

longer allowed to congregate in the streets or squares of the city; and any unusual assemblage was immediately dispersed by strong military patrols. The public proclamations which promised amnesty for the past, contained likewise denunciations of the heaviest punishment on any repetition of the offence.

If the people, however, were silent, it was not so with their rulers. Humble addresses were presented by all the public authorities. The Council of the Inquisition denounced the censures of religion on all the instigators of "such excesses as the scandalous sedition of the second of May." Don Antonio, the President of the Junta, followed his family to Bayonne; and the authority of the usurpers in Madrid remained paramount and unquestioned.

It was in this state of things, that the order constituting Murat Lieutenant of the Kingdom, arrived in Madrid, accompanied by a proclamation, exhorting the people to yield implicit obedience to his authority. These documents were speedily followed by another, conveying intelligence of Ferdinand's resignation. To the mandate for the appointment of Murat, the Council offered no opposition; and that leader was formally in-

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CHAP. IV. stalled in an office the powers of which he had already virtually exercised.

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Ferdinand, before signing the deed of abdication at Bayonne, had taken the precaution of despatching a private messenger to the Junta, informing them of the real nature of his situation, and the compulsory measures which had been adopted to enforce the resignation of his rights. He directed that hostilities should instantly commence, on intelligence being received of his removal into the interior of France; a measure to which, unless compelled by violence, he declared he never would consent. The Cortes were likewise ordered to be convoked, in order that such steps might be adopted as would communicate the greatest vigour to the measures of national resistance.

This communication from their Sovereign was not received by the Junta till two days after the investiture of Murat as chief of the government; and it was unanimously decided by that body, that the orders of Ferdinand could no longer be obeyed. By this decision, the Junta was at once deprived of all influence with the nation; and instead of holding its authority by appointment from an independent sovereign, be-

came degraded into the passive instrument of foreign tyranny. CHAP. IV.

The terrors of the military executions at Madrid did not extend beyond the capital. In the provinces they excited only more vehement hatred of the invaders. Murat, however, was not idle. Two Swiss regiments, which formed part of the garrison of Madrid, were incorporated with the army of Dupont. Three companies of the Body Guard, and four battalions of the Spanish and Walloon Guards, were placed at the disposal of Marshal Moncey. Three thousand of the Spanish army were ordered to embark at Ferrol for South America; and in the more important fortresses of Catalonia the garrisons were reduced and weakened. Orders were issued for the army of Solano, which had not yet entered Portugal, to march on Cadiz, and its commander was directed to resume his functions as Captain-General of Andalusia. The heights of the Retiro at Madrid were strongly fortified, and supplied with large stores of ammunition and provisions. All magazines of arms and warlike equipment were seized by the French authorities; and officers were des-

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CHAP. IV. patched to Ceuta, to cause the recognition of the new government in that important fortress.

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In the meanwhile, Napoleon had formed the resolution of elevating his brother Joseph to the throne of Spain. Joseph was then King of Naples; and by the mildness of his manners and the leniency of his government, had succeeded in acquiring, in a considerable degree, the affections of his subjects. Of retired habits, and fitted by his tastes rather for the pursuits of philosophy than for those of ambition, he would willingly have declined the dangerous elevation; but his refusal was overruled by Napoleon, and Joseph yielded to the influence of that ascendancy which stronger minds had found it impossible to resist.

Intelligence of the Emperor's intentions no sooner crossed the Pyrenees, than addresses of the most humble and adulatory character poured in from the public authorities of the kingdom. The Junta of Government, the Council of Castile, the Municipality of Madrid, all entreated for the honour of a King of the Imperial blood; and in this they were joined by the Cardinal Archbishop de Bourbon, the only male branch of the

Royal family in the kingdom. Thus secure in the servility of the higher classes, and their entire devotion to his will, Napoleon thought it prudent that the work of usurpation should be sanctioned by at least a semblance of national consent. He accordingly convoked an assembly of one hundred and fifty of the chief persons of the kingdom to meet at Bayonne, and addressed the Spanish people in the following proclamation.

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Ma y.

“ Spaniards, after a long agony your nation was perishing. I have seen your sufferings,— I will relieve them.—Your greatness and power are inseparably connected with mine.—Your princes have ceded to me all their rights to the Crown. I will not reign over your provinces, but I will acquire an eternal title to the love and gratitude of your posterity. Your monarchy is old. It must be restored to youth, that you may enjoy the blessings of a renovation which shall not be purchased by civil war or calamity. Spaniards, I have convoked a general assembly of the deputies of your provinces and towns, that I may know your wishes and your wants. I shall then lay down my rights, and place your illustrious crown on the brows

CHAP. IV. of one who bears resemblance to myself: thus
1808. securing to you a constitution which will unite
May. the salutary power of the Sovereign, with the
protection of the liberties and rights of the
Spanish nation. It is my wish that my memory
should be blessed by your latest posterity, and
that they shall say, 'Napoleon was the regen-
erator of our country.'"

By these proceedings the Spanish nation was at length effectually roused into resistance. The hatred of the people towards their invaders, broke forth, as it were, in one loud and simultaneous burst, from all quarters of the kingdom. They would not tamely submit to become the subject of perfidious barter between the servile government of Madrid and that of France. They would not transfer their allegiance at the command of a foreign tyrant, from the heir of the Bourbons, to an upstart and an adventurer. The *fusillade* of the second of May, and the disgraceful transactions at Bayonne, put an end to that state of torpid quiescence in which the spirit of the nation had so long slumbered. A loud and intelligible voice was at once sent forth from every province in the kingdom. The universal cry was for re-

sistance ; and the pervading sentiment of every heart, was loyalty to Ferdinand, their betrayed and imprisoned monarch.

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The provinces of Asturias and Galicia were the first to take arms. A representative Junta was assembled at Oviedo, and assumed the sovereignty of the district. To quiet these disturbances, Count Delpinar, councillor of Castile, and Don Juan Melendez, were commissioned by Murat to collect the forces of the district, and quell by military power the spirit of insurrection. But it was too late. The functionaries were attacked by the people, and compelled to seek safety in flight. The first act of the Junta was to despatch two deputies to England, in order to engage assistance from that power ; and measures were immediately adopted to arrange plans of concert and co-operation with the neighbouring provinces.

Leon started next into the field, and sent deputies to Corunna requesting arms. The demand was not complied with. Don Antonio Filangieri, a Neapolitan by birth, and Captain General of Galicia, was unwilling to commit himself by any act of hostility to France ; and his temporizing policy having rendered him an

CHAP. IV. object of aversion, the mob broke into his house, seized his papers, and, had he not prudently withdrawn, it is probable his life would have been sacrificed to the popular fury. A portrait of Ferdinand was carried in procession through the streets of Corunna, and the cry of "*Down with the French and the traitors,*" was heard on all hands.

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In Estremadura the rising of the people was no less decided and tumultuous. The Count de la Torre del Fresno, Governor of Badajoz, endeavoured to controul the spirit of insubordination, and lost his life in the attempt. The populace dragged him from his house, and murdered him in the street. At Valladolid, Jaen, Saragossa, Carthagená, San Lucar, Salamanca, Carolina, Ciudad Rodrigo, and many other places, excesses equally horrible occurred. Like a river which has burst its channel, the evil passions of the people rushed onward, without limit or restraint.

By such revolting acts of atrocity was the cause of freedom at this period injured and dishonoured. They cannot be defended; they ought not to be concealed. Yet even the ferocities of a people, thus goaded into madness by

a long course of injury and insult, will weigh lightly in the balance when compared with the cold-blooded and barbarous policy of their invaders. In recording the events of this extraordinary struggle, it is indeed the duty of the historian to render justice to the oppressor; but his sympathies are due only to the cause of the oppressed. And if, by the very constitution of our being, it is necessary we should be influenced by prejudice, that prejudice is at least more generous which leans to the side of freedom in the contest, than that which would veil the crimes, while it blazons the triumphs of the usurper.

Fortunately, however, this state of anarchy was of short duration. In the principal cities of the provinces, Juntas were speedily formed for the provincial administration of affairs, and to direct and organize the resistance of the people. These assemblies published proclamations and addresses to their countrymen, inciting them to the vigorous assertion of their rights, and the vindication of the national honour. They recalled to their recollection the heroic deeds of their ancestors, and the noble struggles which they had maintained against the Moorish invaders in the cause of freedom

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CHAP. IV. and religion. They painted in its true light
the insidious and grasping policy of Napoleon.
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May. "It is better," said the Junta of Galicia, "to
die in defence of our hearths and altars, on our
own soil, and with arms in our hands, than
to be led bound to slaughter, the unresisting
victims of bloody and inordinate ambition.
The conscription of France awaits us. If we
do not defend our own kingdom, we must go
to perish in the north. By resistance we lose
nothing; for should our efforts in behalf of our
country prove fruitless, by a glorious death we
shall at least be freed from the galling chains of
the oppressor. Fly to arms then, and assist
your countrymen to rescue your King from
captivity, to restore to your government its just
rights, to preserve your families, to assert the
independence of your native soil, and above all
to defend your sacred Religion. Employ the
arms which she tenders; nerve your minds with
the fear of God; implore the aid of the blessed
Virgin, and of our patron the glorious St. James.
Under such auspices go forth confident of suc-
cess, and grasp the victory which is prepared for
you by their intercession, and the eternal jus-
tice of your cause."

The addresses of the other assemblies were not less energetic; nor less happy in contrasting the war in which they had been compelled to take arms by all the holiest motives that can sanctify a cause, with those in which Napoleon had plunged his country, to gratify the frantic dictates of an insatiable ambition.

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Among the provincial Juntas formed by the necessity of the times, that of Seville assumed the lead, and styled themselves, in public proclamations, "The Supreme Government of Spain and the Indies." Seville possessed at that time many claims to become the chief *nucleus* of the government. In point of influence and population it was the second city of Spain. It possessed the only foundery for cannon in the kingdom. It abounded in arms and military stores; and it possessed likewise the advantage of being removed from the immediate sphere of the influence of the French armies.

With such favouring circumstances to lend influence to its measures, the Supreme Junta lost no time in organizing a system of resistance suited to the exigencies of the country. They directed that in every town containing two thousand inhabitants, a subordinate Junta

CHAP. IV. should be established, to enlist under the national standard all those capable of bearing arms.

1808. Defensive measures were concerted by the chief military authorities of the province. War was declared against France. Vessels were despatched to the Canaries and South America to announce the rising of the people; and commissioners were sent into the southern provinces of Portugal, in order to solicit assistance and co-operation. The Junta also published a series of precautionary rules for the conduct of the war, distinguished throughout by practical knowledge of the art military, and a prudent adaptation of its principles to the situation of the kingdom.

But not the least important step taken by the Supreme Junta was that of opening communications with Sir Hew Dalrymple, Governor of Gibraltar, and the British Admiral on the Cadiz station. Every assistance, in the power of these officers to grant, was immediately afforded to the patriots. Admiral Purvis offered the assistance of the British fleet to Solano, Governor of Cadiz, in an attack on the French squadron, commanded by Admiral Rossilly, then in the harbour. This proposal of the Admiral, Solano did not

venture openly to decline, yet he felt unwilling to commit himself by any act of what he doubtless considered premature hostility to France. When Admiral Purvis therefore arrived at Cadiz, Solano, instead of concerting measures of attack with that officer, was only anxious to repress the spirit of the people, and restore harmony with their invaders. All his measures for this purpose failed signally of effect. The time for such temporizing policy had passed. Solano, in the eyes of the people, was a traitor, and they treated him as such. The mob tore him from his dwelling, and murdered him in the street. His house was rased to the ground, yet, by an impulse of singular magnanimity, his property was held inviolate by a multitude of the very meanest and poorest of his countrymen. "We will take," they exclaimed, "nothing that belonged to a traitor." Even the jewels and money they found in his possession were deposited in the public treasury, to be employed in that cause which they held Solano to have betrayed.

On the death of Solano, the command devolved on Don Tomas de Morla; and on his accession to the government, vigorous measures were immediately adopted to compel the squadron of

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CHAP. IV. Rossilly to surrender. The French Admiral, a-

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ware of his danger, made proposals to Morla, which were rejected. He wished to quit the harbour of Cadiz; and demanded protection against the English fleet then in the offing. But Morla refused all terms, declining the assistance of Lord Collingwood, who had assumed the command of the British fleet, and proceeded to erect batteries on various parts of the Isla de Leon, from which they assailed the hostile squadron with a heavy fire. These measures, after an interval of several days, during which a strong fire was kept up on the enemy, were at length productive of the desired effect. Rossilly, on the morning of the 14th of June, sent a flag of truce to the shore, and intimated his readiness to surrender at discretion.

This success was followed by the arrival of General Spencer with a corps of five thousand men, which had been despatched from Gibraltar to co-operate with the Spaniards. By the appearance of this force on the coast, the progress of a French corps under General Avril, which had been despatched by Junot to hold possession of Cadiz, was arrested; and General Spencer having subsequently taken up a position at A-

yamonté, the garrison of Faro surrendered to the patriots. On this event, the Authorities of Algarve sent deputies to Seville, and united that province by alliance with the Supreme Junta. The patriotic force in this quarter was still further augmented by the junction of sixteen Spanish battalions, which withdrew from the occupation of Portugal and joined the standard of their countrymen.

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Previous to the appearance of General Spencer on the Spanish coast, the deputies from Seville and Galicia had arrived in England. Never was there enthusiasm more deep and general, than that which then animated the British nation in the cause of Spanish independence. The deputies were welcomed in London by loud and general acclamation. There was no hesitation manifested as to the line of policy which it became Great Britain to adopt. The people called on their rulers to assist, with heart and hand, a nation struggling for liberty, to cast off the chain of the oppressor. Never was the unanimous voice of a people poured forth with greater majesty and effect. The government did not withstand—no government could have withstood a call thus energetically made. In

CHAP. IV. such an excited state of the public mind, if their rulers had dared to oppose themselves to the wishes of the nation, they must have been driven from their situations with scorn and ignominy. It mattered nothing in such a case what party was in power, or by what peculiar principles their general policy was regulated. The ordinary barriers and distinctions of party were in a moment broken down, and Whig or Tory must have acted alike in yielding instant obedience to a voice thus sublimely and irresistibly poured forth.

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Since the accession of Napoleon, England had fought not for conquest but for safety. In spite of all her efforts, she had beheld the power of France continually gaining new accessions to its gigantic bulk. Europe, after a fruitless resistance, was at the foot of the conqueror, and the subsidies of England, by provoking premature hostilities, had only contributed to accelerate the catastrophe. Since the days of Egypt, the military force of England had been employed only in the conquest of Sugar Islands, or of some distant and isolated colonies which France still retained in the East. A nobler field was now open for her exertions. She was at length

to meet the Great Conqueror of the Age on CHAP. IV.
the very continent he had subdued, to plant
her sons breast to breast with those victori- 1808.
ous soldiers who had never yet experienced May.
defeat. The moment of decisive struggle was
at length come, when the standard of England
was to be raised in a higher and a better cause
than any of which she had hitherto stood for-
ward as the champion. Justice was on her
side: the character of the contest was become
too palpable to be mistaken by any party in the
state. The cause of freedom and of resistance
to oppression, is one that comes home with pecu-
liar force to the heart and the understanding of
an Englishman; and followed in all its measures
by the unanimous wishes of the nation, the go-
vernment at once knew itself to be armed with
a strength, of which, during a long course of in-
glorious policy, it had hitherto been deprived.

Every practicable assistance was immediately
afforded to the patriotic cause. Vessels, freight-
ed with arms, clothing, and military stores,
were speedily despatched for Gijon. Supplies of
money were sent to Ferrol to assist the insur-
rection in Gallicia. All the Spanish prisoners
of war were liberated and restored to their

CHAP. IV. country. The British army in Sicily was ordered to afford protection and assistance to the insurgent Catalans; and General Spencer was directed to engage in active co-operation with the patriots of Andalusia.

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While such measures were adopting in England, the Spanish people had lost nothing of their ardour in the cause of independence. Valencia became the theatre of a tragedy deeper than any which we have hitherto been called on to record. The inhabitants, like those of the other provinces, had risen in arms against the French. In the vehemence of the first commotion, Don Miguel de Saavedra became the object and the victim of popular fury. He was followed to Requena, whither he had fled for safety, and brutally murdered by the people. His head, raised on a pike, was carried with acclamations round the city of which he had recently been governor. A Junta was then elected for the administration of the province; and it is probable that Valencia might have remained undisgraced by further violence, but for the appearance of a wretch, named Calvo, by whom the functions of leader of the government had been assumed. Calvo came from Madrid, and was a canon of

the Cathedral of St. Isidore. By the display of a sort of demoniac energy, he acquired influence with the people. He retained, under his command, a band of assassins; and, confident in this support, he insulted the Junta, who refused to admit him as a member, and succeeded in acquiring such power as awed the authorities into submission.

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In Valencia there were many French residents; and it was natural, in the circumstances of the country, that these should become the peculiar objects of jealousy and suspicion. Alarmed at the dangers which surrounded them, they sought refuge in the citadel, and Calvo publicly denounced them, as having engaged in a plot for the surrender of the city to Murat. Accounts differ as to the particular proceedings which ensued; but all agree in the result, that these unfortunate persons, in number about two hundred, were massacred by Calvo and his assassins.

The mad ambition of Calvo grew with his success. He caused himself to be proclaimed Sovereign of Valencia, summoned the Captain-General to his presence, compelled the Intendant to disburse the public money, and treated the

CHAP. IV. Archbishop with insolence and contempt. By
 1808.
 May. his orders, likewise, a new Junta was directed to assemble and assume the functions of that which he had determined to abolish.

Fortunately for the interests of humanity, the career of Calvo was a short one. The Junta, which at first had been panic-stricken, began at length to gather courage, and to concert measures for the overthrow of this frantic demagogue. His popularity with the mob, already satiated with slaughter, was in the wane. The schemes of the Junta soon ripened into action. At one of their meetings, Calvo was invited to join in the deliberations. He came, followed by a train of ruffians who occupied all the avenues to the place of meeting. Towards the Junta he demeaned himself with his usual insolence, and attempted to awe them into submission by threats of punishment. At length a Franciscan friar, named Rico, the most intrepid of their number, rose and denounced him as a traitor, and demanded his immediate arrest. This was done. Calvo was sent in irons to the Island of Majorca, and subsequently executed as a traitor. The retribution of the Junta did not rest here. About two hundred of his blood-thirsty followers were

likewise subjected to trial, and executed in pursuance of the sentence awarded by the tribunal.

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It rarely happens, observes an able writer, that popular convulsions, however horrible may be the circumstances by which they are attended, have any prejudicial effect on the vigour of national defence; for the passions of the people, thus excited by domestic atrocities, when directed against foreign enemies, acquire new intensity. It was so in Valencia. The people were no sooner freed from the tyranny of Calvo, than they commenced vigorous preparations for defence. There appeared no limits to the popular enthusiasm. Provision was made not only for the security of the city, but of the province. The defiles leading into Catalonia were fortified. Troops were detached to co-operate with the military in Murcia; and active dispositions were made to secure the passes of the road from Castile.

Before intelligence was received at Madrid of the insane atrocities of Calvo and his followers, an expedition against Valencia had been in preparation. The command of the force destined for this service was intrusted to Marshal Mon-

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cey, an officer of high military reputation and unblemished personal character. On the thirtieth of May, Moncey received orders to advance with a column of ten thousand men upon Cuenca, where, in case the disturbances at Valencia should have ceased, he was directed to halt, and content himself with watching the country between the lower Ebro and Carthagena. Should the disorders in Valencia, however, remain unquelled, he was instructed to direct General Chabran, at Tortosa, to advance with his division, and effect a junction in the neighbourhood of Valencia.

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In pursuance of these orders, Marshal Moncey, with an army of about ten thousand men of the different arms, set forward from Madrid on the fourth of June, and reached Cuenca on the eleventh. In that town he remained for a week, and received intelligence of the state of matters in Valencia. During his march, Marshal Moncey found the whole population animated by feelings of strong aversion to the intrusive government. Even around Cuenca, while it remained the head-quarters of his army, symptoms of disaffection were daily manifested. In these circumstances, the Spanish and Walloon

guards were sent forward to Valencia, and Moncey ordered Chabran to advance to Castellon de Plana, that a more active concert might be established between the armies. To a General of Moncey's experience it could not but be apparent that the campaign was not long destined to be bloodless. Not satisfied, therefore, with the precautions already mentioned, he wrote to Murat, requesting that a column might be sent forward from Madrid to Albacete, to protect his right from attack, during his anticipated operations.

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Murat, on his part, little aware of the difficulties with which Moncey was surrounded, felt dissatisfied at the slowness of his progress. With a view to stimulate the sluggish movements of the veteran, he despatched Brigadier-General Excelmans, with directions to excite him by every means to operations of greater vigour and more decisive character than he had yet thought it prudent to undertake. Excelmans departed on his mission; but on his route was seized by the populace, and, with his suite, carried prisoners into Valencia.

The difficulties of Moncey were evidently increasing; and on the sixteenth he quitted

Jun. 16.

CHAP. IV. Cuenca. The country around his line of march was deserted; and notwithstanding the strict discipline enforced in his army, the inhabitants everywhere continued to fly on his approach. No opposition, however, was offered to the advance of Moncey till he reached the bridge of Pajaso. There he found two or three thousand armed peasants, supported by a corps of about eight hundred Swiss Guards, prepared to dispute his passage. A clumsy work had been thrown up for the defence of the bridge, surmounted by four pieces of cannon; and fortified by the difficulties of the surrounding country, which was rocky and mountainous, they stood resolutely prepared for the advance of the French. Moncey waited for the coming up of his artillery; and then, by a vigorous attack, at once gained possession of the bridge. The Spaniards fled in confusion, leaving their cannon and about twenty prisoners in the hands of the assailants. The latter were likewise strengthened by a considerable body of the Swiss Guards, who deserted to the victors.

The next affair in which the French army was engaged, was with the force commanded by Don Joseph Caro, brother to the Marquis de la

Romana, who occupied a strong position at CHAP. IV.
 Cabrerias. The chain of mountains by which 1808.
 Valencia is separated from New-Castile form June.
 a rampart of great strength to that province. There is but one road by which they can be traversed by artillery, and even that presents difficulties of the most formidable character. The position which Caro had selected for his army was one of extraordinary strength. Its front was secured by entrenchments ; and its flanks were rendered almost inaccessible by ranges of precipitous rocks, which appeared on either side to present an impenetrable rampart. The army, thus advantageously posted, amounted, in point of number, to about ten thousand ; but, with the exception of two regular regiments of infantry and a few dragoons, it was composed exclusively of raw and undisciplined levies, badly armed, and without military garb.

To attack this position in front was impossible. A long detour therefore was necessary ; and a detachment, under General Harispe, was directed to scale the mountains and turn the right flank of the Spanish army. This service was executed with success, though not without extreme difficulty ; and Moncey immediately ad-



CHAP. IV. vancing on the front of the position, carried it
with little loss, and became master of all the
1808. cannon, baggage, and ammunition of the enemy.
June.

These difficulties past, no further obstacle seemed at first to present itself to the peaceful occupation of Valencia. The hostile army had entirely disappeared; and Moncey considered it his policy to conciliate if possible the inhabitants of the beautiful and fertile country through which he was advancing. All the prisoners not in uniform, were liberated; and he gave strong assurances to the authorities of the province, that he came only as a friend to restore tranquillity and order.

June 27. It was not till the twenty-seventh that he appeared before the walls of Valencia. That city, which is one of the largest in the kingdom, is completely enclosed by an old wall of no great height, but massive, and in good preservation. It stands upon low ground, and is surrounded by deep canals and reservoirs of water; which render approach almost impossible unless by the roads leading to the gates. About five miles from Valencia, Moncey found a body of troops under Caro entrenched on the bank of a canal, and prepared to dispute his advance. The po-

sition thus taken was strong. Several pieces of
 cannon commanded the road; and the peasants,
 who lay hid in the mulberry groves and hemp-
 fields on either side, harassed the march of the
 French army. By these obstacles, however,
 Moncey was not retarded. The position was
 immediately attacked and carried; and Moncey
 remained master of the suburban village of
 Quarte, in which he took post, and summoned
 the city to capitulate. But surrender was the
 last thing in the thoughts of the Valencians.
 A peremptory refusal was returned; and Mon-
 ceiy gave instant orders for attack. His hopes
 of gaining possession of Valencia did not rest
 exclusively on the success of his military op-
 erations. There were traitors in the city,
 who had promised to deliver up the gates on
 his approach. But these had been discovered on
 the night preceding the attack, and immediately
 put to death; and Moncey, ignorant of this cir-
 cumstance, continued to expect that his efforts
 from without, were to be aided by treachery
 within.

The fire of the French batteries was directed
 chiefly against the gates of Quarte and San
 Joseph; but the troops advanced in several

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CHAP. IV. columns in order to distract the attention of the garrison. In these circumstances, the Spanish commander had recourse to the bold stratagem of throwing open the gate of Quarte, as if to welcome the assailants. Moncey, imagining this was done by his partisans in the city, fell at once into the snare, and pushed rapidly for the gate. The advancing columns were assailed by a heavy fire of grape; and, after strenuous but ineffectual efforts to surmount the obstacles opposed to their entrance, were driven back with great loss. In the attack of San Joseph they were not more fortunate. The troops found themselves surrounded by canals which could not be crossed unless by swimming; and here too they experienced discomfiture. The heavy fire from the walls soon succeeded in silencing the French batteries; and Moncey, repulsed at all points, found it necessary to retreat.

In this affair, the loss of the French amounted to two thousand, while that of the garrison was trifling. Moncey found himself in a situation full of difficulty and peril. In the provinces of Valencia and Murcia alone the patriotic forces were in number about thirty thousand; while there remained of his army scarcely more than

five. Of Chabran and his division he could hear nothing. On all sides he was surrounded by enemies, to whom his defeat at Valencia had lent hope and vigour. His communication with Madrid was intercepted; and, to heighten his difficulties, intelligence was received on the thirtieth that the Count de Serbelloni, Captain-General of the province, was advancing, with a view to oppose his passage of the Xucar, and cut off his retreat.

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In such circumstances, instant and vigorous measures were necessary to secure the safety of the army. The first project which suggested itself to Moncey, was that of crossing the Guadalaviar, and, by entering Catalonia, to secure the co-operation of Chabran and Duhesme. But this was relinquished; and Moncey, sacrificing part of his artillery, put his army in immediate motion, with the view of attacking Serbelloni; and despatched a courier to General Chabran, with intelligence of his retreat. Two marches brought him to Alcira, about a league distant from the position on the Xucar occupied by Serbelloni. The force, under that leader, amounted to about six thousand, and consisted