

cover Castro. Their moveable column had now been drawn by a feint to Santona; from thence it could not reach Guetaria in less than four days; another attempt therefore was made upon that place in concert with the Pastor, and with one of Mina's battalions. The latter, after two days' severe march, did not arrive till it was too late; for when the enemy's guns on one side had been silenced, and a battery was ready to open upon them on the other, intelligence was received that a considerable body of French troops was hastening thither by forced marches. The Guerrillas maintained a brave action against them, till the superiority of the enemy's numbers was ascertained, and made it necessary for them to retreat; but this action prevented the re-embarkation of the British in time, so that two guns were in consequence destroyed, and 32 men made prisoners.

These operations of Sir Home Popham's squadron were of service in many ways. Troops were thus occupied who would otherwise have joined Marmont before the battle of Salamanca; the corps which relieved Guetaria was recalled from that direction, and Caffarelli was prevented from sending the infantry who were to have assisted in driving the English to the Tagus. The ports which were liberated lost no time in conveying supplies to the free parts of the kingdom, and vessels from them arrived daily at Coruña laden with corn and wine. And the Guerrillas as well as the regular troops of Spain received a countenance and support which enabled them to hold towards the enemy the language of confident hope. Renovales, who was Commandant-General in Biscay, addressed a letter to the French Governor of Bilbao, General Roquet, remonstrating against the cruelties which General Mouton had committed with his column: "for the security of a fortress," he said, "or to prevent an insurrection, the rules of military precaution might render it proper to put some few persons of respectability in confinement; but that cottages

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CHAP. and private dwellings should be outraged, and that peaceable persons should be tortured by stripes, by the bayonet, and by fire, was what no laws of war could justify. The Spaniards were a people who might be softened by generosity though not subdued by it; but if this system of terror were persisted in towards them, . . . if it were still to be war at the knife's point, the Biscayans, instead of yielding a foot to him, would meet him half way in such warfare. Four and twenty officers were in his hands, and should suffer for the next act of cruelty on the part of the French. He concluded, by assuring Roquet that the day was not far distant when Bilbao would be delivered, and that he, Renovales, would then, at the head of 10,000 Biscayans, fulfil his duty as he had hitherto done, and first of all towards himself.

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## CHAPTER XLII.

LORD WELLINGTON ENTERS MADRID. THE FRENCH RETIRE FROM ANDALUSIA. SIEGE OF BURGOS, AND RETREAT OF THE ALLIES.

BUONAPARTE could keep the French people ignorant of the course which events had taken in Portugal and Spain ; but even the vigilance of his military tyranny could not prevent the Spaniards from knowing that the allies, having driven out the French from the one kingdom, had entered the other, and had recovered the two strong places of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz. Fresh appeals were made by the Intrusive Government to the fears and jealousies of a people whom they now began to apprehend it would be found impossible to subdue. "What would it avail them, it was asked, if they were to set up Infantado, or the Empecinado, or Ballasteros, or any other of their countrymen for king? Wherefore should they persist in an obstinate and unavailing resistance after the Bourbon dynasty had been extinguished by that great man whom Providence had appointed to regenerate Spain, and who for their happiness had selected Joseph to reign over them? Why did they not rally round his throne?" The Spaniards only ridiculed such appeals; and the French themselves, in derision, called Joseph King of the Highways, as one whose authority extended no farther than his

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*Appeal of  
the Intruder  
to the Spa-  
niards.*

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patroles and armies could enforce it. His was indeed a miserable condition; the brother, of whose wicked will he had, in despite of his own understanding and heart, consented to become the instrument, regarded him with displeasure, because he had met with a resistance which was not to be overcome; the nation upon which he had been insolently intruded, regarded him with deeper hatred than perhaps had ever before been co-existent with the feeling of sincere contempt; the army by which alone he was supported despised him, and the French generals scarcely kept up towards him a semblance of respect.

*State of  
Madrid.*

But odious as the usurpation was every where, it was rendered peculiarly so at Madrid, by the presence of the Intruder, and of his ministers. Being the seat of the Intrusive Government, more of those traitors were collected there who had made the miseries of their country a means for their own advancement; and as the commanders in other parts cared little for the necessities of the court, heavier imposts were exacted from the inhabitants, at the very time when a remission of taxes was announced in edicts, which, if intended to be executed, were never carried into effect. The duties payable upon the entrance and exit of wheat, rice, and pulse of every kind were repealed by a decree, but continued to be exacted as before, and at the same time, new duties were imposed upon wine, oil, meat and vegetables. A loan of 20 million reales was soon exhausted, a contribution of eight millions was then demanded from the trading part of the people; and an equivalent proportion was taken in kind from the occupiers of land. Eight per cent. upon the value of houses was first required, then ten, and then fifteen; the poorest artisan was compelled to take out an annual license for the exercise of his calling; even the water carriers were subjected to this tax. Having collected a great quantity of grain,

the Government sold it at a price more suited to its own wants than to the condition of the people; the hospitals were crowded with sick and starving poor; and of the persons who died during the first six months of this year, two-thirds perished in consequence of misery and want. Patient endurance was all that the people of Madrid could oppose to their oppressors; but they lived in firm belief that the day of deliverance would come, believed every rumour of success on the part of their countrymen and their allies, and with the same determined will, discredited whatever was related of their reverses. They looked upon the account of Ballasteros's defeat at Bornos as so much exaggerated that it was unworthy of belief; and with more reasonable incredulity when it was reported that Marmont had totally defeated the allies and taken 20,000 prisoners, while the French and their partisans congratulated each other upon the news, they required dates and details, and assured themselves that it was nothing more than one of the enemy's customary falsehoods.

Indeed, before the battle of Salamanca, it was made sufficiently apparent by circumstances which the French were unable to conceal, that however confidently they might expect some great success, they had as yet obtained none. The garrison at the Puerto de Miravete, which had been relieved after the destruction of the bridge at Almaraz, was withdrawn now, the Puente del Arzobispo was abandoned, and they withdrew also from Talavera, which was immediately entered by the Medico. Most of their garrisons at the same time withdrew from La Mancha, and they were followed by those miserable people, who, having accepted offices, whether high or low, under the Intrusive Government, dared not remain without French protection in any place where they were known. Exertions were made for fortifying Toledo; and in the works which were carried

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*July.*

*Measures  
of Joseph  
before the  
battle of  
Salamanca.*

CHAP. on for the same purpose at the Retiro, the people of Madrid  
 XLII. saw unequivocal proof, that the French apprehended at least  
 1812. the possibility of an advance of the allies upon the capital.

July.

To prevent that danger, they had thus collected their forces from all quarters, thinking then to attack Lord Wellington with such superior numbers as would render success certain : but Joseph and M. Jourdan were too slow in moving from Madrid, and meantime Marmont had been too confident of his strength and of his skill. If he had delayed his passage of the Tormes only for two days, till the army of the centre should have joined, the enemy persuaded themselves that Lord Wellington could not have escaped from utter defeat, and that that victory would have secured the entire conquest of Spain.

*Advance of  
the allies.*

The event could not be kept secret at Madrid ; every one knew what no one dared publish ; and while false intelligence was sedulously spread abroad by the Intrusive Government, and the police was more than ordinarily active in arresting suspected persons, every one congratulated his friends and neighbours upon a victory the extent of which was magnified in proportion to their hopes. They entertained no doubt but that Marmont had been killed, and his whole army destroyed. Lord Wellington moved from Cuellar on the 6th of August, leaving General Clinton's division there, and General Anson's brigade of cavalry to observe the line of the Douro. He arrived at Segovia on the 7th, and at S. Ildefonso on the 8th, the beautiful summer retreat of the kings of Spain : there he halted one day that the right of the army might have time to come up. The passage of the Guadarama mountains was effected without opposition. Brigadier-General D'Urban, with the Portuguese cavalry, the first light battalion of the German Legion, and Captain M'Donald's troop of horse artillery, drove in on the morning of the 16th, about 2000 French cavalry ; they moved toward

Naval Carnero, and returned from thence in the evening with the Intruder himself, to make a reconnoissance. D'Urban formed the Portugueze cavalry in front of Majalahonda, and ordered them to charge the enemy's leading squadrons, which seemed too far advanced. The Portugueze pushed on, but unexpectedly disgraced themselves; their officers set them a brave example but in vain, and the Visconde de Barbacena, who behaved remarkably well, was taken prisoner; the men turned about shamefully, fled through the village, and left the guns behind them which had been moved forward for their support. M'Donald's troop exerted themselves to bring them off, but owing to the rough ground, one carriage was broken, two were overturned, and thus the three fell into the enemy's hands. The German dragoons who had been formed behind the village rallied the fugitives, charged the enemy, and stopped their progress, but suffered considerable loss. In this affair, about 200 men were killed, wounded, or taken, and 120 horses. The left of the allied army being not three miles distant, two brigades of horse and foot moved forward to support the troops in advance; the French retired as soon as they saw them, and withdrew during the night, leaving the guns. The piquets of the allies took post that evening on the mountains, in sight of Madrid.

The enemy, who from Madrid had been looking through telescopes toward the passes of the Guadarama, had seen D'Urban's detachment on the evening of the 9th. Orders were then given and revoked by the resident members of the Government, with the precipitation of fear: it was determined to abandon the capital on the following morning, and the adherents of the Intruder prepared in all haste for their departure; some selling their goods for any price that could be obtained for them others, intrusting them to the care of their friends, and not a few soliciting the compassion of those who had been found

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August.

Affair at  
Majalahonda.

The enemy  
retire from  
Madrid.

CHAP. faithful to their country. The families of these unhappy men were  
 XLII. objects of compassion even to the populace, notwithstanding the  
 1812. indignation which was felt at the men themselves, who bitterly re-  
 August. pented now, not so much their guilt, as their short-sightedness  
 in supposing that they had taken the stronger side. The troops  
 under whose protection they retired would have saved them  
 from any outrage or insult if any had been intended; but they  
 had not proceeded far from the gates before many of them were  
 plundered by these protectors. Two of Joseph's ministers en-  
 tered Madrid with a strong escort the next day, for the sup-  
 posed purpose of destroying papers, and securing effects which  
 could not be carried away in the hurry of the removal. They  
 retired in the evening, and on the morning of the 12th, all the  
 troops who remained shut themselves up in the Retiro. The  
 shops which, during the two preceding days, had been closed  
 were then opened, and Madrid became a scene of such joy as  
 had never been witnessed in the days of its proudest prosperity.  
 Soon after middle day, the allies began to enter through streets so  
 crowded with gratulating multitudes, that the officers who were  
 on horseback at the head of their men could scarcely make their  
 way, and scarcely keep their seats, so eagerly did the Spaniards  
 press to shake hands with them, as if nothing but an English  
 mode of greeting could make their exultation and their hearty  
 welcome sufficiently intelligible.

*The allies  
 enter.*

*The new  
 constitution  
 proclaimed.*

Madrid had lost more than two-thirds of its inhabitants since  
 its occupation by the French, but an influx of people from all  
 the surrounding country now filled it as if there had been no de-  
 population; and amid this multitude, on the following day, the  
 new constitution was proclaimed by D. Carlos de España, who  
 was appointed governor of the capital and province, . . . a charge  
 for which no one could be better qualified by clearness of  
 judgement, and promptitude in executing what he saw to be



right. Their acclamations were hushed as soon as they knew what they were called upon to hear; and the deep silence with which they listened to the constitutional act was interrupted only by the enemy's cannon from the Retiro, which seemed rather like a salute in honour of the ceremony, than an enemy's artillery employed in defence of their last hold in the capital. The act was received with exultant delight; young minds and generous ones, whose natural ardour enabled them to believe what they eagerly desired, persuaded themselves that the Spaniards had now established their freedom as well as achieved their independence; the happy days of Athens and of Sparta, they said, seemed to be restored; and the people of Madrid already appeared like a nation accustomed to liberty, and to deliberate concerning their own interests.

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*August.*

On that evening Lord Wellington invested the Retiro, where Marshal Jourdan, with little prudence, had left a garrison of 1700 men. At the eastern extremity of Madrid, Philip II. had a small palace, or rather house of retreat, pleasantly situated by the Prado or public walk, on a rising ground, and immediately adjoining the convent of S. Geronimo. Philip IV. took a fancy to the site; and Olivares, whose chief object seemed to be that of amusing his royal master at whatever cost, purchased adjacent land enough for a large palace, with its gardens and a park four miles in circuit; and such enormous sums were lavished upon the edifice and the grounds, that the additional imposts which were required for this expenditure, or artfully, perhaps, imputed to it, were one of the causes which provoked the revolt in Catalonia, and occasioned the separation of Portugal from the Spanish monarchy. The palace contained a theatre, spacious itself, and opening into the gardens, which might thus be made upon occasion a continuation of the scene; in this theatre the master-pieces of the Spanish drama were represented before a court

*The Buen  
Retiro.*