, marched out with determined bravery to attack them; but in this they were disappointed. The general, upon hearing that the detachment which had been previously dispatched was almost totally cut to pieces by the enemy, retreated with his men in great haste to Duncannon. No sooner did intelligence reach the rebels of the troops being gone, than they rushed

into the town with all the parade of conquerors; great numbers of the loyalists who had fled to the ships for protection, were inhumanly put to death in cold blood. After remaining in the town for two days, during which they were actively engaged in searching for arms and ammunition; they moved away on the third day, with their main body, and encamped on a hill at no great distance. The whole force then split into two divisions; the one advanced towards Toghmon, and the other to Gorey, those who marched for Gorey encamped upon the hill comgrua. Shortly after, 1500 troops of the most determined courage, under the command of major general Loftus arrived at Gorey. With these he prepared to attack the rebel force at comgrua. To effect this with the greater facility, he advanced with his army in two divisions, by different roads, in order to make a combined attack. But it unfortunately happened that the division which was intrusted to colonel Walpole had set out upon the march at the same time the rebel force decamped from comgrua; they met each other in the way. A dreadful and sanguinary contest ensued. Each side of the road was blockaded by the rebels, who continued pouring in a continued fire among the ranks of the royalists; unable

to resist such a shock, they were instantly thrown into confusion, and commenced a disorderly retreat upon seeing their colonel fall by a shot from the enemy. They were hotly pursued by the rebels as far as Gorey, where they halted. By this victory the rebels obtained possession of the whole of the north of Ireland. The other division of the rebel army, which proceeded towards the west of this county with the design of taking possession of New Ross, was by no means successful. At New Ross there was a garrison of 1200 men fully prepared to attack the enemy. But these, although daring and resolute, were altogether inferior to meet the rebel army, which was advancing towards them with the amazing number of 30,000 men. When these entered the town, they completely overwhelmed the garrison with their numbers, and instantly compelled it to abandon the place. Upon seeing the dispersion of the royalists, they broke their ranks and wasted those hours in inebriation, and every excess of wickedness, which they ought to have used to advantage in reaping the victory. The general, who had now every opportunity, rallied his troops, and unexpectedly came upon these bacchanalians when in straggling parties, and commenced an indiscriminate slaughter. So dreadful a

panic seized them, when they beheld the army, which they fancied totally routed, darting in amongst them with irresistable impetuosity, that they almost instantly took to flight, and left 2700 men dead on the field. This victory was stained with the most dreadful cruelties; several thatched houses, into which the rebels fled for shelter, were set on fire, and so crowded were they with the suffocated corpses of these fugitives, that it was impossible for one to fall to the ground; they remained in this erect posture till removed one by one for sepulture. This, however, was the origin of a terrible requital. At Scullabogue, a place not far from the place where the rebel army lay encamped, was a large barn, and which had been by them converted into a goal; unfortunately at this time it contained about 180 prisoners, who, upon the defeat of the rebel force at New Ross, were burnt to ashes, to revenge their companions fate.

The whole of the country for many miles around Vinegar hill was now in the possession of the insurgents, and was the scene of the most revolting cruelties that were committed on the royalists. Every kind of death their ferocity could invent, was practised on their prisoners. Some

were instantly put to death wherever they were seized; others, in cruel sport, were transfixed with pikes, and on these, held up in the air, till their struggles terminated. The Lord Lieutenant dispatched general Locke with an army of 1300 men, attended by a numerous train of artillery, with the design of attacking the rebels at Vinegar hill. He accordingly advanced with his army in four divisions against the insurgents, whose number was known to be 20,000. The rebels, having joined battle, sustained the attack, for two hours, with surprising bravery; till at length seeing themselves outflanked, and almost hemmed in, they gave ground, and fled with precipitation. The slaughter, after the action, was more terrible than during the heat of it. All the adjacent places were thickly strewn with the bodies of the slain; some, whom the fatal stroke had not dispatched, were to be seen quivering in the agonies of death, and emitting groans that became every moment less audible, as death began to approach. John Murphy, the principal leader, escaped with a considerable body, and fled to Kilkenny; as soon as news of this battle was divulged, the rebels who remained in possession of the town of Ennescorthy, offered to surrender to the royalists, on condition of their lives being

spared, and their properties inviolated. But to this the general replied, that no such terms could be granted, unless they surrendered their arms, and delivered up the principal conspirators. The rebels still unwilling to resign the cause which they had embraced, did not accede to these proposals, but marched off to Goresbridge, under the command of John Murphy, after rejoining their associates. The wreck of this once formidable rebel army was completely defeated, a few days after, at Kilcomny hill, with the loss of 300 slain, and ten pieces of cannon taken, with all the spoils of their former victories. Father John who escaped from the field of battle, was pursued by a troop of cavalry, and on being brought to head quarters was hanged; a compliment paid to him for his indefatigable exertions in preaching the doctrine of dissention.

I was now quite dispirited with my military life, my mind being overpowered with a gloom, which was not dissipated till I was far from those heart-rending scenes, that were every day exposed to my eyes. Add to this, the incessant beating of the drum to arms, at almost every hour both night and day, prevented us from obtaining a short repose to our wearied bodies. Sir

Ralph Abercromby, that excellent man and gallant soldier, whose generous feelings made him be esteemed by the whole army, came over to Ireland about this time, with the design of inspecting all the regular forces. Our regiment then lying in Straban along with the Breadalbanes, no sooner heard of his approach, than joy was diffused through the breast of every individual. As soon as he reached headquarters he inspected both corps, and expressed his approbation at their cleanliness and discipline. During the time we lay here, the country began to wear a more peaceful aspect; the most favourable reports were circulated of the rebels every where delivering themselves up. But when news reached them of the French having landed at Killala, those who remained in arms were cheered at the prospect of another revolution. In consequence of which, they did not resign their arms, but continued upon the neighbouring mountains, in straggling parties, infesting, by their depredatory excursions, the more peaceable. As all the fencible regiments lying in Ireland, were about to be disembodied, orders were issued for the inlisting of a certain number of men into the regular forces; and, that every one who thus inlisted, should receive 10 guineas of

bounty: which produced no small stir among this part of the military; after each regiment had completed its complements of men, the Militia got orders to march for their respective counties, to relieve the fencibles, who were to proceed to the different sea port towns for embarkation. Our regiment accordingly marched for Belfast, where it took shipping, and landed safely at Whitehaven. We lay here for a considerable time, waiting with eager anxiety for the arrival of general ——, upon whom devolved the charge of disembodying our regiment. He at length arrived, and on the following day we were marched to a spacious meadow, and there reviewed. He then gave strict orders for all the arms and accoutrements to be conveyed into the stores, and dismissed us.

Soon after this, the town presented one scene of bustle and confusion. The contents of the bottle, which prove so much consolation to the toil worn soldier, were poured out in liberal potations. Recruiting parties patrolling the streets, were actively engaged in inlisting the sons of bacchus. Comrades, who were now endeared to each other, parting, in the fond expectation of meeting at some future period; while some inhumanly rude, were challenging their companions to open combat, and dealing

blows around upon every one who approached them. Numerous individuals, whose arrears amounted to a considerable sum, did not leave this town till their purse was exhausted, and the distresses of penury were experienced. For my part, I did not imitate their example. Being quite intoxicated with delight at seeing again the "blue hills of my country," I quickly left that place, and set out upon my journey with elevated spirits. Continuing my route I soon emerged upon the delightful landscape that spreads itself from the winding Devon to the banks of the Forth How transported was I when I gazed upon the rugged summits of my native Ochils; and Stirla's ancient tower gleaming far in the west; seized with such emotions, I pursued my way with speed to my paternal abode. The nearer I approached the scene of my boyhood, every thing conspired to remind me of that happy time. The fields where I had so often strayed with my juvenile companions,—the trees under which I had reclined to avoid the sultry rays of a summer's sun,—the delightful Allan, among whose transparent waves I had so often beguiled the finny tribe, while strolling along its banks in pensive cheerfulness. Proceeding forward, and indulging my mind with these recollections of my former

joys, I almost inadvertantly found myself within my father's inclosures. I suddenly stopt, and gazed around with inexpressible delight. The day was calm and serene. I now advanced towards the house, and with palpitating breast set my foot on the threshold. I entered in silence, without betraying the least symptom of emotion. None of them seemed to recognise me. They steadfastly gazed upon me with surprise and curiosity. A few revolving years had effected a surprising change in my physiognomy. During the interval of suspence and silence, my feelings almost overpowered me. I imagined myself a stranger in my paternal mansion, and felt like the prodigal son, who was lost and found again; unable to support the weight of such thoughts, I instantly made myself known. This completely changed the scene; I was surrounded by my relations, and almost smothered by their embraces; my hands remained locked in theirs;—whilst all their generous feelings rushed upon them, and forced them to give vent to those tears of affection and friendship, which dignify human nature, and give it the character of primeval simplicity. After the ebullition of this joy had subsided, I was led into the room adjoining the kitchen, where in a short time was prepared

a sumptuous repast. There, when seated amidst a group of my relations, I was eagerly importuned to afford a detail of my wanderings, and the vicissitudes of my fortune. I complied, and began my little history amidst the most profound silence, which was at intervals broken by accents of sorrow, expressed at my recital of the appalling scenes, and frightful enormities of the Irish rebellion. Having thus protracted the night to a late hour by thus satisfying their curiosity our social meeting broke up, and each retired to his bed with a heart wrapped in tenderness and sensibility. For several successive days I perambulated all those places which were yet so familiar to my imagination, and after I had recourse to the amusements of my boyish years, to dispell the tenacious impressions, which the result of a sanguinary campaign had made on my mind. Whilst I was one day moving slowly and tacitly along the banks of my favourite Allan, and with elusive art dragging the speckled trout from his watery abode, I happened to cast my eyes down the stream, and to my great astonishment beheld a female mendicant seated on a large stone, in the middle of the current. It seems she had attempted to get over to the opposite bank, and with great difficulty had reached the place where she then was;

but seeing it altogether impossible either to retract her steps, or pursue her design, in consequence of the great rapidity of the current, she abandoned herself to despair, and sat down on the stone, half immerged in water. To rescue one from such a perilous situation, I relinquished my sport, and hastened towards her. How long she had remained in that position I could not determine. When I reached her she raised her countenance, in which was depicted the frightful characters of luctiferous despair; she then grasped me with vehemence, and was instantly as elevated as I was myself. I now perceived the danger into which my rashness had brought me; it was utterly impossible for me to stir one foot as long as she continued holding me. The alms which she had so carefully collected, were piled around her haunches and saturated with water. Immediately below us lay a deep linn, into which I was every moment expecting to be hurried; nor was I deceived. When she was endeavouring to change her posture, she lost her equilibrium and tumbled in headlong, dragging me along with her; a desperate struggle now ensued; for so tenaciously did she hold me, that I became apprehensive of being unable to extricate myself. Sometimes one and sometimes

another was uppermost; in this state I became quite breathless and exasperated so that instead of being her intended deliverer, had I succeeded in getting myself disengaged from her grasp, I would have abandoned her to her fate. It was however fortunate, that we were timely discovered by some men, who instantly repaired to our assistance, and by their promptitude saved us from a watery grave. After a few weeks I repaired to the northern Metropolis, and there pursued with assiduity my usual vocation. At the end of nine months I went to Glasgow, with the intention of again inlisting and carrying arms for the service of my country. Upon my arrival there, I saw advancing towards me, a recruiting party, whose tartan belts and highland bonnets inspired me with new resolution to accomplish the motives of my visit to that city. I accordingly went and accosted the sergeant, acquainted him with my intentions of entering into his Majesty's service. To this he instantly complied, by the addition of another shilling to my purse; the usual compliment shown on all such occasions. After three weeks residence in Glasgow, during which we passed our time in a most jocose manner, and proved very successful in obtaining a great number of recruits;

I, along with a party of these, again left old Scotia, and went to join the regiment then lying in Kent. Having arrived there we did not remain long inactive. A new scene spread wide before us. The treaty which was concluded at Tulert betwixt the Emperor of France and Russia, after the dreadful and sanguinary conflicts at Friesland, in which the fate of that eventful day was decided by the superiority of French arms, involved Denmark in an inextricable maze of emergencies. Since it utterly excluded all British traffic from the Continent; as long as a strict neutrality subsisted on the part of Denmark, this could not prove effectual. And if inclined to favour either power, an immediate attack was inevitable, either by land or sea. The British Court deemed it a circumstance of the highest importance to treat with his Danish Majesty, in so critical a juncture; and, for this purpose, dispatched an ambassador with full power and authority, to conclude a treaty, or proclaim war, in case of the proposals being rejected. Matters being thus resolved upon, our regiment received orders to hold itself in readiness to join the expedition which was to sail for Denmark. Not many days after the issuing of these orders, we were marched from head quarters, and proceeded towards

Plymouth for embarkation. On our approach to this town we were exceedingly captivated with the magnificent sight of a fleet of 20 sail of the line, besides a great many frigates. Flags and streamers sporting in the wind, produced a great effect upon those who had never witnessed such a novelty. On board this fleet there was a large body of troops, amounting to 28000, under the command of general Lord Cathcart; all things being ready, we set sail with a fair wind, and on the 16th August, the Danish capital hove in sight. The ambassador having landed, had an interview with the Prince Regent, to whom he communicated the object of his mission. His Royal Highness would not condescend to comply with the proposals, and knowing that his capital stood the greatest hazard of being first attacked, he gave immediate orders to fortify it against the approaching storm, and to defend it to the last.

After the negotiations had terminated, the ambassador withdrew to the fleet, inflexibly resolved not to abandon the shores of Zealand, till he had brought matters to a satisfactory conclusion. The arrival of such an armament, so unexpected, did not fail to produce the greatest alarm among the inhabitants. They saw themselves utterly unprepared for an

assault, but an invasion, which they thought highly criminal, inspired them with courage and resolution. We got orders to disembark, and accomplished it without the least opposition. Copenhagen was now the object aimed at, and in three massive columns we advanced from our landing place to invest it. We were proceeding rapidly on, when the Danes quite enraged at such daring hostility, assembled together in a numerous body, and determined to attack us. But not being allowed time to put their resolution in execution, they were met by Sir Arthur Wellesley, at the head of a veteran detachment; who, after a short but bloody contest, shewed them that superiority of numbers, when unaided by discipline, proves incapable of sustaining the charge of a handful of veteran warriors. The Danes, seeing themselves thus repulsed, with an immense loss of officers and men, chose rather to defend themselves within the walls, than hazard another battle.

Having been allowed to proceed with the erection of our batteries without being interrupted, we had them all finished and filled with men, in the space of 15 days after our arrival. Before a cannon was fired, it was deemed prudent to treat with them on terms of pacification; but this

they scornfully rejected, and resolved to expose their lives and liberties to the attack of a British force.

When the result of the negotiation was made known, our batteries opened with such a destructive fire as I had never before witnessed; the effect of which in a short time, set several places of the city in a blaze. Whilst we were thus pouring in a tremendous fire amongst them, they were no less actively engaged in returning the compliment; but with a fire that was unworthy of notice when compared to ours. Continuing for some time with redoubled energy, it was thought that the calamities which the wide spreading devastations were every moment occasioning, would induce them to capitulate; and for this purpose, we abated our firing a little; this was viewed by the inhabitants in a far different light; for imagining that all our ammunition was expended, it excited new energy in them, in the hopes of driving us from their walls. But how different must their sensations have been, when they were again assaulted by the most furious cannonade they had been yet exposed to. The shells, which were thrown into the town, dealt destruction all around; while congreve rockets, discharged with incessant fury and impetuosity, were flying in all

directions, amidst the darkness of the night, rendering the scene awfully grand.

A bombardment so vigorous, and unabated, did not fail to produce the most serious injury to the city; an edifice, which was always beheld by the Danes with religious awe, was one morning ignited by some of our destructive missiles, and in a short time was enveloped with an immense sheet of fire; a most tremendous crash, which produced a slight concussion of the ground, and under its ample ruins buried some hundreds of the inhabitants, announced the fall of this sacred fabric. Seeing their city about to be consigned to destruction, by the conflagration that was raging in a most alarming manner, the commandant sent out a flag of truce, which ended all hostility. After the articles of capitulation were settled, colonel Cameron at the head of a grenadier company, was the first that entered the town; at the sight of which, the female part of the populace, uttered the most doleful cries, but being informed that no harm was intended, their fears soon subsided, and in a short time began to treat us with much familiarity and kindness. The preliminaries of peace being now concluded,—which were, to let the British have posses-

sion of the citadel, and dock yards; all the ships of war belonging to his Danish Majesty, to be delivered up to him. The prisoners to be liberated, and that deference which is due to officers, both naval and military, observed; and, lastly, the island to be evacuated by our troops before the end of six weeks.—Towards the end of October, we embarked for England, and landed safely at Sheerness, and then marched to our head quarters.

The warlike preparations that were now making, did not permit us to enjoy long repose. Napoleon, who had been traversing the continent, with an army on which were heaped the laurels it had earned at Austrelitz, Morengo and Jena, resolved to make an excursion into the Peninsula with this victorious band. Britain, always indulgent to the oppressed, was not backward to lend a hand in striking a blow against such a dangerous intruder; at such a crisis no time was to be lost in preparing a land force for immediate embarkation, to the assistance of the Spaniards. To join this expedition, our regiment was destined, which we accordingly did, by marching to Portsmouth, where we embarked, and shortly after set sail. This voyage was extremely tedious owing to contrary winds. When from a distance the shore of Spain

was discried, the eyes of thousands were eagerly turned towards it. I indulged my mind with mingled sensations of sorrow and compassion, when I thought on the thousands that would bleed on the plains of Hispania, whose loss their country would deplore, and to whose memory the sympathetic tear would often be shed by their sorrowing relatives.

Having landed at Lisbon, the main body of our army, under the command of Sir John Moore, proceeded in a northerly direction, with the intention of being joined by Sir David Baird at Salamanca. As soon as we arrived there, we got orders to halt, but instead of being joined by Sir David Baird as was expected, the intelligence of his having encountered the most serious difficulties, before he effected his landing at Corruna, was communicated to the general, which, when divulged, occasioned a sentiment of regret through the whole army. In consequence of this unexpected event, our brave leader resolved to lose no time in conducting back his army to Portugal. Whilst on the eve of putting this into execution, the sudden arrival of the British ambassador from Madrid, frustrated his project. He represented to Sir John in the strongest colours the absolute necessity of meeting the

French army, and checking its career; but neither this, nor any other thing that he advanced, could induce him to alter his resolution. The ambassador seeing him still inflexible, hastily ended his conference on the subject, with a threat should he not comply with his wish. To Sir John Moore this was a moment of doubt and perplexity. His whole force amounted to 28000 men; but with these he could scarce dare oppose the French army, which was now victoriously advancing towards Madrid, after having defeated three intrepid generals. The intelligence, however, from the Junta, which was most animating, prevailed at last, over the intentions of our commander; who instantly desisted from his proposed retreat. And, being now joined by general Hope, we began to move forward towards Valladolid; having proceeded no farther than one day's march, we learned that Napoleon had entered Madrid, and that a numerous army under the command of Marshal Soult, lingered on the banks of the Carrion. Such opportunities were not to be lost, and measures were accordingly concerted for attacking this force under Soult. Without loss of time, we began our march, and shortly were within sight of the French army. Our cavalry, who were in the advanced posts, came in contact

with those of the enemy, and charged them with a murderous fire, which they sustained with great gallantry; but at last finding themselves unable to withstand such vigorous attacks, which, if continued, would not fail to throw their ranks into confusion, they precipitately gave ground, leaving their opponents the victors in this brilliant skirmish. The infantry of neither army had yet engaged, but when the word of command for a general attack was given, it was announced by a courier that Napoleon himself was rapidly advancing with 40,000 men to the assistance of Soult. To await these would have been madness; and, as an attack threatened our flanks, a timely retreat became indispensible. We were ordered to move forward in that quarter which was thought the most fit for us to take. The enemy seeing this, brought into action all his exertions, with the design of preventing us from reaching Benevento. Seeing himself foiled in this attempt, he determined to attack us in the rear, which was now become quite exhausted with the fatigue of our rapid marches; a strong body of cavalry and artillery then commenced the attack, but were not permitted to continue long; the gallant Lord Paget wheeling about, and facing them with a brigade of horse, completely defeated them, after

several furious charges. The state of our army was at this time truly affecting; various distresses were daily increasing, and seemed conspiring to favour the designs of our pursuing enemy. The country, through which we retreated, was mountainous, and barren; and to complete our hardships, was covered with snow. The scarcity of our victuals, and the rapidity of our retreat, greatly exhausted our bodily strength. Our baggage, and wounded comrades, whom we had reluctantly left behind, served likewise to augment the anguish of our minds; and above all, those for whom we combated all these hardships and privations, evinced every feeling of animosity towards us. Continuing to retreat under so many accumulated wants, with all the speed we could, the French general became completely exasperated at his being deceived so artfully by the dexterity of our leader, and therefore resolved to retard our progress by harassing us as formerly. Strong indications of this design were given by the prodigious number of the enemy that were hovering about the left of our army. The 52nd. who composed part of that wing, bravely engaged the enemy, and being cheered on to the combat made him give way on all sides.

On the following day we were marshalled

in order to give the enemy an opportunity of battle; this, however, was not accepted, from what motives I shall not determine. As reinforcements were pouring in from every quarter, and swelling the enemies' ranks to an enormous number, it would have been rash, and perhaps tended to the worst consequences, had similar offers been given them. Our leader being conscious of this, ordered us to depart in the silence of the following night, leaving our fires burning; we continued our retreat till, at last, we arrived at Corruna. Here we saw no ships to which we could fly to for protection; nothing but a wide expansive ocean caught the eye of the weary soldier. In order, therefore, to embark with security, as soon as ships might arrive, it was necessary to fix upon a place as the most safe for that purpose; the heights around Corruna being deemed the most eligible, we there encamped. The army of the enemy, which now amounted to about 70,000, was rushing towards us with surprising velocity, with the intention of annihilating our army at one blow. To avoid a battle was now impracticable. Our whole force, less than one-fourth of that number, took up its position in a favourable position. A village, apparently deserted, through which the great road to Madrid

passes, was the centre of our line. The French, who had all their artillery placed in their front, commenced a furious fire. Volley after volley was now poured in from our whole line with tremendous effect; and in a short time both armies were shrouded in clouds of smoke. No enemy was now visible, but we were guided in our aim by the flashes which were emitted from their muskets. The right wing of our army was the first they attacked, and with fearless steps they advanced towards it. The conflict that now ensued in this part of our line was dreadful. Whilst the right wing was thus hotly engaged, the gallant 42nd. was led up to support it, who, in their advance, not only succeeded in repelling those that were first brought up to the attack, but likewise many massy columns, that were every moment coming up to their assistance. Our commander, who had observed the 42nd. and 52nd. charging the enemy with such undaunted bravery, rode up to the latter regiment. and exclaimed, "Well done, my brave 52nd!" He then advanced to the royal Highlanders, and in a warrior's tone, bade them "Remember Egypt!" Scarcely had he uttered these words, when a ball from the enemy wounded him in the left shoulder, and eventually terminated his career. The shock which

it produced, tumbled him from his horse. He was instantly taken up, and conveyed in a blanket and sashes to the rear; there his wound was inspected and found to be mortal; part of his shoulder being entirely carried away, his arm was only attached to his body by a small ligament. The blood, which flowed so copiously from such a dreadful wound, rendered him so weak that it was with great difficulty he spoke. To his last moments, however, he remained sensible; a little before his death he uttered these words, "Stanhope, remember me to your sister." The battle was at this time raging with unabated fury; the enemy seeing it was in vain to force the wing, had immediate recourse to turn it. Lord Paget upon seeing this to be the enemy's intention, rushed out of the cantonments with the corps of reserve which he commanded, and charging the enemy with fury, drove him from his position. The next object of his attack was our centre, but here likewise his most vigorous efforts were unsuccessful. Disappointed in these two grand attempts, he next aimed his fury at our left, and succeeded in carrying a small deserted village. This was now a point to be disputed with the utmost keenness, and gallantly did the 14th regiment behave on that occasion; for before the

enemy could experience what advantage he reaped from such a station, he was repulsed by this intrepid band. About 5 o'Clock in the evening our army had gained ground in all directions, and before another hour had elapsed, the loud roar of the cannon along the French lines was entirely silenced.

This contest being now fairly decided, with comparatively little loss on the side of the British, we made all necessary preparations for embarkation; which was effected before the afternoon of the following day. We then weighed anchor, and steered our course homewards, rejoicing at the prospect of again seeing our native country. On board the ship in which I came to England, there was about 900 men belonging to different regiments, the greater part of whom were attacked by an excessive sickness, occasioned, no doubt, by the fatigue of such an arduous retreat. When we arrived at Portsmouth every one who felt himself in a sickly condition, was humanely allowed to remain there until he became convalescent; although I was one of those individuals whose temperament remained unimpaired, I thought it a favourable opportunity of pretending myself sick, in order to obtain some repose before proceeding on my route. I then began and

gave myself out as indisposed, by assuming all the air of a valetudinarian; as such a well feigned distemper completely escaped suspicion, I was admitted into the number of those that were sick, and obtained the same attention that was paid to them. In a few days every one began to mend; those who belonged to different corps were marched off, in order to join their respective regiments. I, along with a party of our regiment, left Portsmouth, and arrived at Willie, our former headquarters. Peace and tranquillity, so desired by us, after an expedition replete with various calamities, were suddenly and unexpectedly interrupted, by immediate orders to prepare for embarkation. Though this intelligence was by no means gratifying, yet, reflecting that it was incumbent on us to submit with cheerfulness to all the dangers with which war abounds, and to go to whatever climes we were destined, elevated our spirits and inspired us with resolution. We again left Willie, and marched to the Downs, where we embarked on board a 74 gun ship. There was an immense naval force collected here, amounting to 39 sail of the line, 36 frigates, and a number of war vessels of different descriptions. On board this fleet was a land force of 40,000 men,

including nearly 2000 cavalry, and a numerous train of artillery; the intention of which was to capture, or destroy the enemy's fleet, and the island of Walcheren. The enemy having been apprised of our approach, erected a great many batteries on the top of an eminence, in the form of a crescent, and assailed our fleet as soon as it came to an anchorage. Orders were therefore given for a detachment of the troops to get into the boats and to attack the battery. In a short time we observed them land, and form on the beach; the enemy in the mean time pouring down successive showers of grape. They advanced with that accustomed fearlessness, which is the characteristic of the British soldier. The eyes of all were now attracted by this intrepidity; and through suspence and anxiety, we stood trembling lest their opponents should repel them. It was truly admirable to see with what promptitude they climbed the face of the hill. Having approached near to the enemy they rushed forward with loud cheers. The enemy, after a short resistance, fled with the utmost precipitation.

On the following day we weighed anchor and proceeded up a canal towards Middleburgh. Having advanced a considerable way, we perceived some gun boats swamped

and others seriously destroyed; this was occasioned by a large battery which the enemy had planted at no great distance, with the intention of prohibiting our ships from getting up the canal, and impeding all communication betwixt Middleburgh and the fleet. This battery being silenced, it was deemed a convenient place for landing, and orders were immediately issued to that purport. These were promptly executed, without suffering any molestation from the enemy. We then advanced towards Middleburg, and entered it, as night began to spread her sable mantle over the face of nature. Continuing to advance in the darkness of the night, the most solemn stillness prevailed throughout the army. Such a march as this cannot fail to produce something truly impressive when in an enemy's country. Uncertain of the dangers to which one may be exposed, he advances under a pressure of doubts and harrasing disquietudes. Having reached within a short distance of Flushing, we halted, and lay under arms during the night. The Eastern clouds were just assuming their thousand liveries, when the enemy perceiving our nearness, welcomed us by a shower of grape shot from their batteries; in a short time we

began to invest Flushing, and in spite of all their combined efforts had our batteries erected in 12 days after our commencement. Some frigates and mortar vessels, with their broadsides towards the town, began the attack by a furious and incessant fire, which did the most serious injury to the houses. On the following day the bombardment was renewed with redoubled energy; the results of which, in a short time, became so alarming, that it was thought absolutely necessary to discontinue our fire, in hopes that they would surrender on the most amicable terms. A summons to this import was sent to the governor of the town, who haughtily rejected it; upon the intelligence of this, our batteries again opened, and continued without intermission till 1 o'Clock on the following day; when the French thinking it more honourable to surrender than be compelled to do it by force, voluntarily offered to capitulate. Their proposal was instantly complied with, and the garrison, which amounted to 4000 men, were delivered up into our hands.

Shortly after this, a dreadful disease broke out and raged with awful virulence. Great numbers were daily cut off, and among the rest some of my most intimate comrades. To avoid the further effect of such a contagion, we embarked on

board the Amelia, 74 gun ship, and speedily left the coast of such a pestilential country. In a short time we landed safely at Harwich and put into the hospital every one who had been infected with the pestilence. Our regiment then marched to Willie, and continued there for the space of three months; at the expiration of this period we received orders to proceed to Portsmouth. Having arrived there we embarked for Portugal, and lay at anchor at the Mother Bank, until the remaining part of the troops who formed this expedition, had arrived. Immediately after their embarkation, we weighed anchor, and steered our course for the seat of war. As soon as we got into the Bay of Biscay a squall overtook us; during this storm a circumstance altogether ludicrous occurred in the ship in which I was.—A large cask of cannon shot, that was lashed to the mast between decks, by the rolling of the ship became loose, and before we were aware of the danger, the balls were pitching over the deck in all directions. Such a scene of confusion as this occasioned, I almost never witnessed. Nothing was to be seen but soldiers jumping with the most astonishing agility, in order to protect their legs from such intruders. They were at last secured in the lee side of the ship, after having

broken the legs of two men and a woman. As the weather became more moderate, we drew nigh to Portugal, and at last the city of Lisbon appeared in view.

When we entered the Tagus, immense crowds of people covered its banks, staring with delight at the sight we presented. Having landed, we were welcomed with cheers, loud and reiterated, and then marched into the barracks, where we lay for 6 weeks; during which time, every necessary arrangement was made for our departure to the seige of Cadiz. Our regiment, along with the ——, and 93rd. constituted a brigade; the command of which devolved upon general Stewart. The intrepidity, and martial abilities of this distinguished officer, were far from being of an inferior kind. He braved every danger, and feared no enemy; and, by his frankness of disposition, and vivacity of imagination, he endeared to himself every soldier under his command. A few days previous to our leaving Lisbon for Cadiz, the whole of our arms and accoutrements was inspected by the commander in person. When the general came up to that part of the rank where I was stationed, he took my musket and examined it most minutely. Having surveyed it for a considerable time without uttering a single word, he at last

observed a small spot of rust on the lock, which attracted his attention. He then mildly looked me in the face, and pointing to the rust, observed, that one minute would suffice to expunge it. To this I answered, that it had escaped my observation. He paused a little at this, and observing me steadfastly, with an expression of playful astonishment in his countenance, abruptly demanded if my name was Eadie? and upon my answering in the affirmative, he exclaimed, "God bless me! are you a private of the —— regiment?" To this I replied with a hearty laugh, in which, of course, he joined. Our colonel who was at no great distance, upon seeing him engaged in conversation with me, came towards us and asked him if he and I were acquaint? To which he laughingly retorted "long before I was acquaint with you colonel." He then turned towards me, and with an air of kindness, gave me strict injunctions to call at his lodgings at such an hour in the evening of the same day. When the inspection was over, and the parade dismissed, I passed the interval in a state of the utmost anxiety. The hour at last arrived at which I had been invited to attend, and I lost no time in repairing to his house. As soon as I reached the gate I was asked by the centinel what I wanted?

I told him I wished to speak with general Stewart. I was instantly admitted, and being ushered into his presence, found him along with our colonel.

After my salutation, he returned the compliment with his usual cheerfulness of temper, and elegance of manner, and expressed his happiness at meeting me so accidentally, in a country, of which in our younger years we had never thought. He then asked me how long I had been in his Majesty's service? Then entering into conversation with the colonel, inquired as to the character I maintained in the army? He was answered that I was an excellent duty-man, but had always a strong propensity to quarrel and fight with many in the regiment; at this he laughed, and observed, that a complete change of morals had ensued; for having in his boyish years entered into habits of intimacy with me, he would have hesitated to give credibility to the assertion, had he been informed of it by an inferior; but, continued he, I may venture to state, that this disposition undoubtedly originates from provocation, the cause of which, if rigidly scrutinized, would at once give ample proof of what I have advanced. But at the same time, far be it from me even to insinuate that such conduct is justifiable, but rather aver that

it admits of no palliation; since it is equally calculated to incur censure, and excite displeasure. However, I am convinced, that he will, on reflection, see the impropriety of such a disposition, and thereby avoid those imputations which are incompatible with the discharge of the active duties of a soldier. Having said this, he generously put into my hand a liberal supply of what I then stood in need of, and after requesting me to continue my visits as long as he held the command, he rose from his seat, and with a gentle inclination of his head, bade me good evening, I returned the compliment and instantly withdrew.

In a few days after the inspection of our fire arms, we embarked and set sail for Cadiz; but it unfortunately happened, that the first division of our regiment landed 6 weeks before the second; during the interval of which, there appeared to be a gloom on every counteuance. We were absorbed in grief at the thought of our comrades being immerged in the waves of the Atlantic. The congratulations occasioned by the news of their having landed are almost indiscribable. No sooner did they appear in sight, than they were greeted with three loud cheers; and every soldier, vieing with another to testify

the esteem he had for his comrade, was making the air ring with the repeated shouts of welcome. Colonol —— Isla, a town of considerable extent, about seven miles distant from Cadiz, is situated on a rising ground, and from its position, was admirably calculated as a place where we could oppose the French army from approaching Cadiz. No sooner did the Junta leave Seville, than the enemy rushed in, and took possession of it. But as Cadiz, the most important city of all, remained yet to be taken, and if this was accomplished, it would in all probability determine the fate of the Peninsula. The enemy evacuated Seville with this intention, and advanced towards this town with their characteristic rapidity. In this anticipation, however, they were completely disappointed, for to their great mortification, when they had approached within cannon shot of the town, they received a salute from the batteries which were planted there. Seeing themselves foiled in capturing Cadiz, within 24 hours, as they insolently boasted, they commenced the usual operations, and pushed them on most vigorously; having erected their batteries and got every thing in preparation, they commenced firing, which was continued without interruption, by both parties, for the space of five months.

A great number of gun boats which lined a canal, kept up an incessant fire upon them. Some of which were sunk, and otherwise seriously damaged, by the grape that was poured among them. When the day was serene it permitted us to observe the smoke of every gun that was fired, and the place where the shot struck. Sometimes skimming along the surface of the ground with a velocity that its farther progress impaired every moment, and at last ceasing to roll before reaching the place for which it was destined. At other times, striking the ground and rebounding off it with terrific rapidity, it executed its commission in finishing the mortal career of some unfortunate individual. A 6 gun battery, situate at no great distance from that of ours, was under the superintendance of a patriotic engineer, who in rapid succession kept cannonading his enemies most furiously, till one day a shot from the enemy designated him as its victim, and deprived his country of his active services. His spouse, a woman remarkable for her masculine intrepidity, received permission from the Junta to succeed her husband in the command. In this art of defence she displayed her abilities to the astonishment of every beholder. Undaunted by the fate of her husband, and stimulated to vigorous

exertion, in order to revenge his death, she kept constantly discharging her cannons whose dreadful thunders menaced death to her opponents. Fearless of danger, when her body was oppressed with fatigue, she laid herself down on the bare ground for repose, with the most perfect composure of mind. Such prowess as this in a female, attracted the attention of general ——, who became quite transported with her bravery, and lavished the highest encomiums upon her. I have often felt particular pleasure at beholding this bellatrix mounted on a mule, with a hat and feather upon her head accompanying the general, who was always mounted on a sprightly steed. After a continuance of five months, during which no important advantages whatever were obtained by the French, it happened that our regiment, along with the 94th. received orders to reembark; the object for which we were destined being concealed. During our voyage every one was full of solicitation to know where we were ordered to go after landing at Portugal; but this our inquisitiveness could by no means discover. After a pleasant passage we arrived at Lisbon, where we landed in safety. Lord Wellington, after the battle of Talavera, directed his attention to the defence of Portugal; for which

cause he selected Torres Vedras, a place situate on the Tagus, to which he might speedily return with his troops, in case of the enemy's superiority of numbers. The position of this place was admirable; on the land side, all necessary supplies could be carried up the Tagus to it. Massena, at this time, being sent from Paris, took the command of the French army, and commenced his campaign in Portugal by storming Cuidad Rodrigo, which he took, after it had sustained a seige of one month. Finding himself thus successful, and not being opposed, he advanced towards Almeida, with the same intention. Having invested this fortress, he opened his trenches, and in a few days had erected eleven batteries, with which he commenced a most destructive fire. In the citadel there was a powder magazine which had blown up accidentally, and occasioned a most serious calamity. Great numbers of the inhabitants who had repaired there for protection from the shot and shells of the besiegers, were literally blown to atoms. More than one half of the town was in ruins, before Massena obtained possession of it. Upon its reduction, he advanced, elated with hope, into Portugal. Lord Wellington, retreated slowly before him

until he came to a chain of lofty mountains, called Sierra de Busaco, up whose steep and rugged sides, he conducted his army, and occupied their summits.

After remaining a few days at Lisbon, we proceeded on our route, and in a short time reached Combaia, where we halted. Upon our arrival, express orders came for every man to get three days provisions served out. This being done, we resumed our march, and shortly after came to the foot of Busaco, where we made a halt. About midnight the bugles blew, and every one issued forth to the parade ground. The command to advance was soon after heard, and we commenced climbing the hill. When we had ascended a considerable way, the continued discharge of musketry, and firing of cannon, was distinctly heard, and which the darkness of the night rendered truly awful. When we arrived at our position in the line, twilight had not dappled in the East. A detachment of different regiments, amounting to 200 men, under the command of a field officer, three captains, and some subalterns, was sent to piquet, and as it happened to be my turn for duty, I was included in the number. We then began to descend the face of the hill, which I found was more difficult than ascending. Before reaching the bottom of

the hill, we halted; and placed a range of sentinels in our front. When day light began to appear, the enemys piquets discovered our sentinels, and commenced firing at intervals upon them. Our field officer immediately commanded eighteen men from the left of the piquet, to go down and dislodge that of the enemy from its position. As I was stationed in this part, I was one of the party. Headed by one of our captains, we began to move forward, but had not proceeded many paces when a ball from the enemy whizzed through my bonnet; at this I was somewhat alarmed, but resuming my courage, I resolved to do my duty. The firing, which was now become rapid and heavy, made us quicken our pace. To dislodge them was not a matter of long contest; for after a few rounds of our musketry they wheeled about and fled towards the French lines, whither we pursued them, before aware of our danger. Volleys, in rapid succession, were poured amongst us. In our career we were instantly checked and thrown into confusion. To the eye the scene was now dreadful. My companions were falling thickly around me. The first that got his death wound was our captain.—The shot which he received, penetrated his heart; in

a strong convulsive fit he sprung from the ground, and falling directly backwards, lay prostrate, without making a struggle or uttering a sigh. Bewildered, and confounded, I looked around, and found that I was left alone, and exposed to the fire of the enemy, whose bullets were showering about my head like hailstones. My situation, at this time, may be more easily conceived than described. I shouldered my musket, which was loaded, and retired with haste from this little field of carnage. I had not proceeded far, when three of the enemy's piquets, who had concealed themselves in the adjoining thickets, suddenly started out presented their muskets at me, and fired, but missed their object. I discharged the contents of mine at them, but did not wait to observe if my shot had taken effect. I then directed my course towards the hill, pursued by my enemies, who kept continually firing at me; having reached the foot of the hill, I began to climb its steep side, with very faint hope of ever attaining the summit. The farther I advanced in my ascent, the more exhausted I became. The day was exceedingly warm. I had a heavy knapsack upon my back, to which was attached a ponderous bill hook. that we used in cutting down our fire wood; and as it happened to be

my lot to carry it on the preceding day, I got no time to deliver it up when ordered upon this duty. Overcome with fatigue, I was ultimately compelled to sit down, though exposed to the greatest peril. In such an elevated situation, I was a most prominent object to that part of the French lines opposite to where I was. Before I had obtained many moments repose, the musket shot of the enemy was striking every place around me, whilst I remained uninjured like an enchanted person from fairy land One of these, however, came so nigh my person, that it carried away the shoulder strap of my knapsack. At this circumstance, which I deemed a sufficient warning for me to proceed, I rose up, and collecting all the strength I had, strained every nerve till I reached the main body of the piquet. The commander, to whom my appearance excited the greatest alarm, asked me with surprise, what had become of all the rest? and enquired particularly about the captain. To these interrogatories I was utterly unable to make any reply. My jaws were parched, and my tongue considerably swollen; for having that morning fired above 70 rounds, the gun powder which got into my mouth by biting the ends off the cartridges, increased my thirst, Seeing the state in which I

was, he hastily exclaimed, "my God if I have one drop of rum in my flask, you shall have it." Then seizing his flask, he shook it, and to his great delight, found it contained some of that genial beverage. Having filled a glass he put it into my hands; when I had drank it, I instantly experienced its salutary effects. My tongue, which was formerly deprived of moisture, now received abundance of it; and I was enabled to rehearse to him the tale of woe; at the recital of which, he was exceedingly affeoted. Being again served with 70 rounds of cartridges, I took my station in the piquet, which shortly after commenced firing down upon the light troops of the enemy. By this time the skirmishing had become general along the front of the whole line, and numerous individuals were dropping their mortal vestments to appear before the tribunal of the Omnipotent. One of my acquaintances, who had his station next me, received a shot in his left eye; he fell back upon the rock, where after a few short struggles, he expired. After firing two rounds, and in the act of discharging a third,—after his fall,—the flint of my fire-lock gave way; a circumstance which induced me to fall out, in order to replace it. The officer who commanded the company, demanded my

intentions for doing so? I told him. He seemed satisfied, and then waved his hand as a signal of his compliance. My place was instantly occupied by a corporal, who about two minutes afterwards received a mortal wound, which speedily terminated his existence. I seriously thought within myself, that had I remained there longer I would have undoubtedly shared his fate. This reflection produced a temporary fear, which can by no means be imputed to pusillanimity. I looked upon the individual who was subjugated by this principle, in time of open combat, as exposed to the greatest peril, and that he who performs his duty with active courage was the most secure.

Having fixed my flint with these considerations, I sprung forward to my place, and again commenced the work of death. I had fired about thirty rounds, when we were unexpectedly relieved by another piquet; and in order to avoid the fire of the enemy, which might prove more destructive to us when retiring in a body, we were ordered to march off in small detached parties. In this manner we proceeded up the hill, and reached the summit in safety, when each joined his respective regiment in the line. About three o'Clock the skirmishing ceased. The enemy being

completely baffled in his attempts to dislodge our troops from the heights above him. Early on the following morning, the right and left of our army were attacked. That on the left was rather concealed from my view, but I obtained a full prospect of the enemy's proceedings on the right. A massy column of infantry was seen ascending the hill, and advancing towards the right. To arrest them in their progress, and frustrate their designs, the 88th regiment was ordered to lie down on the brow of the hill, and by so doing, they successfully escaped the observation of the approaching enemy. Having come within a few yards of them, the word of command was given, and in an instant they sprung to their feet. At this critical moment, all eyes were directed towards the attacking columns; every one was filled with anxiety for the event. Struck with surprise at the sudden and unexpected appearance of such a body of men, they made a momentary pause, but before they had recovered themselves, they received a discharge of musketry that was most dreadful in its effects: they were thrown into complete confusion. Dead bodies were tumbling over the living, and both rolling promiscuously down the steep side of the mountain. Those who were in the rear, upon hearing of such a

disastrous rencounter, turned their backs and fled. In the left, they were repulsed with equal success and gallantry. Our whole loss in this action, amounted to about killed and wounded. The Portuguese, who fought with the most determined bravery, suffered severely. The enemy thus baffled in all his attempts upon the heights to force our position, had immediate recourse to turn it; but Lord Wellington finding that he could not oppose the enemy on plain ground, resolved to retreat with all possible speed towards Torres Vedras.

When we left the rugged and towering heights of Busaco, night had enveloped all things in its mighty shade. The sky, which formerly had began to lower, was now overcharged with dark watery clouds, from whose bosoms torrents of rain descended. Continuing our retreat under these circumstances, we halted at the dawn of day, and partook of a little biscuit, and drank of the rain water which had fallen so copiously during the night. Being thus refreshed, we again formed in marching order, and commenced our movement. For some days we proceeded thus in the face of the French army, till we arrived at the place of our destination, and there entrenched ourselves against the fire of

the enemy. Massena having encamped, both armies for some time remained inactive. But upon reconnoitring the position of our line, he saw that an attempt to force it would be utterly ineffectual, and as a scarcity of provisions was already felt in his camp, he became apprehensive of exposing his army to all the calamities of a famine In such an emergency, and under such feelings, he commenced his retreat. No sooner were news of his departure communicated, than stimulated by the hopes of attacking him when exhausted by hunger and fatigue, we broke up from our entrenchments, and pursued him in our turn. We had long and rapid marches without meeting any opportunity to favour our design. This was one of those arduous tasks that the French generals had so often to accomplish during this destructive war. The country which had formerly been exposed to the sweeping devastations of our army, when retreating from Busaco, exhibited the dreary aspect of a wilderness. No trace of a human being could be discovered. Nothing but deserted houses in ruins, met the wandering eye. Though such was the appearance of this tract of the country, yet with so great alacrity did the hardy sons of France press forward under the most severe privations and complicated

hardships, as frustrated our intentions, and discomfited our attempts to harass or annoy them. Seeing this, we relinquished the pursuit, and withdrew to Cartaxo, and there remained in winter quarters till the close of the year. Massena now advanced, and arrived at Santarem, where he also halted, doubtless with as much joy as the sailor, who, after encountering the tempestuous storms of the ocean, seizes the first port that chance throws in his way. Thus did the campaign in Portugal terminate, which, owing to the talents and intrepidity of a consummate general, confessedly the first captain of the age, was conducted with admirable skill and gallantry; and which did not fail to add another lustre to the military renown of the British Empire.

On the same day that the battle of Barrossa was fought, Massena departed from Santarem, a circumstance which we did not know till two days after. A very ludicrous stratagem which he devised, was the occasion of this:—He posted for sentinels, wooden men dressed in the French uniform, each holding a large stick instead of a musket. This fraud was first detected by one of our out-piquets; who upon firing a round or two, found them to remain motionless, like the parent tree from which they were cut. A soldier was

instantly dispatched to ascertain whether their apprehensions were real. Having approached within a few yards of them, lo! what was his astonishment, when, instead of Frenchmen, he gazed upon inanimate objects. Word of the enemy's having left Santarem speedily reached head quarters, which created much alarm and confusion. The out-piquets were immediately called in, and three days rations served out to each regiment. In a short time we all got under arms, and marched rapidly in pursuit of the fugitives. In the evening of the same day on which we set out, we arrived at the banks of a river of considerable magnitude, having a rapid flowing stream, and in no place fordable. Over it a bridge had been thrown, but the enemy, determined to adopt every scheme that might in any way tend to retard our progress, had blown it up. We tarried here some hours until a military bridge was erected. As soon as this was accomplished, we passed over in safety, and continued to advance till the shades of night closed around us. Having pitched our camp, I laid myself down, wrapt in my blanket, upon the green grass. Then thanking the Ruler of the Universe for his gracious protection and invoking a, blessing on the repose of the night, I closed my eyes and "nature's

fond muse" in balmy slumbers stole gently upon me. In this state I remained until Aurora opened her eastern chambers and announced the dawning day. I awoke with fresh vigour infused through every limb, and mingling with the bustle of the camp prepared for another march. In a short time the sun bursting forth, found us again in the pursuit. We had not proeeeded above five miles when we came up with their fires blazing in the middle of a wood, which was a sufficient indication of its having been the spot where they had taken up their bivouac. Upon one of these fires I was successful enough in finding a goats head. I seized it with haste, but I had to repent my rashness, my hands were so much burned that I had to let it drop; compelled though I was to do so, yet I felt much reluctance to forsake such a dainty. I threw off my haversack aud got it rolled into it. Having by this secured it from injuring my fingers, which were yet suffering from the late effects of its touch, I restored my haversack to its former place. It was not, however, long there when I felt my back become warm, and to such a degree did the heat increase as made me imagine that a fire would be immediately kindled upon my haunches. Amidst much

laughter, I was forced to expose it to the light of day, when, my companion, who only anticipated my design, made his foot come in such violent contact with it, as produced a velocity that might have proved fatal to any of the feathered tribe!

Before night came on, Massena and his army appeared in view, and when he pitched his camp, we did the same. For four successive days the enemy continued to retreat before our army, during which time no engagement took place, until we reached a defile situated between Rodhina and Pombal. At the end of this narrow pass he left two regiments, which, from the nature of the place, occupied a strong position. As these were apparently determined to resist a passage, a column of our troops was led up to punish them for their audacity. The attack commenced in grand style, and was by the enemy, for some time, supported with firmness; but finding themselves at last unable to stand opposed to such furious charges, they completely gave way, and retreated in great haste to the main body of the army. Advancing without further molestation, we fell in with upwards of 400 asses, which the enemy, from a refinement of cruelty, peculiar to rude and vindictive minds, had treated in a most shocking manner. The

road was thickly strewed with their carcases, and tinged with their blood,—great numbers having their throats and, almost all, the sinews of their houghs cut;—some of these poor, dumb, useful animals, which were still alive when we reached that spot, had their existence only protracted for a more dreadful fate. Our artillery carriages, on which were mounted some ponderous guns, being unavoidably dragged over them, mangled them under their crushing wheels in the most horrible manner. When we passed this place I held my eyes away from beholding such a spectacle, and for a while could not help revolving with what inhumanity, man,—mortal man,—exercised his dominion over the brute creation.

In the evening we arrived on the margin of a large river, in the fording of which I experienced much inconvenience. On the opposite bank stood a rugged precipice, up which it was necessary that our artillery should be drawn. To accomplish this, occupied the greater space of two hours; and during all the time I remained standing almost to the middle in water; my footing was extremely bad, owing to the large stones that overspread the channel of the river. Having eaten very little for two days, I felt myself almost too weak

to withstand the rapidity of the current. Often did I think that I would be forced to give way to the torrent, and as often did I long for a grasp of the opposite side. But the time came when I extricated myself from so dangerous a situation; and with as much joy did I touch the shore, as the Trojan Youth, when handling the ropes that dragged into their city the baleful gift of the Greeks to the Goddess Minerva! The sky, which was formerly illuminated by the presence of a glorious sun, was, before our forces had got over, changed into clouds of darkness; in consequence of which, several of our women, along with their children, when in the act of crossing it, were sepulchered in its resistless waters. Our army, instead of remaining here, although it was now dark, advanced to a place about a mile distant, where it took up a position until morning. Upon the top of the eminence, that skirted the further edge of the river, stood a solitary convent; the residence of a race of beings whose predeliction it was to live secluded from the customs and pursuits of all social intercourse. It was in this mansion that our general took up his abode for the night. A guard, consisting of 20 men, was accordingly mounted here, of which number I had the honour to make

one. After we had remained a considerable part of the night upon this duty, we all found ourselves assailed acutely by hunger. As we had nothing to appease it, two of our number were released to go in quest of some provisions. Having consumed a lucky half hour rummaging various places for the desired object, kind fortune at last threw it in their way.—It was living goats. When they appeared dragging these stubborn creatures, we rejoiced at the success with which their scrutiny had been attended, and calculated on the good cheer we were about to have; as they also announced to us their discovery of a cask of Akadent, we individually repaired to the spot, and filled our canteens with this beverage. We then dispatched our goats, and long ere the eastern clouds began to change their appearance, had them cooked and eaten, and as much of the liquor drank as propriety suggested.

In the morning, being released from this duty, we proceeded in sobriety to our respective companies in the regiment, and distributed among our companions what remained in our canteens. Shortly after this, we received our rations; which, though small and inadequate to our then wants, were received with every mark of gratefulness. In consequence of such a

scarcity of provisions in this place, it was afterwards denominated the "hungry camp." As soon as we had consumed our rations, (the work of a few minutes,) we commenced our march, which being continued without interruption, brought us to a town called Subigal, that the enemy had endeavoured to take possession of, but in this his attempts were unsuccessful. As we passed by this town, (for the enemy was driven out of it before our regiment came up,) I saw a great many lying dead who had fallen in the skirmish. I marked the awful change that had been produced in the visages of those who lay stretched on their backs. Perhaps, thought I to myself, a similar fate awaits me; and who can tell but that the very next time we engage the French lines, I may have closed my eyes from beholding for ever, all that is sublunary.

Continuing our march, we came to another town called Alldedaponta, in the vicinity of which we halted, and remained in cantonments for a considerable time. During the greater part of our stay here, the rain fell in such torrents as I never before witnessed; and which, if it had continued for the space of forty days, I am convinced, would have subjected the human race to the same fate of those

that lived in the days of Noah. The rivers which intersected the country had swollen to a great height, and overflowed their banks. In consequence of which, the commissaries were entirely prevented from getting provisions conveyed to us Never was I in such a state of starvation as at this time. For several days we were compelled to support ourselves with nettles and other wild herbs that the fields produced. Often when wandering about in search of these stinging plants, was my mind the haunt of solitary recollections:—The peaceful society that graced the hearth of my father's dwelling,—the halo of happiness that encircled the paths of my boyhood when traversing the verdant meads of Strathallan, — the lonely glens, and woody eminences that often courted my imagination to indulge in wild romantic reveries, arose bright before me and produced an emotion that thrilled through every vein.

> "Sweet mem'ry, wafted by thy gentle gale,
> "Oft up the stream of time I turn my sail!"

The memory is perpetually looking back, when we have nothing present to entertain us: it is like those repositories in animals that are filled with stores of food, on which they may ruminate when their pasture fails. One day when strol-

ling along, under the influence of such a pensive temperament, in quest of nettles, when by good chance I fell in with a large bed of them, growing luxuriantly by the side of a stream, on the further bank of which, one of our officers made his appearance. He first accosted me with "you are constantly among these green herbs, do they not bite you?" "No," I replied, "for the only method is to squeeze them well, and hold them fast."—"Have you any salt?" was his next question, "if you have any I will give you a dollar for an ounce of it." "Though it were to save your precious life," I retorted, "it would be impossible for me to grant your request." To this he said nothing, "but," continued he, "I am anxious to know how you cook them."—"I generally boil them for the space of two hours," said I.—"Are they tender then, if not, how do you get them swallowed?" In this particular, I told him I often encountered much difficulty, since I was oftentimes reluctantly forced, by the cravings of hunger, to apply my fore finger in putting them down my throat. At this he became convulsed with laughter, which made the tears run copiously from his eyes. It was not long, however, when this sudden transport began to subside, and in a great hurry he flung himself away, curs-

ing me for a rascal. Having gathered as many as I thought would suffice for two diets, I sought the road back to the camp, with a bundle under each arm. As I approached, I saw the officer standing along side of the colonel, to whom, it was evident, he was relating what had passed in his conversation with me. Not wishing to confront them at this time, I instantly changed the direction that I had intended to take, and continued plodding onward. The colonel observing this, called on me. When I came up to him, he saluted me with "well, Eadie, what do you intend to make of these nettles, of which you seem so careful?"—"Indeed colonel," I replied, "my principal food has consisted of *nettle kail* for some days past!"—"Nettle kail!" he exclaimed, as if surprised at the expression, "the coarsest fare that any old wife in Scotland can set before the filthiest of all domestic animals,—the hog,—do you really subsist on such unsavoury meat?"—"I can assure you, colonel, in good earnest," I answered, "that such is my daily support, but I hope to see better times shortly." "And that you will," he hastily responded, "nothing can impart greater satisfaction to me than to see and hear a contented soldier." Upon this, I went away, and soon afterwards found myself among my

comrades, to whom I related the conference I had had with the colonel and the officer, the subject of which was nettle kail.

The left wing of the Allied army having about this time assembled on the heights of some eminences, called Albuera, encountered the French lines there, under the command of Marshal Soult, in a bloody and mournful engagement. Early on the morning on which it was fought, the right flank of the British army, consisting of Spaniards, was attacked by a body of the enemy, led on by Soult, who instantly drove them from the position which they had occupied, and thus gained possession of those important summits, that raked and commanded the whole British army. To dislodge them from such an advantageous position, general Stewart led on his division, the first brigade of which, when in the act of forming line, was attacked by a numerous body of Polish lancers, who, concealed by the rain that fell in torrents, they took for Portuguese cavalry. Charging them, under this mistake, they were thrown into complete confusion, and thereby occasioned a fearful havoc. To repair this disaster the third brigade was immediately destined. With a hearty British cheer it commenced climbing the side of the hill, with the in-

tention of charging the enemy with the bayonet, on the heights; having gained these, they found themselves exposed to a destructive fire of musketry and artillery; and, what was still more galling, the possibility of charging them was preluded by a small ravine, that lay betwixt them and the enemy. In such a situation of dreadful exposure as this, the carnage in the ranks of our troops was tremenduous. The officers, who bore the most conspicuous part, fell in every direction. The gallant general Houghton, while leading on his men to this unfortunate charge, received a wound which terminated his existence. With success did the battle rage on the side of the French, until the arrival of the Fusileer brigade;—in an instant, the enemy was assailed,—driven from the heights which he occupied, and forced down the hill. The scene was appalling; our troops, now unnanoyed, stood firm on the edge of the summit, and, in rapid succession, poured volley after volley, upon their now defenceless opponents; who rolled in masses down the sides of the hill. Thus was this murderous struggle brought to a termination, and the smoke, which in lazy volumes rested around the foot of the eminence, hid for a while the awful discomfiture from view. Though I was not

engaged in this sanguinary contest, and, of course, shared no part of its trials, yet from the immense and almost equal loss which both armies sustained, amounting to no less than 14,000 men, I have taken the liberty to detail the leading events of that terrible day, hoping that I shall be exculpated for doing so.

Having continued in cantonments for the space of , we were aroused from this nameless period of inaction by the horrid sounds of war, which were yet waxing louder and louder throughout continental Europe, and striking a deeper terror into the minds of her already dismayed inhabitants. The small village of Fuentos de nava, was the spot where our forces were concentrated. On the day following our arrival, Massena, having crossed the river Agueda, and taken up his position at no great distance from the same village, gave every indication of his intention to dispute the possession of it. Towards the afternoon, he commenced carrying his views into execution; and, having made a vigorous attack upon it, which produced a smart engagement, he succeeded in the attainment of his desired object. He had not, however, long time to calculate upon the advantage resulting from his capture; for, before the dusky evening appeared, he

was driven out of it in as gallant a style as he could wish. In the undisputed possession of this village we remained that night. The ensuing morning was spent in manœuvering, but the next was a day of conflict and of death. Shortly after both armies had taken up their respective positions, our flank companies being sent out to the front of the lines, commenced skirmishing, but were soon forced to give ground, owing to the French columns advancing so rapidly and heavily upon them. The lines now advanced. Our regiment was opposed to the 8th. of Buonaparte's imperial guards, upwards of 1500 strong. We gave them four successive volleys, and then closed upon them with the bayonet. Dreadfully destructive was this unsheathed weapon, and never was it more nimbly handled in a field of battle than at this time. They fell in heaps before it. Never can any pen pourtray the horrors of such a scene. Pressing forward, and presenting the purple steel to those that remained, we trampled upon the dead, the dying, and the wounded, alike unheeded and unheard. The remains of this apparently formidable corps, amounting to 400, terrified at the awful slaughter which our bayonets had occasioned, turn-

ed about and fled with precipitation. We were not long, however, without an enemy. A body of fresh troops, seemingly as superior in number as the former, wheeled in with astonishing rapidity, and filled up the vacuum. To charge these troops, our colonel, after a brief, but animating address, put spurs to his horse, and waving his hat, led us on. Never will the appearance he had at this time be eradicated from my mind;—his bright sparkling eyes, which manifested the courage of his breast;—his martial aspect, delightful to gaze at, and the tone in which he uttered his address, all showed that he was a true warrior; but, alas! it was the last time he was ever to head us on the battle field, or inspire us with his words.

As we advanced to the charge, the enemy commenced a discharge of musketry; at this instant I saw the reins drop from his hands, and in the next, he tumbled to the ground. By the faithful zeal of those that ran to afford him assistance, he was speedily borne from the field. He survived only a few days. His death was lamented by every one who was under his command. When we came to the charge with the bayonet, the person with whom I had to encounter in this trying and dreadful moment, exhibited rather an athletic ap-

Lt. Col. Philip Cameron.

pearance. With infuriated looks he assailed me, and thrust the point of his bayonet into my chin; but by a sudden retrogression, I got rid of it. Without losing one moment's opportunity, I rushed on him, and putting by his musket, which he still presented in as elevated a position as formerly, I burried my bayonet in his breast. I speedily extricated my steel; he fell, and was numbered among the slain. Though our charge was again successful, yet the battle continued to rage in this place, as hot, and sanguinary as ever, from the heavy columns of infantry that kept pouring in upon us. We had not received any orders to retire, nor had any regiment come to our support. Our ranks were getting very thin. We had two captains killed, and all our ensigns fell in this battle. Major ———, of the 42nd, came and took the command of our distressed regiment. He saw that a mournful duty had devolved upon him, but with a countenance that bespoke intrepidity, and lively hopes of success, he addressed us as follows:—"Men of the 79th! The honour of commanding and leading you into action, has this day been conferred on me. You have already achieved many things by your gallantry, and I hope that

your brave exertions, in what yet remains to be accomplished, will in the end be crowned with glorious success. Let us then meet the enemy, my brave fellows! and may the LORD protect and bless us!" At the conclusion of this animating address we again joined in combat. My comrade at this time received a shot through the body. He lingered a few hours until his spirit, emancipated irom its earthly tenement, winged its way to the throne of the Creator who gave it existence. Bullets were flying like hailstones, and on every hand of me, various persons were dropping off the stage of time, into the boundless ocean of eternity. Whilst I alone remained as scaithless and uninjured as if it had only been a dream that arrested my midnight slumbers. Being thus so hotly engaged in repelling the almost overwhelming numbers of the enemy, the 88th., or Connaught Rangers, was sent to our assistance. As they were just descending from a rising ground immediately behind us, they fired a volley over our heads. This was a most terrible discharge of musketry, and in its effects it was awfully destructive. The French column, which seemed to threaten us with instant annihilation, wavered, and before it had time to recoil, another salute served to

complete its confusion. The havoc which was now made among the French troops was dreadful. It was in vain that they showed resistance; they were completely repulsed on every hand, and driven from the field.

Massena in this desperate attempt to relieve Almeida, (which, being the only fortified town that the French were now in possession of at this time, was closely invested by a body of our troops, under the command of Sir Brevit Spencer,) lost upwards of 6000 men. When our regiment was mustered, it was found to have lost 2 captains, 17 other officers killed and wounded, and 370 privates. Many of these were individuals with whom I lived on the most intimate footing of friendship; their loss was deeply deplored. They had fallen far from their country, and perchance had left a solitary widow, an aged mother, or a plighted sweatheart, who, in the effusion of their tender affections, would often drop to their memory the tribute of a tear!

Fatigue parties were sent out from each side to remove their wounded and bury their slain. The utmost complacency and joviality prevailed among the British and French soldiers, when sepulchring the remains of their departed countrymen.

Nothing of that hostile disposition, which had previously impelled each other to the combat, was evinced. National animosity, and National prejudices, seemed to have been dropt and forgotten. Through this mass of mortality as I stalked, feelings of no ordinary kind oppressed my soul. Well has war, thought I to myself, been emphatically styled the scourge of mankind; it maketh countries, teeming with population, desolate as the wilderness. It cutteth short the airy hopes, and golden dreams of thousands of mankind; and, with one fell sweep, lays in the dust a Nation's pride, and future greatness. It is upon such an occasion as this, that our common humanity appeals to the heart of even the stern soldier; and that religious feelings, which may lurk dormant in the breast, assert their due influence. Brought up as I had been in those sacred principles which direct early education in our favoured native land, I have ever, through all the trials and emergencies of my wanderings, found their impressions a solace; and cannot think that I am guilty of egotism, when I declare that I never found my courage less steady, or my bravery blunted, for thus occasionally considering in their true colours the fortunes

and hopes of a *full private* on the blood-stained field of glory.——

> "There the still varying pangs, which multiply
> "Until their very number makes them hard
> "By the infinities of agony,
> "Which meet the gaze, whate'er it may regard.—
> "The groan, the roll in dust, the all-white eye
> "Turned back within its socket,—these reward
> "Your rank and file by thousands, while the rest
> "May win, perhaps, a ribbon at the breast!!"
>
> BYRON.

Having surveyed for a while this scene of desolation, I returned amidst serious reflections, to the place where our regiment lay, and spent the remainder of the day in such a manner a became as child of transitory existence.

The attention of Lord Wellington was next directed to the siege of Badajos, which was by this time commenced. He accordingly repaired to the storming of this fortress, which constituted another great obstacle to be surmounted by British valour, in paving the way for the restoration of tranquillity to the Peninsula. Shortly after his arrival, the besiegers, animated by his presence, pushed on their operations with so much vigour, that they made a breach in the walls; but such was the address of the governor, and the

desperate resolution of his troops, that his Lordship was ultimately forced to raise the siege, and retire with his forces, without having effected any advantage by this enterprise. But a time, which lay concealed in the decrees of fate, was with the revolving seasons about to appear, when her walls should tumble down before the thunders of the British cannon, and the strength of her defenders be enervated and laid low.

We remained in winter quarters at ——, till the genial influence of the opening year, admonished us to take the field, and prepare for "death or victory!" Our campaign was now about to commence, by attacking Cuidad Rodrigo, a town situated on the frontiers of Portugal; the capture of which would be as important to the Allies, as the loss would be great to those that sustained it. Having assembled our forces, we set forward on our expedition, crossed in our route the Coa, and shortly afterwards came in sight of Cuidad Rodrigo. As soon as this fortress was infested, we made an assault upon one of the outworks, which, from the gallant style it was attacked, we had the pleasure of seeing in our hands. A few days after this, our division, under the command of general Graham, took a detachment of the enemy

in a convent adjoining the town. On the following day, our batteries, amounting to three, opened their fire from the first parallel. The advantage which resulted from the incessant discharging of these heavy guns was very great; since, under the cover of their well directed fire, we approached as nigh the city as enabled us to secure a second parallel. There other batteries were erected with the utmost dispatch, and which commenced their threatening devastations with the rest. In a short time the walls exhibited such extensive breaches, that the storming of the place was determined on. To effect this terrible enterprise, the troops were drawn up in five columns, consisting of general Pack's brigade, and the 31st. and light divisions. The third column under the direction of lieutenant general Mackinnon, was to be protected and supported in its attack upon one of the breaches by the two right columns. The 46th. and 53rd. regiments, and a detachment of the 95th., which belonged to the light division, composed the 4th column, and was under the conduct of major general Crawford. The 5th column was led on by general Pack, in order to make a false attack. Amidst the darkness of the night, these troops advanced slowly on their arduous

expedition. All was still as the silence of the desert, till they reached the parts for which they were destined. There the terrific onset commenced. The din of arms, and the shouts of the combatants, were heard to resound afar, through the gloom of the atmosphere. Though fearful was the havoc, and formidable the opposition, yet rank after rank with undismayed step advanced. The current of British valour was irresistable as the torrent that sweeps away in its course every thing that may oppose its progress. In less than an hour after the commencement of the assault, the town was in our possession. The loss which we sustained was great. The gallant major general Mackinnon, after he had gallantly conducted his brigade through one of the breaches, was blown to pieces, by the accidental explosion of a magazine. Major general Crawford in consequence of a wound which he received, did not long survive the capture of the place. Many other officers whose names and achievements shed a radience around the land of their birth, either fell, or were severely wounded in this memorable siege. Our loss amounted to about 1100 killed and wounded, and the Portugese 250. The French lost 3000 men, of whom 1700 were taken prisoners.

No sooner had Marmont received intelligence of the siege of Cuidad Rodrigo, than he collected his troops from their different cantonments, and came off in great haste to its relief. But it was too late. The flag of old Britian, unfurled to the wind, floated proudly over the elevated places of this conquered city. When news of this kind reached him, he instantly suspended his hasty advance, and retired to Salamanca. For some days we had hard labour in delapidating and repairing various parts of the town. But the victory, which was the perquisite of undaunted fortitude, supported us in every difficulty, and inspired us with the most sanguine hopes of seeing the cause in which we had embarked, terminate gloriously in the extermination of lawless intruders from the Peninsula.

Having put Cuidad Rodrigo in á state of repair, and left a strong Spanish garrison in it, instant preparations were made for another brilliant undertaking.

Our division, under the command of general Graham, in conjunction with two brigades of cavalry, crossed the river Guadina, and moved forward to Llerena, with the design of cutting off all communication betwixt Badajos and that quarter. Meantime, the rest of the troops having invested Badajos, the usual operations were

begun with the greatest alacrity. No obstacle could retard the exertions of the troops; though drenched with the rains that continued to pour down incessantly upon them. The result of such activity was in a few days the completion of six batteries, in the first parallel, opposite to an outwork called Picuvina. Immediately the menacing thunders of the cannon commenced. They had made the walls of Cuidad Rodrigo tumble to the ground, and they were also about to be no less destructive to the defences of Badajos. The night of the same day on which the batteries opened their fire, it was resolved to storm Picuvina. A detachment of 500 men, belonging to the third division, was destined for this attack. Under the cloud of night they moved forward, and after vanquishing various difficulties, they found their enterprise successful. This outwork was defended by 250 men, all of whom were either killed, or falling into the river Guadiana, were washed away by its swelling waters. On the capture of this, 25 pieces of cannon were planted nearer the body of the place. The fire from these was terrible and destructive. The places against which they were levelled exhibited breaches that in a short time were pronounced practicable. In consequence of

this, the storming of the town was determined on. The disposition of the attack was as follows:—Lieutenant general Pack, who commanded the third division, was to assail the castle by scaling it with ladders. The ravelin of St. Roque upon the left of the castle, was to be attacked by a detachment of the fourth division, under the direction of major Wilson, belonging to the 48th regiment. The remainder of the division was led on by major general Colville, to attack the bastions of Santa Maria, and La Trinidad. And the false attack was to be made upon one of the outworks, by lieutenant general Leith. The different divisions being thus arranged for such an arduous, and momentous undertaking, set out amidst the deepening gloom of night, to the respective places which they were to assail.

No noise disturbed the awful silence that then reigned, except the hollow murmuring waves of the Guadiana, as it hastened forward to pour its tribute into the ocean. Alas! how many were never more to see the morning dawn; but, mingling with the dust of their ancestors, would they sleep for ages on the banks of a foreign river, — their names *may* be

forgotten, but their achievements, enrolled in the annals of history, shall continue, like an unfading flower, to captivate with its perfume, succeeding generations.

At the entrance of the breaches, through which our troops were to force a passage, were planted numerous pieces of cannon, charged with round and grape shot, which commenced their destructive work as soon as our troops arrived in front of the bastions. The scene was appaling;—though rank after rank, as they advanced, was mowed down by these dreadful implements of death, yet they continued pressing forward to the very mouths of the cannon. The enemy, at such a terrible conjuncture, fought with the most determined bravery, and repulsed their assailants. Death, clothed in all its horrors, did not, however, intimidate our brave troops. Forward they again rushed, with all the fury of enraged combatants, and possessed themselves of the breaches. Behind these breaches were large ditches, in which pikes and old swords were so thickly planted, that those who fearlessly leaped into them, met speedily their awful fate. They were again compelled to give way before the enemy's artillery, which still continued to

sweep the passage with their terrific thunders :——

> "Again unto the breach, dear friends, once more,
> "And close the wall up with our English dead ! !"

A third time it was attempted, but it was yet ineffectual. What a dreadful scene of mortality was exhibited when the following morning was ushered in ! Though success did not attend their arduous labours in this quarter, yet it failed not to accompany lieutenant general Pack in his important enterprise ;—in the face of the most vigorous opposition, he, with his intrepid followers, succeeded in escalading the castle, and in little more than an hour and a quarter, was in possession of a place, the importance of which was as great, as the undertaking was arduous.

The Governor, general Philepon, upon seeing the castle (the most commanding place of the whole town) in the power of the besiegers, found that resistance was useless, and therefore fled with all his troops into St. Cristoval, where he remained until the following day, when he voluntarily surrendered. In this memorable siege, our loss amounted to 3860

British, and 1000 Portuguese, killed and wounded,—a great part of which were officers. The enemies' loss, in killed and wounded, during the whole siege, was 1200 men, besides 4000 that surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

Soult, upon hearing that the siege of Badajos was commenced, collected his troops from their different cantonments, and came off in all haste with this army, which amounted to 38,000 men, to its relief. Our division, under the command of general Graham, retired slowly before this force, to the memorable heights of Albuera,* where it halted, in order to encounter him if he chose to do so. But

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* When the particulars of the engagement at Albuera were written, I had not recollected the vividly descriptive, though gloomy lines, of the lamented and greatest Poet of his day, and cannot avoid affording room here for the concluding stanza :—

Oh, Albuera! glorious field of grief!
As o'er thy plain the Pilgrim pricked his steed,
Who could forsee thee, in a space so brief,
A scene where mingling foes should boast and bleed?
Peace to the perished! may the warrior's meed
And tears of triumph, their reward prolong!—
Till others fall where other chieftain's lead,
Thy name shall circle round the gaping throng,
And shine in worthless lays, the theme of transient song!

this he declined, upon finding that Badajos was captured, and deeming it more prudent to take cautious steps, he speedily withdrew to his former position.

Immediately upon this, our commander received orders to march his division to Badajos,—now a conquered city. When we arrived there, the town presented one scene of festivity. In every street soldiers were to be seen sitting on casks of wine, rum and brandy, and imbibing exhilerating draughts of these genial liquors. Others, bestriding the most valuable French steeds, were actively engaged in vending them to their officers. Money was wanting to none; dollars and dubloons replenished the purse of every one who had activity enough to look out for them. After partaking somewhat freely of the joys of Bacchus, as may be well conjectured, I repaired to a house, with the intention of being as dexterous as possible, in turning to my own account, whatever kind fortune might throw in my way. On entering, I found that it had already been visited; but I resolved to have a search. Shortly after I had commenced the work of searching, I lighted upon 80 dollars, deposited in a recondite corner; I was overjoyed at my success, and calculated on the advantage that should result from it, little thinking

how soon I was to be deprived of them. Being much fatigued, I laid myself down, and was not long in this reclining position when Morpheus gently stole upon me. How long I remained in this state I cannot say; but, as soon as I awoke, I found to my great mortification, that my valuable haversack,—valuable on account of the treasure lately found, and which it contained,—was cut from my shoulders. Musing a while on this unlucky accident, I consoled myself with the old adage, "*The thing that comes light, gangs light!*"

In a few days after this, headed by our illustrious general, we left Badajos, and proceeded in a northern direction, with the design of repelling Marmont, who had by this time entered Portugal. On our advance, after having crossed the Tagus, we saw the object of our present expedition advancing towards us. But so great was the surprise of the French general, at this rencontre, that without waiting to give battle, he instantly turned his back, and with all possible speed, retraced his steps to Salamanca. After the bridge at Almarez was captured from the French, in a brilliant engagement, by a detachment sent from the main body of our army, under the command of the gallant general

Hill, we again commenced our march, which, without being interrupted, brought us to the banks of the Agueda, a tributary stream of the Douro. Having crossed this river, we again advanced, and in two days arrived within a few miles of Salamanca. Here the enemy's forces, which covered the neighbouring eminences, were conspicuous; they were determined to defend them, but in the attempt they failed. This caused them to evacuate the town of Salamanca that same night, leaving 800 men to defend the forts St. Vicente, St. Cayetano, and La Merced. Salamanca, a town of great antiquity, is situated upon the river Tormes, over which a bridge of 25 arches is thrown. It has a population of 24,000 inhabitants, and is adorned with a University and Cathedral; besides numerous churches, and convents. On the morning of the following day, having reached Salamanca, we made preparations for attaining the opposite bank. To accomplish this, it was indispensible to have recourse to fording; for the bridge abovementioned, was so defended by the enemy's forts, that to hazard a passage over it would have been disastrous. Having therefore ascertained the possibility of fording it, we entered at two places, and got all safe to the opposite side. Our

division, then under the command of major general Clinton, got immediate orders to invest these forts, which were cheerfully complied with, and instantly done With the utmost vigour and alacrity we constructed a battery, mounting 8 pieces of cannon, which commenced their work of demolition. We experienced very great difficulties in this undertaking; for the situation and construction of these three forts were so ingeniously contrived, that an assault made on any one of them, could be almost rendered ineffectual by the protection which they afforded each other. After some breaches were made in fort St. Vincent, it was resolved to storm fort St. Cayetano, since the carrying of it, would put us in immediate possession of the former.

On the following night we advanced, headed by our general, to storm it; but, unfortunately, in spite of all the gallantry that was displayed, our attack proved abortive. Major general Bowes, who attended us in this unsuccessful enterprise, received a severe wound, which compelled him reluctantly to retire, and procure medical aid. Having got his bleeding wound bound up, with fearless intrepidity he again repaired to the attack; which, alas! he was not destined to survive; another

wound, more fatal than the former, served to terminate his mortal career. For some days our operations were suspended, until we received a fresh supply of ammunition. As soon as it was brought forward, we re-opened our battery with renewed vigour. The fire of which, being uninterruptedly kept up, soon effected a breach in one of the forts, capable of admitting troops to storm it. Fortunately, at this time, the smoke and flames that issued from another, announced to us that it was on fire. This was now a favourable opportunity for the assault; and accordingly instant preparations were made for the carrying of it into effect.

Being drawn up in close column, we moved slowly onwards to the opening; when we arrived there, a destructive shower of grape shot was the welcome which we received. Though numbers dropped lifeless to the ground, no halt or confusion was occasioned.—It was a signal for us to accelerate our steps, and hasten the hour of revenge. Opposition, the most daring, was shown, but it was in vain. Forward we rushed with the burnished steel, and drove them back with great loss. The superior power of the British bayonet is dreadful, and acknowledged by every one who ever stood opposed to it, in

the field of combat. Having thus braved every obstacle, we found ourselves, at last, in the actual possession of the fort called St. Cayetano.

Though the capture of this one was effected, yet there still remained many difficulties to be surmounted in the taking of the other two. To follow up our success, without loss of time, the escalading of fort La Merced was instantly determined on. Scaling ladders were applied ;—upon them we mounted, though furiously assailed, and gained the place at which we were to enter. Having acquired firm footing, we bore before us all opposition, and quickly silenced the galling struggle. The whole garrison being thus compelled to surrender, was afterwards marched out prisoners of war.

Having consigned these forts to ruin, in which 30 pieces of cannon fell into our hands, we joined the main body of the army.

Upon the surrender of the garrison, and the destruction of the forts, Marmont well aware that his stay in the neighbourhood of Salamanca would be attended with more disadvantage than he could well sustain, commenced his retreat.

At this instant, we got under arms, and kept close up with his rear. Arriving on

the banks of the Douro, Marmont conducted his troops speedily over it, and took up a strong position on the opposite side, which, from its ruggedness, and almost perpendicular ascent, is only accessible at one place. Without endeavouring to cross the river, we sat down over-against the enemy, and remained in the same position for some days, until the French general made a movement to the right. This change of position necessarily caused us to move to the left. In the afternoon of the same day, Marmont brought all his troops over the river, and marched away before the face of our army with a very rapid pace. Having, in a few hours, measured above 30 miles in so hasty an advance, he again crossed the river, and encamped.

For several days both armies continued thus manœuvring in the face of each other down the country, until they arrived on that spot where they were to join in memorable conflict. Upon the day preceding the glorious encounter, we entered a wood, within a few miles of Salamanca, in which we halted. Here, under the verdant boughs of this sylvan retreat, we tarried for about four hours. We then got orders for the march, which we obeyed

without sound of bugle, or beat of drum, and continued to advance in silence, until we reached the banks of the still rolling Tormes Having forded this river without much difficulty, the day, which a little before had begun to decline, now hade farewell to us for ever. Though darkness was coming on apace, yet we pressed forward till we attained the heights of Das Arapalis. In close column we formed, piled our arms, and sat down upon our knapsacks. We bad not remained long in this position, when peals of distant thunder began to break upon our ears. The gloom of the atmosphere, though now awful, was rendered still more so by the flashes of lightning, and the nearer approach of the thunder. The sky, surcharged with dark watery clouds, poured down upon us torrents of rain. Never was the morning light more anxiously longed for than at this time. My clothes were completely drenched. To stand erect was what I could not do, and in this uneasy state I was compelled to sit still In consequence of this, I was seized with a violent ague. Thoughts, mournful and depressing, filled my mind, such as have been often experienced by soldiers on the eve of battle. Vivid recollections of our early years will, on such occasions, flit accross the imagina-

tion with an enervating intensity, strangely at variance with that pitch of valorous determination which should then brace the mind :——

> " No fond regrets must Norman know,
> " When bursts Clan-Alpin on the foe,
> " His heart must be the bended bow,
> " His arm the arrow free, Mary!"

Dropping a tear therefore to "*auld lang syne*," I sighed as I reminded the sunny days, when I pressed the green sward, or climbed the steeps of the mountains of home; and the presentiment that I felt of my inability to perform my duty, on the imminent eventful morn, was painful and distressing. But the shades of night fled away, and with them was dispersed such a train of reflections.

No sooner had the dappled east announced the morn, than the shivering of my frame began to subside gradually. I suddenly felt the delightful influence of this happy change; grateful for which, I thanked the Father of Mercies for the never failing support of his invisible hand. The sun now burst from his Eastern couch and darted upon us his glorious beams.

As he continued to advance in his course, all around was lighted up like a vast theatre, and portended the coming tragedy which was about to stalk forth in blood,—the beating of drums,—the snorting and prancing of steeds, and the warlike notes of the Pibroch.

When both armies had occupied the ground in battle-array, the division to which I belonged, stood in reserve, on the right of the line, near the deserted village of Arapalis.

It was about 2 o'Clock, P. M. when the enemy extended his line to the left, under cover of his artillery, the roaring of which, was like one continued peal of thunder. This was the time at which the dreadful conflict began. On the left, the onset was fearfully grand; there nothing could withstand the bravery of the troops. A short time before the enemy turned out from the woods, our division, being in reserve, received general orders to cook, which we set about with all dispatch. It being my turn for this duty, I had just commenced kindling a fire, while one of my comrades was preparing the kettle; when my attention was irresistibly called off, by the striking sight which unfolded itself:—The French columns appeared covering all the opposite ground, and our lines being form-

ed, marched gallantly forward to meet them in the attack. The grand charge of the cavalry on the right, was perfectly splendid;—the glancing of the sabres, which burst like lightning from amid the clouds of dust, raised by the horses' feet,—the noble bearing of the rival ranks, whose compact marshalling seemed incapable of discomfiture,—the awful result of the next ten minutes to many of these proud, and noble hearts,—all formed a climax of moving excitement, from the very rapidity which they were whirling as a vision to be part of "a tale that is told!" During this scene however, we were in great danger at the camp kettles, as both shells and shot were coming thickly and rapidly from the enemy amongst us, occasionally exciting a smile at the ludicrous confusion which they caused, by striking a kettle, and upsetting its contents; the men scampering around to avoid being scalded, as they cursed the loss of the precious broth. Two of the cooks were killed before we left the ground; but as a precaution against what might equally have been my fate, I took care always to lie down flat on the ground, whenever I could perceive a shell coming in my direction, and which I had time enough to do. The whole of the lines

were closely engaged ere we had accomplished the business of cooking, but whenever that was effected, and the measures of beef boiled, the soup was emptied out, and the beef put into our haversacks, and we marched off the hill with the officer to join our division, which we found still lying in close column as a reserve. Just at the moment of our arrival at the regiment, a shell was thrown by the enemy that unpiled a whole company's arms, but luckily enough, no one received any hurt. Shortly afterwards the beef was divided into messes and each man received his welcome share, and as the most agreeable of all possible *desarts* to a party in our situation, an aid-de-camp came galloping up to our rear, crying out that the French were flying in every direction!—as he passed the place where I stood, a cannon shot struck his horse, and the poor animal fell under his rider, but he was instantly provided with a led horse, by a light dragoon who rode after him. By this time general Marmont was wounded.—He was struck by a shell near the right shoulder, and so severely, that he had to be carried off the field in a litter, by six grenadiers; at Penarando his arm was amputated. The French had been successively dislodged from their advantageous positions, and lost all the

artillery which they had placed there. After seven hours continued fighting, in which it is but justice to say, that the infantry, as well as the cavalry and artillery, of both nations, performed prodigies of valour, the enemy gave way on all sides. Our division was immediately ordered to join the light division, which we did at double quick time, and then the dreadful work of death began. Before us the crowding and disordered enemy was in full flight, while we sent volleys of shot with deadly effect after them. We thus continued the galling pursuit, at double quick time, during the remainder of that day, all night, and till 12 o'Clock on the morrow, before we got a halt. I declare that never before, or since, have I felt so perfectly tired.—We had so many large fields, covered with white stones, to pass, that our feet were much hurt; a great many prisoners, however, fell into our hands, but I confess, I thought the best thing to be taken alive, would be a sheep from the many flocks we passed on our way. Wearied as I was, I succeeded in catching a pretty fat one, which I got upon my back, and carried along in the march for nearly four miles till we halted. The captain of the company repeatedly called to me to let go my prize, but his mind was changed, when the sa-

voury smell of the mutton curled up from the cooking fire.—I could then almost have refused him a mess, for which he anxiously asked, but he partook along with some of my comrades.

The total loss of the enemy was at first estimated at 10 or 12,000, but afterwards, much more, when the immense number of prisoners had been taken. Many Eagles, —almost all the baggage, and an immense quantity of military stores, also fell into our hands. The loss of the Allies, in killed, wounded and missing, was, by the return afterwards made, 5879.

I had searcely recovered from the fatigue of pursuit, when I was attacked by a severe dysentery.—I was reduced so weak that it was with difficulty that I could keep my seat upon a mule, upon which I was sent to Salamanca. Here, all the Convents, and Colleges, which had been nearly reduced to ruins by the French, were put into a state of repair, and fitted up in the best way possible as Hospitals. These were, unfortunately, but too well filled by the sick and wounded, of whom, numbers died every day.

After suffering much here, I recovered, and joined the regiment two or three days previous to the seige of Burgos. I need not say much on the unfortunate issue of

this affair, which it is well known, had to be raised, for want of a sufficient number of battering cannon, with the loss of a great number of men. I was destined to suffer before this well defended fortress, having received a musket shot through my thigh, which put me again to the rear. Along with a great many more of the army, I was sent to a town in Portugal, called Sallerica, and was humbled and astonished at the number of sick soldiers who then filled it. Every house had as many as it could possibly accommodate, and hundreds were lying without shelter in the streets. Rest and quiet, the proper attendants of distress, were neither of them to be enjoyed here; at last it was deemed absolutely necessary to disperse us through the country villages in cantonments, where the Churches, as usual, opened their portals to shelter and protect the drooping stranger in an enemy's land.

One night as I lay upon the cold, damp flagstones of a Church, the vaulted roof of which rung throughout the night with the low murmuring groans of the poor fellows who occupied the floor in rows; I happened to be placed between two men who did not seem particularly dangerous. We had talked of our sufferings and what we had come through.—My last faint recollec-

tion, ere I dozed over in a broken snooze, was the wild notes of a song by one of my companions:——

"Then who would not die with the brave?"

In the morning when the Orderlie man came to visit us, he asked me how we were? I told him that I did not feel my comrades stirring much. He looked at them,—they were both stiffened corpses! but I could not rise up from them. The Orderlie man took me by the legs and hauled me away to another situation. I felt, at this time, quite careless of myself; my spirit was much depressed and I hardly believed but that the worst change would have been relief,! at length we got some bedding, which rendered us a little comfortable, and, as God would have it, I gradually began to eat a little. The principal food served us here, was boiled rice and a little goats' milk.

After a considerable period, spent in the dull, cheerless monotony of the worst of sick beds, a Staff-Surgeon of the name of C——ns, visited us. He kindly enquired where I came from, and finding me a Countryman of his own, he proved very

attentive. I was furnished with a little wine and barks every day, which strengthened me much. The Doctor, besides his medical assistance, knew what it was to "minister to a mind diseased," and always gave me great heartening. At last I forced myself to get up and tried to walk, but my head was light and I very weak. The help of the Orderlie man, however, enabled me to sit down by the door, where the fresh air, so different from the miasmatic atmosphere in which I had been cooped, speedily wrought a change, and I could wander to a little distance from the house of death, where the poor soldiers were dying in dozens every day.

At this time I was employed in defending the grave ground, fertilized with the blood of so many of my fellow soldiers.—Strange! thought I, as I sat on my lonely duty, that so long as aught of organization remains, man is not safe from his tormentors! The soil of the ground was a soft sand, and the lean wolf dogs which assembled nightly to their horrible carnival,—"gorging and growling o'er carcase and limb,"—had to be narrowly watched, or they would dig up a corpse in a few minutes. To shoot and keep at bay these despoilers of the tomb therefore, revenged

and diverted my dark reflections; but still there was something disagreeable about it:——

"There is something of pride in the perilous hour,
"Whate'er be the shape in which death may lower,
"For Fame is there to say who bleeds,
"And Honour's eye on daring deeds!
"But when all is past, it is humbling to tread
"O'er the weltering field of the tombless dead,
"And see worms o' the earth, and fowls of the air,
"Beasts of the forest, all gathering there;
"All regarding man as their prey,
"All rejoicing in his decay!"

SIEGE OF CORINTH.

Getting gradually better, it was proposed that I should march as a convalescent, to do small fatigues. It was afterwards thought that I would perfectly recover, were I sent back to Sallerica, and it was exceedingly fortunate for me that I went. I had not been many days there, when I was told by the sergeant of the tippo, to have a general's house cleared next day, and have fires on by Eight o'Clock in the morning.

Feeling happy to be again actively employed, I had every thing to rights by the appointed time, but my surprise may be

guessed, when the general, whose servant I was, proved to be my old friend, The Honourable general Stewart, who had come to join his division. He came into the room accompanied by the Commandant of the town, and a General Doctor, who were both rather astonished when they saw the general at once grow familiar with me. "Are you not yet tired of the army?" said he. I said no, and that I thought of joining my regiment in a short time.—Seeing me, however, in bad health, and, perhaps desirous, in his own kindly way, to do me a service, he condescendingly enquired if I would not like to see Scotland again? Leaving the decision to himself, he looked at the Doctor, who spoke of my going to a Veteran Battalion; but the general thought it might be as well for me to remain in the regiment.

It was at last agreed, that as a board of Surgeons was to sit the week following, I should go and pass there. I have ever found, that officers of whatever rank, who are overbearing and cruel to the men, uniformly exhibit a despicable reverse of this lofty hauteur, when before their superiors. Let the highest declare, however, if there is in the British army a general officer, whose gentlemanly dignity among his equals, could gain more power and defer-

ence than our brave Countryman, who only won additional respect and love by his constant attention and solicitude for even the meanest under his command.

It was sometime after I had been before the board, that I knew what the result would be. In about ten days, however, an order came for me to hold myself in readiness, as a hundred and fifty men were to march immediately for Cambray, and from thence to Lisbon. Three days' provisions were accordingly served to each man, and we set out. In fifteen days we accomplished our march to Lisbon.

This city, celebrated for its pleasant bay and its proverbial filth, is, perhaps, no unfit representative of the moral condition of Portugal. I really wonder that the capital of a country, so delightfully situated and having on all sides so many natural advantages, should not present a very different appearance. The healthful breezes that blow from the sea and the Tagus, are effectually neutralized by the dunghills, with which the steep, narrow streets, and even the principal squares, are encumbered, and its Churches and Palaces have perhaps a character of grandeur from the very poverty and neglect, amidst which they proudly rear themselves.

Having liberty to visit the Queen's

Gardens, I was much pleased with all I saw there, particularly the museum of Natural History, filled with a valuable collection, which the former extensive commercial intercourse of the Portuguese enabled them to obtain from almost every region of the globe. What a sad monument is it in this respect! I was also much interested with the exercises in the Riding School.

After staying a short time at Lisbon we proceeded up to Belem. At this village I met with one of our own sergeants, who was stationed there for taking in stores, and transmitting them to the regiment.—He asked me if I knew where I was going? Judging that he was only acting the part of one of the too numerous *great little* men, to whom, alas! many an honest, honourable breast in the army, must give in. I spurned his base insinuations, and told him my name was in general orders, for England; being, besides, the only one of our party who had liberty to go home, the rest being all to join a Veteran Battalion then lying at Camp Drick, above Lisbon. At this place we had an officer stationed, with orders to give out necessaries to those of the regiment that might stand in need of them. Having soon been apprized of

my arrival, he sent for me, and enquired what was my complaint? Here I was again submitted to the painful scrutiny of a petty officer, who, according to the Scotch saying, was "riding upon the tap o' his commission." There is nothing at all the matter with me, said I; upon which he remarked that I was as fit to join the regiment as any one in it. I told him very calmly, that if he thought so, he might send me back to it, but his answer betrayed the range of his limited power, for he had no authority to do so. The devil thank you, thought I, at the same time boldly telling him, that higher men than he had already settled the business. I then asked some shirts and shoes, with a little tobacco, all which, of course, were readily supplied.

During my stay at Belem, I had an opportunity of being witness to one of those incidents, which, during the late war, showed the devotion of the female character upon more than one occasion.—A private of the heavy German horse, had one night gone to a wine house, where, overstaying *his* time, and being too late for quarters, was seized by the officer of the guard upon the street, but in a scuffle that ensued, the officer was knocked down. For this offence the horse*man* was tried by a Court Martial, and sentensed to suffer five

hundred lashes. The men were drawn out upon parade, formed into a circle, and every one awaiting with mingled emotions the commencement of that severe punishment, now happily of rare occurence in the British army, and which upon all occasions that I have witnessed its infliction, seemed productive of very bad consequenses on the spirit of the soldier. During this brief suspence, the culprit appeared under a proper escort, and being stripped and tied up to the halberts, the drummer was about to do his duty, when, lo! he discovered that the prisoner was a woman!

The circumstance was immediately communicated to marshal Beresford, who then had the command, and he ordered her to be taken down, and brought before him when he asked all the particulars of her romantic adventure:——About five years before, with all the sentimentalism of her country, she had enlisted in the regiment, in which she had a sweetheart, who died in the hospital at Cambray, of an wound received, on a skirmishing party, at Vimiera, after she had been only one twelvemonth his "companion in arms." For the subsequent four years, loves' constancy, brooding over the loss of him, for whom

she was ready to make sacrifice of all, had supported her through the hardships and dangers of a life so unbefitting her sex, while desperation would at times make her heedless what she did.

The peculiarity of her tale saved her, and she was ordered home; where I with many others, whom curiosity had excited, visited her next day. She was then elegantly dressed in female clothes, and certainly a brave, stately looking woman she was, but without any of those traits of physiognomy to bespeak the devotedness so pathetically expressed in scripture, "and Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and whither thou lodgest I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried."——I learned afterwards that she was sent home to Germany, with a pension that would keep her comfortable for life.

It was during the gentle return of health, that the order arrived for embarkation for England. There were one hundred and fifty of us. A thousand mingled hopes and regrets filled my bosom, as I went on board the transport in the river: for amid all the privations and harrassing duties of the military life, there was, I felt,

even in the prospect of home, a nameless something that would seduce the mind still to follow the march in its uncertainty and peril. After a passage of twenty seven days, we beheld Dover's chalky cliffs, but contrary to my expectation, we did not land at Portsmouth, having been ordered to Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, where we put on shore, and marched up to the Barracks, amid crowds of soldiers who stared at our "war-broken" appearance,—and no wonder, for we were quite dirty from being so long at sea, and almost half naked.

We were here kindly treated, but having been for four years unaccustomed to the luxury of a bed, I could not now lie upon one, being obliged to get up during the night and lay myself down on the bare floor.

At the end of fourteen days we passed an inspecting Surgeon, and I, along with 24 others, was ordered to join the second Battalion of our regiment, then lying at Paisley. We stopped for ten days at Lingard fort, from whence we were to sail in a Leith Smack, and so miserable was our condition, that the Governor, who was a very strict man, would not allow us to sleep in the Barrack rooms; a tent was therefore erected in the middle of the square, in

which we found ourselves so far comfortable, being relieved from the heat of the weather.

We entered the Forth on a beautiful afternoon, and I stepped on the pier with a full heart, delighted to find myself again safe in the Land of my fathers.

Here, perhaps, in good taste, should terminate my narrative; as my soldiership, however, did not end with foreign service, and as its brief sequel may not be without interest to some, I shall complete the story of my career, by adding what occured during the period that I continued to wear a red coat at home.

Having received a few shillings at Edinburgh, I immediately proceeded for head quarters at Paisley, where I and my worn out companions did no duty for a month, that we might recover from the effects of our toils. After remaining here for about half a year the regiment was inspected by general———. Those who had served in the Peninsula were inspected by themselves, and such of them as were found fit to be again sent back to the first Battalion, were picked out, the rest being to pass the board at Chelsea. I was rather in a state of an-

xiety during the time this scrutiny was proceeding, and thought I had good cause to thank my stars, when, alone of the Grenadier Company, a corporal and myself were the only ones not destined again to face the enemy. From this corporal, whose name was Ross, I had to suffer a repitition of that petty tyranny, which I have complained of, and indeed consider as one of the most galling and disheartening things to which a private is subjected.—Should the Captain of a company be indifferent about his men, neither making himself acquainted with their general characters, nor discriminating between those of dissolute and steady conduct, the non commissioned officers, who have a private pique, uniformly take advantage of such laxity by a hundred nameless acts of malice towards some devoted poor fellow.

Ross, who had never seen a shot fired in his life, almost every day, on parade, contrived some cause for challenging me, and his constant theme was my coat. Now I had worn it for 14 months, having taken it off a private of the 71st regiment, as he lay dead upon the march, my own being quite useless. The parade being on the Quay at Greenock, where crowds assembled to see us, my being thus daily checked was rather unpleasant; and determined to

put a stop to it, I one day told him, loud enough to be heard by the Captain, that my coat, if bad, had seen some service.—Immediately the Captain, as I anticipated, asked what I was saying? "He is talking nonsense," said Ross, but not satisfied with this, he enquired at me what I said? when I told him the whole circumstance. "To my perfect knowledge," said he, "your coat has indeed seen service, more than he has seen, or ever will see, and for that reason it shall be out of Ross's power to challenge you upon parade any more." Ross was of course, instantly commanded to have nothing to say to me, on any future occasion whatever, while the laughter and hisses of the spectators, on many a day after, showed their proper sense of Captain M'Lean's just reprimand. This may be reckoned a trifling incident, but not by those who know and can sympathise with a soldier's feelings.

In a short time the order came for 24 of us to get ready, and march to Leith, to be shipped for London, in order to pass the board. By a rare mistake, however, I was commanded to fall in with a draft that had been made for the first Battalion, and all my dreams of living quietly at home, suddenly appeared at an end, until the Surgeon informed the colonel, of my having been

turned out to pass, by the general. After a fine voyage to the Metropolis, we disembarked at Miller's Wharf, and marched through Towerhill for Chelsea. The crowds of discharged soldiers, that then filled the town, were quite picturesque.—There could not be fewer, I imagine, than 6000 assembled together, of every uniform in the service. The bustle was animating in the extreme, and made a lasting impression on my recollection. I remember that the dragoons had many sabre outs accross their faces, while those who had belonged to infantry regiments, were *puckered* on the cheeks, by the bayonet thrusts. They bore their *withered* honours thick upon them! Amputation, in all its forms, had been at work,—the wooden leg and the empty coat sleeve, bore evidence to the liberal kindness of the Surgeon's knife, in rectifying the unskilful mutilations by shot and shells.

It was amusing to witness old acquaintances meeting and recognising each other, without having a hand to shake! for a few had lost both. The pallid cheek of those, however, who had lost their health, and were destined prematurely to sink into an inglorious grave among their friends, drew a reproachful sigh. Here was to be seen the light hearted Son of Erin, impatient to

receive his allowance, which at the present moment formed an apparently exhaustless source of happiness. There, the calculating Scotsman, looking forward to the completion of some little scheme of honest interprise, now that he could command the glorious privilege of being lifted above dependence.

How many in that crowd had gone forth in the morning of their hopes, from kind parents and friends, who would now return to find a stranger in their homes!—How many, who, like myself, might be spared to wear out a calm old age, in the garrulous relation of their adventures!

I was sent, with a great party of Scotsmen, to a place about four miles from Chelsea, called Newtown, where we remained till our turn came to pass the board. At this place I slept with a lad belonging to a dragoon regiment, who came from East Lothian. He was respectably connected and had got a liberal education, but some juvenile follies forced him to leave home. He had been in all the engagements during the Peninsular war, was clerk to his regiment, and much liked by his colonel, who promised him a Commission. All flattering anticipations, however, were about to be nipt in the blossom: a consumption had made rapid

havoc upon his constitution, and I plainly saw that a very short time would hush up all the little errors of his youth, which still preyed upon his mind. At his request I wrote a letter to his father, who had heard nothing of him from the time he left Scotland, appealing to his good sense to forget the past, and urgently desiring him to to come here, if he wished to see him in the land of the living. I knew this epistle would be a severe blow to the old man, but a greater was still to follow.

Meantime our party was ordered to Chelsea, and it was with regret I left my young bed fellow, who, of course, could not at present do anything anent his pension. As it was absolutely requisite that some systematic order should be observed in the manner such a number of men appeared before the board, it was arranged that six at a time should be called in. We entered by one door, and being sworn, passed straight through by another on the opposite side, making way for the succeeding half dozen.

On the following day we got our instructions at the proper office, where a great bustle was created, every one calling out to his neighbour what he had got, and in many instances loudly reflecting on the

pittance their services had been thought worthy of.

On our exit by the main gate, after receiving what money was due to us, a new and strange scene was going forward.—Hundreds of women of the town were collected,—many of them I understood, from London and the Seaports,—who had no necessity for much exercise of their blandishments to wheedle the simple, light hearted soldiers into the various public houses, which, were all literally, crammed with them. A great deal of money must have been made by some of these ladies upon this occasion, as few soldiers, discharged with a full pocket, after a long foreign service, can withstand becoming their prey. Several men whom I knew, were begging me for a shilling in a few days after, having been stripped of every farthing, and many had perished both their stockings and shoes.

Making the best of my way through this crowd, and getting clear off, I returned, as I had promised, to Newtown, where I found the unfortunate young man a great deal worse. Every attention was paid to him that the kindness of our landlady, and some respectable people of the place could devise. I sat up three nights with him.—Towards morning, on the last, he became

insensible, and in his ravings, talked confusedly of his father, and some name like Mary-Anne.—My face was buried in the bed clothes, for my heart was sair for the poor laddie, and my hand held fast by his. Feeling all still, I looked at him.—He was dead !—A letter was found under his head written in a small female hand, in some foreign language, signed "Mariamne."—His father arrived before the burial, but I draw the veil over a scene, which, after all I had seen, was certainly the most touching.

I continued till 18—, in various places of Scotland, and latterly resided in Dumfries, from whence I went to Edinburgh, where, having been some months very ill with a severe fever, the Veterans were called out, and as I was unable to do any thing for myself, my name was scored on the pension list. This was a serious matter for me, and it was not till after the lapse of two years and a half that I recovered it, through the kindly offices of lieu' Riach, of the 79th then recruiting at Perth, where his father was, or still is, one of the masters of the Academy.

Last time the Veterans were called up, I volunteered my services, in the hope, that, as I was getting into the vale of years,

my pension might receive an augmentation, but I missed the valuable aid of my steady patron general Stewart, and did not succeed. The smack in which I sailed, had on board about two hundred soldiers of different regiments, besides a great number of their wifes and children. When opposite the Essex coast, about fifteen miles from Harwich, she ran aground on a sand bank, and continued beating for nearly two hours. Every moment it was expected that the mast would go over her side, and the screams of the women and children, heightened the general terror and confusion, which was rendered greater from the darkness of the night. Mothers wrapped up their infants in their gowns, and the men did the same with their big coats; resolved that all should be saved, or perish together. Our rudder giving way, the vessel slipped into five fathoms water, and two anchors were let go to keep clear of the bank. During the whole night the greatest alarm prevailed, lest she should drive back, and as all power was lost for want of the rudder, she continued rolling about like a washing tub. To relieve us from the excessive cold, the captain ordered twelve bottles of spirits to be served out by the sergeants, but the agitation of the vessel prevented one half of the

passengers from receiving their allowance.

While coming up the main hatch, with a small tin jug of spirits, a heavy sea broke over the deck, and knocked me fairly backwards down the ladder amongst the crowd in the hold. I made another attempt, and succeeded in getting a small drop distributed to two of my benumbed companions. When day light, so long prayed for, at last opened upon us, we hoisted a flag of distress, which, by good luck, was observed by the "Old Trusty" smack, and we were towed into Harwich harbour, and repaired our rudder, &c.—Our miseries were not yet destined to be ended; a tremenduous gale caught us as we entered the mouth of the Thames, and burst our jib, with a report like a cannon shot, throwing the vessel forward with her bowsprit into the water. Our situation might have been critical, had not the man at the helm cut the main hallyards and let the boom and main sail fall on the quarter deck; when the vessel righted. An anchor being cast we rode out the gale till morning.——The captain afterwards declared, he never had experienced such a voyage for the twenty years he had sailed on the coast; and told us, with all the grave superstition of a sailor, that he was happy

to get clear of us, as he was sure there was a murderer amongst us. In this respect, perhaps, many Jonah's were of our number!

I ramained at Sheerness for twelve months, doing duty as a guard over the Convicts, of whom there were 18 hundred then in the two hulks. We had pretty long turns,—from 7 o'Clock in the morning till 5 in the evening, with two hours interval at mid day, and every alternate night never got to bed. One soldier had about 20 criminals under his charge while on duty. These were handed over the ship's side by one of the masters, every one being numbered. We primed and loaded before them, and had strict orders to hold no coversation on any account, and in the event of an attempt to escape, to shoot any one on the spot. So far as example and reformation, the two grand ends of public punishment, are aimed at, the hulk system ought surely, one would think, to be effective. The unfortunate wretches, who are the victims of crime, afford a sad spectacle. They are all dressed alike in a coarse grey cloth, with their crimes painted upon their backs and hats, and must have some pitiable qualms; as, standing with their heavy irons, up to the middle among the mud of the harbour, or yoked

like beasts to large logs and stones, they linger out the years of their doom, without one remnant of the past, save their bitter reflections. Every Sabbath night I attended on board of the celebrated ship Bellerophron, and heard a Sermon, at which the Convicts were assembled, and a sad Congregation they certainly formed; their clanking chains significantly telling, that they "sat in bondage!"

Being relieved by the 71st regiment, we embarked for Edinburgh Castle, where we remained till the 24th March 1821, when we were disembodied, and I proceeded to *Sauchie*, at the foot of my native Ochils, from whence I shall wander abroad no more!

ERRATA.

Page 13, line 5, for 'was' read were....p. 25, line 6, for 'which' read where....p. 26, line 20, for 'which' read where....p. 28, line 31, for 'marches' read marshes....p.38, line 28, for 'was' read were....p 46, line 23, for 'acquainted' read acquainting....p 92, line 3, delete 'when'...p. 99, line 8, for 'burried' read buried.