

this part of the general arrangement must have proved fatal to the whole; and it reflects no small degree of lustre on his management, that he effected his purpose with less than half the force that had been thought necessary for its accomplishment. Information was immediately transmitted to Quiroga, informing him of what had been achieved.

Having transferred his prisoners to a place of greater security, Riego directed all his efforts to gain over the troops stationed at Arcos; and although this was a work of difficulty, on account of the unremitted pains taken by Calderon to prevent their defection, yet he finally succeeded in his object. Of Quiroga's movements he was still ignorant; he therefore employed this interval in collecting such battalions as were quartered round the neighbourhood. A previous understanding had been established with some officers of the regiment of Bornos, but whose colonel was known to be hostile: neither this circumstance, nor the excessive fatigue he had undergone, prevented Riego from selecting a detachment of three hundred men, and marching to that place. Having halted within a few hundred yards of the town, and proceeded alone to the entrance, Riego was met by some of his friends, to whom he communicated the result of his expedition to Arcos: the tidings spread with rapidity through the battalion, which assembled immediately, and was in less than an hour on its march to head-quarters, leaving the colonel to his meditations, and the command of some convalescents recently recovered from the yellow fever. On reaching Arcos, the party was received with enthusiastic acclamations of "Long live Riego and the Constitution!" A general muster taking place soon after, the officers and soldiers testified their admiration of Riego's gallant exploits, and unanimously invested him with the rank of general-in-chief. The first use he made of his new dignity was to assemble the civil authorities, the military, and the inhabitants, and make them swear fealty to the Constitution.

The badness of the roads, occasioned by incessant rains, had prevented Quiroga from uniting his little army with that of Riego; and the latter, still in ignorance of his

colleague's progress, determined upon marching on Xeres and Port St. Mary, in both which places he proclaimed the Constitution. He was here joined by several officers of rank; and then proceeding to the Isle of Leon, he formed a junction with the troops under Quiroga. The whole patriotic body was formed of seven battalions, comprising about 5000 men, and now assumed the designation of "The national army." Quiroga was elected general-in-chief; Riego second in command: and the former, on taking the post to which he was called, addressed the following proclamation to the troops in Andalusia.—

"Soldiers!—Placed at your head by the choice of the officers of the army, I shall speak to you with that frankness which ought to exist between companions in arms. Our Spain is on the verge of destruction: your ruin would be completed by that of the country; you were destined to death, more for the purpose of releasing the government from the dread inspired by your courage, than to make a conquest of the colonies—a thing which is now become impossible. In the mean time, your families remained in the most merciless slavery, under a tyrannical and arbitrary government, which disposes at will of the properties, the existence, and the liberties, of the unhappy Spaniards. Soldiers!—This government was about to destroy the nation, and ends by destroying itself. It was not possible any longer to endure its sway: on the one hand, violence and weakness; and on the other, only indignation and contempt were provoked; while, to render the nation happy, the government ought to inspire confidence, love, and respect. Soldiers!—Let us employ, for our welfare, and that of our countrymen, the arms which have secured the independence of the nation against the power of Buonaparte: the enterprise is easy and glorious. Does there exist a Spanish soldier who will oppose our views? No! In the very ranks of those whom the government may assemble, you will find brothers, who will join us; and if some base-born miscreants should dare to turn their arms against you, let them perish, as the satellites of tyranny should do, unworthy of the name of Spaniards. Soldiers!—I depend upon you: you are the worthy children of the country;

justify yourselves as such. Union and discipline! this is what I recommend to you. I shall have the satisfaction of recompensing those who may distinguish themselves; but if any one forgets his duty, I shall prove that authority has not been confided to me in vain, and that the energy of a government that seeks good, is always superior to that of despots. Soldiers!—Victory awaits our banners, and, in her train, the glory and rewards which the country will lavishly bestow.—ANTONIO QUIROGA, *General-in-chief of the National Army.*”

Although the greatest portion of the soldiery who were made acquainted with the designs of the patriots, were well disposed to their views, the population had hitherto taken no active part. The royal army was put under the command of Don Manuel Freyre, who was declared captain-general of Andalusia, and who, from his head-quarters at Seville, published a proclamation, warning the troops against any communication with the *rebels*. He succeeded, too, in throwing a body of troops into Cadiz by sea; and, at the same time, he directed the regiment of the Canaries, with a squadron of horse and a brigade of artillery, to occupy Port St. Mary: instead of proceeding on their destination, however, the whole detachment entered the Isle of Leon, and, joining the national army, added strength and spirit to the constitutional cause.

Thus reinforced, Quiroga resolved to attack the arsenal of the Caraccas. On the night of the 12th, a body of four hundred chosen men advanced, unperceived, to the walls of the place, and before measures could be taken to resist them, had made themselves masters of it. Here they found abundance of food and ammunition. A vessel of seventy-four guns, the St. Julian, which was laden with powder for the expedition, at the same time fell into their hands. Encouraged by this success, an attack was ventured upon the cortadura, but with no happier effect than attended a former assault. A body of constitutionalists in the town also made an effort to seize upon it from within; but the firmness of the garrison effectually disconcerted the attempt.

In the mean time, it was evident that Freyre did not

feel perfectly satisfied of the fidelity of the rest of the army: it was not until the 27th, that he transferred his head-quarters from Seville to Port St. Mary. The patriots, on their side, had availed themselves of the means afforded by the capture of the arsenal of the Caraccas, to strengthen their position in the island; but they already began to feel the embarrassment of their situation. They had now little hope of succeeding with Cadiz; their provisions were nearly exhausted; and there was reason to fear that, by continuing in their present state of inaction, the troops would gradually lose that ardour and impulse which had originally inspirited the enterprise. Under these circumstances, it was determined to send out a strong detachment, for the purpose of collecting forage, and trying the spirit and disposition of the neighbouring province. A body of about 1500 men, including forty horsemen, were led out of the island, on the 27th of January, under the command of Riego, the same day that Freyre arrived at Port St. Mary. On the next morning, they reached Vejer; here Riego passed three days, and published the Constitution: he then proceeded to Algesiras, which place they entered on the 1st of February, amid the gladdening acclamations of the inhabitants. This feeling, however, did not long sustain itself: the force of the patriotic band was too disproportionate to that to which they were opposed, not to excite the most reasonable mistrust of the event of their enterprise; and here, as in the other parts of the country which they traversed in their march, though they obtained some assistance from the inhabitants, in food and clothing, but very few ventured to join their ranks. When intelligence of this excursion reached the royal camp, Freyre immediately despatched in pursuit a strong body of horse, under the command of Don Joseph O'Donnell, the brother of the celebrated general of that name, Count de Abisbal. Accordingly, when, in consequence of an order from Quiroga, Riego attempted to regain the Isle of Leon from Algesiras, he found all the communications in that direction effectually pre-occupied by the enemy, though he offered battle to a body of O'Donnell's cavalry; his

little army, as it advanced, commencing the war-song, which had now become familiar to every ear.*

* There is no country where the harmony of sweet sounds has dispensed more happiness, or produced more salutary effects in favour of liberty, than in the Peninsula. The following composition, translated from the original Spanish by Mr. Bowring, designated "*Riego's Hymn*," was sung throughout the country, and produced a talismanic influence on the whole population, while yet the infant struggle for freedom was uncertain as to its result.

“THE country we cherish
Hath summon'd us now ;
To conquer or perish,
Our promise, our vow.

“In joy and in triumph,
Serene, but delighted,
Our voices united
Sing victory's lay :
The Cid was our father ;
And proud gratulations
Proclaim from all nations,
'His children are they !'
“Unsheathe then your weapons ;
For freedom and bravery
The hirelings of slavery
Shall scatter to nought :
Like dew on the mountains,
Which morning assembles,
Their armament trembles,
And flies at the thought.
! mid-day of glory !
Gave history's pages,
In records of ages,
A record so bright,
As when our Riego,
By liberty lighted,
His legions invited
To liberty's fight ?

“O ! crown them with laurels,
And wreaths bright and vernal,
And glory eternal,
Who first drew the sword !
They call'd on our country ;
She heard them, she bless'd them,
And, weeping, caress'd them,
And rose at the word.
“She stood in her glory :
Her voice was like thunder ;
Then tore she asunder
The fetters of shame :
Death had not a terror,
It could but unchain us ;
Or victory gain us
Both freedom and fame.
“The fetters are broken ;
The vile one who bears them
Shall feel, as he wears them,
They enter his soul :
We, Liberty's children,
His madness redeeming
March, victory beaming,
To Liberty's goal.

“The trumpet is sounding !
Shrink, slavery and folly ;
Our conduct is holy,
Our conscience is pure.
Ye vassals of tyrants,
Ye tremble—ye tremble :
Our heroes assemble,
Our triumph is sure !”

San Miguel, who at this time (1823) occupies the office of minister for foreign affairs, in Spain, has drawn up and published a narrative of the gallantries performed by Riego's flying column, from which the following detail of its courage and sufferings is principally taken.—“Surrounded by the hostile troops of Ferdinand, the leaders of which still continued to stifle public opinion, and impose on the credulity of the soldiery, the position of Riego's column would have filled an ordinary leader with alarm; but he resolved to profit by his inability to join Quiroga, and carry his original design into effect. Having procured some additional supplies of money and horses, every effort was adopted to give an impulse to the patriotic feeling: a military banquet, at which the officers and privates mingled, was given to Riego's band by the inhabitants of Vejer, and was closed with a public ball, where all the beauty of the place appeared, encouraging the defenders of freedom to persevere in the glorious struggle. On the 12th of February, after three days passed in festivity and warlike preparations, the patriot general moved forward with a determination to reach Malaga, where the column arrived on the 18th, closely pursued, and often attacked, by the vanguard of O'Donnell. Notwithstanding the bravery and firmness displayed by Riego and his followers here, the influence of treason on the one hand, and the effect of resistance on the other, disappointed the patriots in realizing the hopes held out by those of the inhabitants who had expressed so much anxiety for their arrival. Perceiving that the fears of the people got the better of their patriotism, (for they had witnessed those impetuous charges of cavalry repelled by a portion of the column which had taken possession of the great square, without shewing a disposition to co-operate,) Riego had no alternative between suffering all the fruits of his gallantry to be lost at Malaga, and pushing on to another point. The latter was chosen; and, having effected their retreat in excellent order, the column entered Antequera on the 22d, still harassed by the enemy's cavalry. Though reduced by the causes, moral and physical, naturally attendant on such an enterprise, the general set out, on the following day, for Ronda. Here the troops were encoun-

tered by a force double their number; but, having charged, and driven them through the town, some rations were levied, upon which Riego halted for the night in the vicinity. Resuming their march on the 24th, the patriots successively visited Grazadema, Puerto Serrano, and Montellano, where another attack of cavalry was sustained, and as courageously repelled. During the time which elapsed between the column's march from Montellano till its arrival at Montilla on the 8th of March, it had scarcely an hour's repose; and, besides having to resist the frequent charges of the enemy, their march lay over almost inaccessible mountains without regular roads. From Montilla, where the column remained for some hours, Riego determined to gain the Sierra Morena; but there being no direct road to it without passing through Cordova, he marched towards that city at all hazards. This was, perhaps, the boldest step hitherto taken: there was a regiment of dismounted cavalry at Cordova; a considerable portion of this corps was posted on the left bank of the Guadalquivir, apparently to oppose their passage. The column having baffled the efforts of enemies so much more numerous, its present adversaries were treated with perfect indifference. The other troops stationed at Cordova remained in their quarters, unwilling to interfere in what was passing; when within a few yards of the bridge which separated them from the city, the column, now reduced to three hundred men, began the favourite hymn, which resounded through the ranks as if by one common impulse, and thus marched through the main street to a convent in the opposite suburb, followed by an immense concourse of the people. The whole population of Cordova came forth to witness this extraordinary scene, filling the streets and windows where the patriots had to march. A profound silence pervaded the multitude; and this singular and affecting sight is said to have drawn tears from every eye: though no violent marks of discontent were manifested, the silent sympathy of all ranks sufficiently indicated the state of public feeling. The column pursued its way towards the Sierra on the 8th, and, passing through Espier, Azuaga, Berlanga, and Villagarcia, reached Bienvenida at four o'clock in the afternoon of the 11th. Dimi-

nished to a still smaller number, worn out with fatigue, and surrounded by various detachments whose leaders sought their destruction, the situation of the patriots was too critical to admit of any doubt as to the only alternative which now remained. Forced by irresistible necessity to disperse, their separation was imbittered by the reflection that the object of their enterprise had not been fulfilled, and that if they succeeded in escaping from famine and disease, it might be to perish on the scaffold, or to pass the remainder of their days on a foreign soil."

San Miguel observes, in concluding his account of this memorable expedition, "Such was the fate of a column, worthy, by its patriotism and valour, of the most brilliant triumphs. Where so many concurrent circumstances combined against us, it was morally impossible for the result to be different: fanaticism on the part of an enemy always more than treble our number; dismay and timidity among the well-affected; the pusillanimity and weakness of those who abandoned us in the hour of danger; the violation of promises by others who had engaged in the cause; unheard-of labour and fatigue; and, above all, such rapid marches, night and day, through a mountainous country intersected by torrents and ravines, and plains overflown, must have disheartened the bravest troops, and counteracted the efforts of the most experienced. On the other hand, the losses sustained by the flying column redound more to its credit than the greatest victories. Its conduct was invariably analogous to the principles it proclaimed; honour and valour being the constant watch-words. Not a single citizen had reason to complain of its oppression: the laws of humanity were never violated towards any of the prisoners; those taken at Marbello, Antequera, Malaga, Moron, Montellano, and other places, were treated with the utmost consideration and delicacy. Finally, the flying column merited a better fate, and deserves to be held up to the imitation of others."

Although the flying column was dismembered, without being actually vanquished, (as Count Pecchio justly remarks,) the object for which this daring excursion was formed was in reality achieved; since, in prolonging the

insurrection for above six weeks, the people had time to awake from their stupor, while the troops stationed at other points of the Peninsula were thus inspired with that courage which eventually induced them to follow the same example shewn to them by this heroic band of patriots. Little did the shattered remains of Riego's faithful adherents imagine, when they separated at Bienvenida, that their constancy and perseverance had procured for their country the triumph of constitutional liberty.

In returning to the transactions of San Fernando, additional motives for applause are found in the perseverance and gallantry displayed there after the departure of Riego. Quiroga, whose troops did not now exceed 4000 men, continued to fortify his position by all the means in his power. The royalist army was posted in lines, entirely cutting off all communication between the Isle of Leon and the main land; but did not venture any direct attack beyond a cavalry skirmish with the out-posts of the patriots. It was evident, however, that if all continued quiet in the other provinces of the Peninsula, this system must in the end prove fatal to the attempted liberation.

The government-journals had hitherto preserved the profoundest silence on the subject of the events which had taken place in Andalusia. But, as might have been expected, the report of those occurrences was immediately spread throughout the country, with exaggerations that exceeded their real importance. Every thing, however, remained apparently tranquil until the middle of February, when a movement took place in Galicia, which soon communicated itself beyond the limits of that province. On the 20th of that month, the captain-general, Venegas, returned to Corunna, to resume the command of the province. On the same evening, a meeting took place, of certain of the officers of the garrison, with several leading persons of the town and neighbourhood, for the purpose of concerting measures for proclaiming the Constitution. In pursuance of the plan adopted, on the next day, at noon, the cry of "Long live the nation!" was raised in the market-place, at the very moment when the captain-general's drawing-room was filled by the persons, civil and military,

who had come to felicitate him on his arrival in the capital of his government. Some officers, supported by the people, disarmed the guards at the government-house, and made their way to the drawing-room, upon which all the officers present drew their swords, and proclaimed aloud their adherence to the Constitution. Venegas immediately left the room; but he was followed by the colonel of artillery, Don Carlos Espinosa, and others, who represented to him the unanimity of the feeling entertained both by the troops and the citizens, and entreated him at once to put himself at the head of the new order of things, and to proclaim the Constitution. Venegas had been very popular in the province, and the patriots seem to have entertained some expectation that he would not be disinclined to take this step: he refused, however, and was consequently arrested, with some others of his staff, and the same night consigned, with every mark of respect and attention, to Fort St. Anthony. This was the only instance that occurred at Corunna, of resistance to the revolution: one feeling seemed to pervade all ranks and classes. Two thousand of the people formed themselves into a militia, and joined the garrison; and the national army, thus composed, requested Colonel Espinosa, who had taken the lead throughout the whole affair, to assume the command of the province. Espinosa, however, declined the honour, and recommended Colonel Acevedo as a fit person on whom it might be conferred. Acevedo was, accordingly, elected captain-general. A supreme junta, composed of the principal citizens and officers, was then constituted, and Don Pedro Agar, formerly a member of the cortes, was elected to the presidency. The populace broke open the prisons, and liberated some officers who were yet in confinement on account of the affair of Porlier. The widow of that unfortunate general, who still retained her mourning-weeds in memory of her husband, was particularly called upon by the people to share in the triumph of the day.

At Ferrol, on the 23d of February, a similar scene took place. The governor was imprisoned, the Constitution proclaimed, and a subordinate junta formed for the direction of affairs. At Santiago, the governor, Count de St. Roman,

was preparing to make some resistance to the progress of the insurrection; but, upon the approach of Acevedo with some troops from Corunna, he abandoned the town, and the Constitution was proclaimed there on the 25th. Almost at the same moment, the towns of Vigo and Pontavedra declared their adherence to the popular cause. The Count de St. Roman, however, contrived to collect a body of between 4000 and 5000 men, chiefly peasants, with which he endeavoured to make head against the insurgents; but the ascendancy of these last became daily more marked, and, in a short time, nearly the whole province acknowledged the supremacy of the constitutional junta of Corunna.

Galicia was not the only point which presented a disquieting prospect to the Spanish court. On the 25th of February, the celebrated Mina, after a six years' exile in France, re-appeared in Navarre, the scene of his former exploits, and, putting himself at the head of a small band of partisans, assumed the title of "General of the Constitutional Army of the North of Spain."

The alarm which the intelligence of these movements excited in the cabinet of Madrid may easily be conceived. It was difficult to counsel what step should be taken to arrest the progress of the insurrection. The single stay of all governments not founded in the affection of the people, is, of course, the soldiery; but here there were grounds to believe that this body was more enthusiastic in the constitutional cause than the people whom it was called upon to coerce. To send troops to Galicia or Navarre, would, it is probable, have been little else than to despatch reinforcements for the armies of Acevedo or Mina. Under these circumstances, something like an attempt was made to conciliate public opinion: a letter was published from the king to the Duke of San Fernando;—in this his majesty announced his intention that the council of state should be divided into seven sections, charged severally with the affairs of the state, of the church, of legislation, of finance, of the army, of the navy, and of commerce; and empowered to propose upon each of these heads the reforms which were judged necessary for the welfare of the kingdom. All corporations, tribunals, universities, and even individual

citizens, were, moreover, to be invited to communicate to the council of state any idea they might entertain, likely to tend to the promotion of the great objects proposed to its consideration. Whatever might have been the effect of this scheme, if openly proposed and honestly acted upon, twelve months before, it was now too late. The weakness of the tyranny that had oppressed them was betrayed to the people; and they were not to be diverted from taking advantage of the discovery.

Among the distinguished Spaniards of the present day, there is no one whose military career impresses us more strongly with the persuasion of his decision and ability, than Count de Abisbal. It has been before stated, that there were reasons to believe that he was originally at the head of the conspiracy which he subsequently crushed, at Cadiz, in the July of 1819. However little we may applaud the honesty of his conduct on that occasion, it is impossible not to admire the courage and decisiveness by which it was characterized. Neither his sagacity nor his resolution seemed to have abandoned him in the present crisis. He quickly saw the turn which affairs were about to take; that the fate of the absolute monarchy was evidently sealed; and, conscious of his wrong towards the other party, he felt the necessity of atoning for his misdeeds, by the performance of some good work, in the promotion of a cause, the eventual triumph of which he now anticipated as certain. One of his brothers, Don Alexander O'Donnell, commanded the regiment Imperial Alexander, of which one battalion was quartered at Ocana, and another at Santa Cruz. Through the medium of this officer, the count had opened communications with several other officers commanding in La Mancha; and a plan was determined upon between them for raising the standard of the Constitution in that province. The troops were to be revolutionized, and the communications between Castile and Andalusia intercepted; a junta was to be elected for the administration of the province, subordinate to the junta in Galicia; and, finally, a petition addressed to the king, beseeching him to yield to the wishes of his people, and at once convoke the cortes. On the 3d of March, the count left Madrid: he reached

Aranjuez the same evening, where he was joined by several of the king's body-guard, with whom he had had an understanding. Next day, he arrived at Ocana; where he assembled his brother's regiment in the great square, and, after a short harangue, prevailed upon them to express their devotion to the popular cause by shouts of "Long live the Constitution!" He then arrested the governor, and such of the authorities of the place as seemed disinclined to the change; and, on the 5th, proceeded to Temblique, and thence to Santa Cruz, Almagro, and Ciudad Real. The disposition of the people did not shew itself quite so uniformly in his favour as he expected: with the troops, however, he was perfectly successful; several battalions, and a considerable number of volunteers, joined his ranks, and he expected, in a short time, to effect a junction with the force which was then pursuing Riego, under the command of his brother Joseph.

The intelligence of this defection completed the consternation of the court. It was not possible to conceal it from the garrison and the people of the capital; and its effect upon both became hourly more visible. The accounts from all parts confirmed the mistrust which was already entertained of the good disposition of the soldiery. The king formed a permanent junta of state, at the head of which was placed the Infant Don Carlos; and it was supposed that he was at length about to realize the promise proclaimed in the decree of Valencia, in May 1814, of giving a constitution to the Spanish nation. But it was now no longer the time for half measures: on the 7th was published an official gazette extraordinary, declaring it to be the will of the king that the cortes should be immediately assembled, and announcing his majesty's readiness to adopt all such measures as should tend to the welfare of his loyal people: this annunciation was further made public by placards, which were posted in all quarters of the city. But the people saw in this concession only an avowal of weakness, and were the more emboldened to insist upon the whole extent of their rights. The streets and squares became thronged with a tumultuous populace, who tore down the royal placards with contempt, and demanded,