

constructed from Caspe, following in many parts the line of that which the Duke of Orleans had formed in the preceding century. A corps of 5000 infantry and 500 horse was to invest the city on the right bank, while another corps of the same strength watched the movements of the Catalan army. One division Suchet had left in Arragon, where the regular force opposed to it had almost disappeared in the incapable hands of D. Francisco Palafox. He had as little to apprehend on the side of Valencia; neither men nor means were wanting in that populous and wealthy province, but there prevailed a narrow provincial spirit, and General Caro remained inactive when an opportunity was presented of compelling the French, who were on the right bank, to retire, or of cutting them off. The other part of the besieging army was not left in like manner unmolested, for O'Donnell had by this time recovered from his wound, and resumed the command.

On the 4th of July the enemy appeared on the right bank, and occupied the suburbs of Jesus and Las Roquetas; they took possession also of the country-houses which were near the city on that side, but not without resistance. On the 8th they attacked the *tete-du-pont*, expecting to carry it by a sudden and vigorous attempt; they were repulsed, renewed the attempt at midnight, were again repulsed, and a few hours afterwards failed in a third attack. They were now satisfied that Tortosa was not to be won without the time and labour of a regular siege. They had seen also a manifestation of that same spirit which had been so virtuously displayed at Zaragoza and Gerona. For the Tortosan women had passed and repassed the bridge during the heat of action, regardless of danger, bearing refreshments and stores to the soldiers; two who were wounded in this service were rewarded with medals and with a pension. They enrolled themselves in companies to attend upon the wounded, whether in the

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*The enemy
appear be-
fore the
place.*

CHAP. hospitals or in private houses. There was one woman who
 XXXIII. during the whole siege carried water and cordials to the troops
 1810. at the points of attack, and frequently went out with them in
 July. their sallies; the people called her La Titaya, and she was made
 a serjeant for her services. The men also formed themselves into
 companies, and it was evident what might be expected from the
 inhabitants, if their governor should prove worthy of the charge
 committed to him. Velasco, who held the command till the
 Conde de Alache should arrive, was incapacitated by illness for
 any exertion. The garrison, encouraged by their success in re-
 pelling the enemy, made a sally on the 10th with more courage
 than prudence, and lost about 100 men; the next day the French
 began their regular approaches.

*O'Donell
 visits the
 city.*

O'Donell's first care upon resuming the command of the
 army was to strengthen Tortosa and provide it against the siege,
 which if he could not prevent he would use every exertion to
 impede and frustrate. Lili arrived there in the middle of
 July, and a convoy of provisions with him: Velasco then left
 the place, and retired to Tarragona, broken in health. Stores
 and men were introduced till the magazines were fully reple-
 nished, and the garrison amounted to 8000 effective men. On the
 night of the 21st the enemy made another attack upon the tete-
 du-pont, as unsuccessfully as before. Some days afterwards
 O'Donell came there to inspect the place; he thanked the in-
 habitants for the good-will which they were manifesting, and the
 readiness with which they had cut down their fruit-trees and
 demolished their villas in the adjoining country, sacrificing every
 thing cheerfully to the national cause. He directed also a sally,
 which was made with good effect, some of the enemy's works
 being destroyed: Lili was present in this affair, and was wounded.
 Having seen that every thing was in order here, and promised
 well, the general returned to his army.

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But O'Donell deriving no support from either of the neighbouring provinces, had on the one hand to impede Suchet's operations, and on the other to act against Macdonald. Before that Marshal could take any measures in aid of the besieging army, he had to introduce a convoy into Barcelona. Having effected this object, and baffled the force which endeavoured to prevent it, he moved upon the Ebro; by this movement O'Donell was compelled to withdraw the division which kept in check the French corps upon the left bank; and Suchet, seizing the opportunity, passed that corps across the river, and advanced against the Valencian army, with which Caro had at last taken the field, .. only to make a precipitate retreat when it was thus attacked, and leave the enemy without any interruption from that side. Macdonald meantime easily overcoming the little resistance that could be interposed entered the plain of Tarragona, and took a position at Reus, with his whole disposable force, raising contributions in money and every kind of stores upon that unhappy town, while his troops pillaged the surrounding country. Tarragona was at this time but weakly garrisoned, and some apprehension was entertained that it might be his intention to lay siege to it. Campoverde's division, therefore, was immediately removed thither from Falset, and O'Donell himself entered the place, and occupied the height of Oliva and the village of La Canonja, endeavouring by activity and display to make the most of his insufficient force. Before daybreak this latter post was attacked by the French in strength, .. the Spaniards fell back till O'Donell came to their support; he supposed the enemy's object was to reconnoitre the place, and this he was desirous to prevent. Captain Buller, in the *Volontaire* frigate, was near enough distinctly to hear and see the firing; immediately he sent his launch and barge with some carronades in shore, and anchored the ship with springs in four fathoms water, to support

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*August.**Macdonald enters the plain of Tarragona.**Aug. 21.**Affair near Tarragona.*

CHAP. the boats, and act as circumstances might require. These boats
 XXXIII. acted with great effect upon the right flank of the French; and
 1810. the frigate bringing its guns to bear upon the enemy's cavalry,
 August. which was forming upon a rising ground, dislodged them; so
 that they retreated to their position with the loss of about an
 hundred and fifty men. On the same day Captain Fane, in the
 Cambrian frigate, and some Spanish boats, performed a like
 service at Salou, driving from thence, with the loss of some forty
 men, a detachment of the enemy who had gone thither to plunder
 the place. On the fourth day after this affair the French re-
 treated, leaving 700 sick and wounded in the hospital at Reus,
 and 200 at Valls. Their rearguard was overtaken in the town of
 Momblanch, and the plunder which they had collected there was
 recovered: but a Spanish general was put under arrest for not
 having improved the advantage which he had gained. They
 suffered also a considerable loss by desertion. Nearly 300 Ita-
 lians deserted from Reus, and 400 more during the expedition.

*Macdonald
 retires.
 Aug. 25.*

*O'Donell
 surprises
 the enemy
 at La Bis-
 bal.*

Suchet with 3000 men had moved down upon Momblanch, to cover a retreat which was not made without danger. This movement left Tortosa for a while free of access, and large supplies were promptly introduced. Macdonald now took a position near Cervera, as a central point, from whence he could cover the besieging army before Tortosa, and threaten the rear of the Spaniards upon the Llobregat, and where he could occupy an extent of country capable of supplying him with provisions. But this afforded opportunity to O'Donell for renewing that system of warfare which he had carried on successfully against Augereau. He embarked a small detachment at Tarragona, provided with artillery, which sailed under convoy of a small Spanish squadron and of the Cambrian frigate. On the 6th of September he put himself at the head of a division at Villafranca, having directed the movements of his troops so as to make the French infer that

it was his intention to interpose between them and Barcelona. Leaving Campoverde to throw up works near La Baguda, and secure that pass, he proceeded to Esparraguera: from thence he reconnoitred El Bruch and Casamasanes, and leaving Eroles to guard that position, ordered Brigadier Georget to take post at Mombuy, close by Igualada, and Camp-Marshal Obispo to advance by a forced march from Momblanch, and place himself upon the heights to the right and left of Martorell. This was on the 9th: that same night he ordered Campoverde to march the following morning and join him at S. Culgat del Valles, sending a battalion to reinforce Georget, but letting no one know his destination. The whole division reached Mataro on the 10th, Pineda on the following day; from thence a party under the Colonel of Engineers, D. Honorato de Fleyres, was dispatched to take post at the *Ermida* of S. Grau, while O'Donell proceeded to Tordera. Before he left Pineda he received intelligence that the squadron had commenced its operations auspiciously. Doyle had landed at Bagur, taken forty-two prisoners there, and with the assistance of the Cambrian's boats destroyed the battery and carried off the guns. Being now about to leave the garrison of Hostalrich in his rear, O'Donell sent off a detachment towards that fort, and another toward Gerona, that they might lead the French in both places to suppose he was reconnoitring with a view to invest them. On the 13th he reached the village of Vidreras, falling in on the way thither with an howitzer and a field-piece which had been landed for him at Calella. At Vidreras the two last detachments which he had sent off rejoined him, having performed their service with great success, the one party bringing off nine prisoners from the suburbs of Hostalrich, whom they had taken in the houses there, the other eleven from under the walls of Gerona.

This long movement had been undertaken in the hope of

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CHAP. cutting off the French who occupied S. Feliu de Guixols, Pa-
XXXIII. lamos, and La Bisbal. The larger force was at La Bisbal under
1810. General Schwartz; and that he might have no opportunity to
September. reinforce the two weaker points, it was O'Donell's intention to
attack him there, at the same time that Fleyres, dividing his de-
tachment, should attack both the other garrisons. From Vi-
dreras to La Bisbal is a distance which in that country, where
distances are measured by time, is computed at eight hours, the
foot-pace of an able-bodied man averaging usually four miles in
the hour; but at this time much depended on celerity. At day-
break on the 14th he renewed his march with the cavalry regi-
ment of Numancia, sixty hussars, and an hundred volunteer in-
fantry, who thought themselves capable of keeping up with the
horse. The regiment of Iliberia followed at a less exhausting
pace; and the rest of the division, under Campoverde, went by
way of Llagostera to post itself in the valley of Aro, as a body
of reserve, and cut off the enemy in case they should retire from
the points which they occupied. O'Donell proceeded so ra-
pidly that he performed the usual journey of eight hours in little
more than four, the infantry keeping up with the horse at a brisk
trot the whole time. As soon as they reached La Bisbal, Bri-
gadier Sanjuan, with the cavalry, occupied all the avenues of
the town, to prevent the enemy, who upon their appearance had
retired into an old castle, from escaping; some cuirassiers who
were patrolling were made prisoners; the Spanish infantry took
possession of the houses near the castle, and from thence and
from the church tower fired upon it. They rung the Somaten,
and the peasants who were within hearing came to join them.
O'Donell perceiving that musketry was of little avail, and that
Schwartz did not surrender at his summons, resolved to set
fire to the gates; but in reconnoitring the castle with this ob-
ject, he received a musket-ball in the leg, the sixteenth which

had struck him in the course of this war. Just at this time a detachment of an hundred foot, with two-and-thirty cuirassiers, came from the side of Torruella to aid the garrison. Sanjuan charged them with his reserve; the cuirassiers fled toward Gerona, all the infantry were taken, and a convoy of provisions with its escort fell into the hands of the Spaniards. The regiment of Iliberia, quickening its march when it heard the firing, now came up; at nightfall the enemy were a second time summoned, and Schwartz, seeing no means of escape, was then glad to have the honours of war granted him, upon surrendering with his whole party, consisting of 650 men and 42 officers.

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Fleyres meantime leaving S. Grau at two on the morning of the same day, divided his force, and directed Lieutenant-Colonel D. Tadeo Aldea, with 300 foot and 20 horse, against Palamos, while he with the same number of horse and 250 foot proceeded against S. Feliu de Guixols; 150 men being left as a reserve for both parties upon the heights on the road to Zeroles. Both were successful. The Spaniards were not discovered as they approached S. Feliu till they were within pistol-shot of the sentinel; and the enemy, after a brisk but short resistance, surrendered when they were offered honourable treatment in O'Donell's name. Thirty-six were killed and wounded here; 270 men and eight officers laid down their arms. At Palamos the enemy had batteries which they defended; but there the squadron co-operated, and after the loss of threescore men, 255, with seven officers, surrendered. Seventy more were taken on the following day in the Castle of Calonge. The result of this well-planned and singularly fortunate expedition, which succeeded in its full extent at every point, was the capture of one general, two colonels, threescore inferior officers, more than 1200 men, seventeen pieces of artillery, magazines and stores, and the destruction of every battery, fort, or house which the enemy

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had fortified upon the coast as far as the Bay of Rosas. The British seamen and marines had exerted themselves with their characteristic activity and good-will on this occasion; and Captain Fane, though suffering under severe indisposition at the time, had landed with Doyle, and put himself forwards wherever most was to be done. O'Donell, to mark the sense which was entertained of their services, ordered a medal to be struck for the officers and crew, with appropriate * inscriptions.

*The ene-
mies' bat-
teries on
the coast
destroyed.*

The Spaniards had only ten men killed and twenty-three wounded; but O'Donell was disabled by his wound, and a General who had displayed so much ability, and in whose fortune the soldiers had acquired confidence, could ill be spared. The system of maritime enterprise which had been thus well commenced was actively pursued. Upon General Doyle's representation it was resolved to attack the batteries which the enemy had erected upon the coast between Barcelona and Tarragona, and by means of which, with few men, they kept the maritime towns in subjection; they were placed always in commanding situations, . . . boats with supplies lay at anchor under them all day, in safety from the cruisers, and under cover of the night crept along shore toward their destination. Doyle embarked for this service, and with the aid of Captain Buller, in the *Volontaire*, effectually performed it, destroying every battery, and carrying off the artillery and stores. The same service was performed a second time upon the coast between Mataro and Rosas, where the enemy had re-occupied stations; the batteries were again destroyed, their coasters taken, and the Spanish Lieutenant-Colonel O'Ronan, who embarked in the *Volontaire* with authority from the

* On the one side *La España reconocida a la intrepidez Britanica*, on the other *Alianza eterna*.

provincial government, collected the imposts and levied contributions upon those persons who traded with France, or were known partizans of the French. He had the boldness to enter the town of Figueras with twenty-five men, and draw rations for them in sight of the enemy's garrison; but in this cruise the Volontaire suffered so much in a gale of wind, that it was necessary to make for Port Mahon.

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The British ships rendered essential service to the Catalans at this time, and were at all times useful in keeping up their hopes, and rendering it more difficult for the enemy to obtain supplies. The spirit of the people was invincible; and under such leaders as Manso, and Rovira, and Eroles, they were so successful in desultory warfare, that a land convoy for Barcelona required an army for its escort, and the French government was informed, that precarious as the supply by sea was, they must mainly trust to it. Indeed no inconsiderable part of the provisions which were sent by sea found its way to Barcelona after it had fallen into the hands of the British squadron. The cargoes were sold by the captors at Villa Nova, where there were persons ready to purchase them at any * price: . . . these persons were agents for the enemy; and when the magazines were full, a detachment came from Barcelona and convoyed the stores safely to that city, which is not twenty miles distant. The indulgence also which was intended for the Spaniards in Barcelona, in allowing their fishing-boats to come without the mole, was turned to the advantage of the garrison. There were about 150 of these boats, and upon every opportunity they received provisions and

*Captured
provisions
purchased
for the
French in
Barcelona.*

* They gave four dollars for the measure of rice (for example), which at Port Mahon would have produced only half a dollar.