

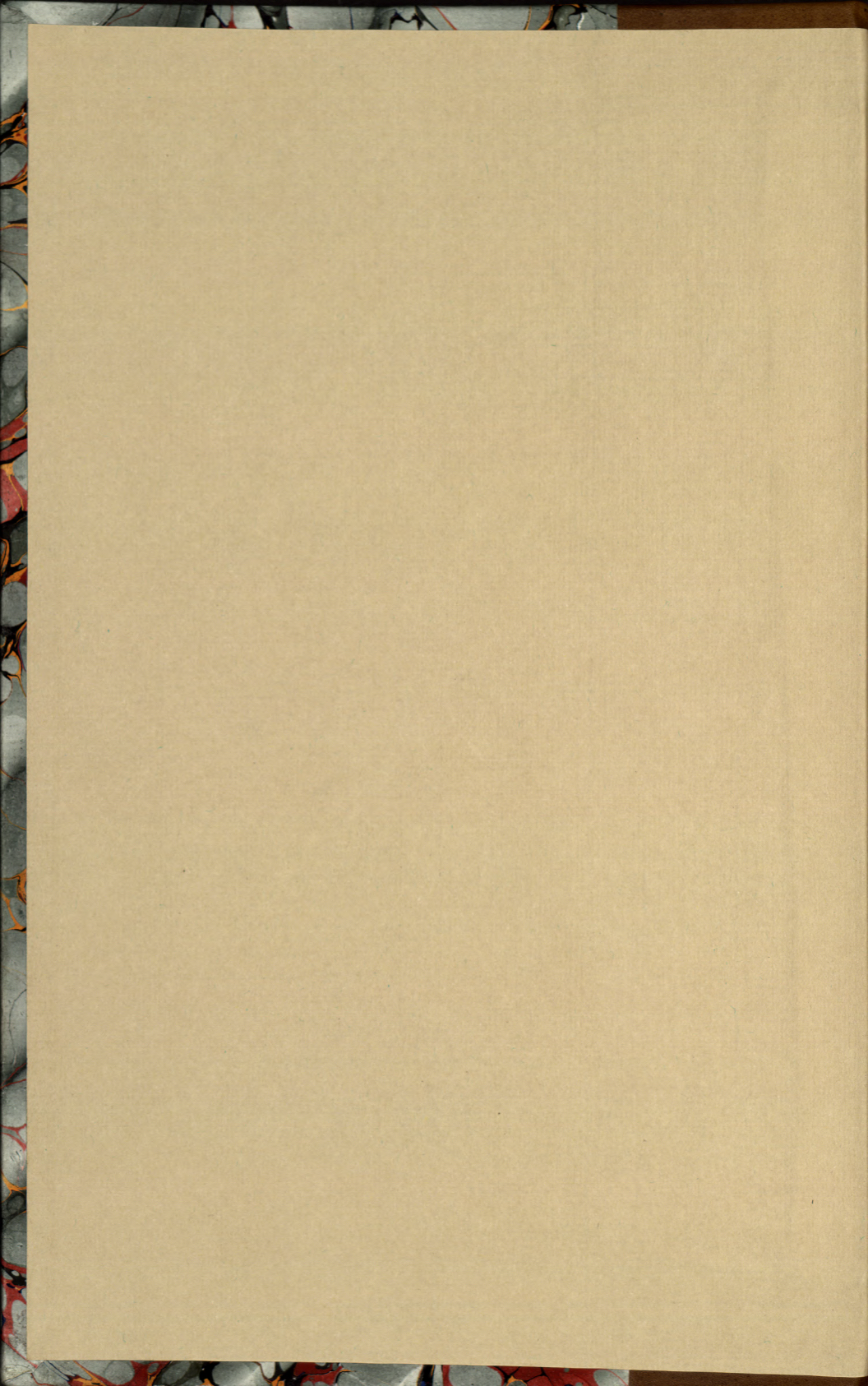


LONDONDERRY
ON THE
PENINSULAR
WAR

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LONDON 1829





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NARRATIVE
OF THE
PENINSULAR WAR.
VOL. II.

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NARRATIVE

OF THE

PENINSULAR WAR,

FROM 1808 TO 1813.

BY LIEUT.-GENERAL CHARLES WILLIAM VANE,
MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY, G.C.B. G.C.H.

COLONEL OF THE TENTH ROYAL HUSSARS.

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WITH AN APPENDIX OF CORRESPONDENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

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It has been stated in the former volume, that the whole of the troops which composed the French army of Portugal, advanced, in pursuit of us, by columns of corps, between the Mondego and the Douro. Instead, however, of continuing their march, as we had anticipated, by these distinct routes, they soon struck into a single line, and proceeded, in one immense body, along the Vizeu road, on the right bank of the Mondego. It is worthy of remark, that the road thus selected is

one of the worst in Portugal, and that it presented at this time so many natural difficulties to the transport of guns and wheeled carriages, as to be by us esteemed quite impassable. Yet by that road were the French troops pushed forward, and though they were followed by an enormous train of carriages, of artillery, ammunition-waggons, and other materiel, they nevertheless contrived to make way with considerable rapidity and order.

As soon as the first intelligence of these movements reached us, we retired from Celerico, and took up fresh ground in the vicinity of Gouvea. This was done under a persuasion that the enemy would make his principal attack upon our right; but it was no sooner ascertained that the road by which we had fallen back remained unoccupied, than Lord Wellington directed his columns upon the point threatened, and in a very masterly style of manœuvre, threw the whole of his army across the Mondego, between the 25th and 26th. At the same time, the corps of Generals Hill and Leith were moved, the one from Largedas, the other from Thomar, by the Espinhel road; and they both arrived on the latter day at the river. Lord Wellington's corps crossed at the Bavia de Pina Cova, and at the fords in the neighbourhood of Ponte de Marcella. The light division, with the cavalry, were then pushed forward to meet the enemy's advance as far as Santa Comba Dao;