

tulation. What the result was, is unknown ; but shortly afterwards an Imperial decree appeared, by which the punishment of death was denounced on any general, who should hereafter become party to a capitulation by which the troops of France should, in the open field, be made to lay down their arms.

CHAP. V.

1808.

July.

By the Spanish authorities, the terms of the surrender of Baylen were shamefully infringed. The troops, instead of being conveyed to France, were imprisoned in the hulks at Cadiz ; and, on their march, little protection was afforded from the fury of the people. Few indeed of these unfortunate soldiers survived the horrors of their confinement. Some years afterwards, a few hundreds, rendered desperate by suffering, cut the cables of their prison-ship ; and, allowing her to drift to sea, under a heavy fire, were fortunately rescued by their countrymen, then blockading Cadiz.

Such was the result of the first invasion of Andalusia.

## CHAPTER VI.

OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN  
PROVINCES.

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

WHILE the arms of France were thus encountering reverses in the East and South, the most important scene of struggle was in the North. By defeat in the other quarters of Spain, the war was merely prolonged, and the ultimate issue of the contest rendered more doubtful and remote. By defeat in the Northern Provinces, especially in those of Leon and Old Castile, the safety of the French armies, in every quarter of the kingdom, was immediately endangered. The primary basis of operations of the whole armies was Bayonne, and the communication between that city and Madrid could not be interrupted without occasioning, in the words of Napoleon, "an universal paralysis."

On the first appearance of insurrection in the North, vigorous measures were adopted by Marshal Bessieres, to restore submission and tranquillity.

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

General Lefebvre Desnouettes was directed to advance from Pampluna to Zaragoza. From Burgos, detachments were sent against Valladolid, St. Andero, Segovia, and Legrono. Of the progress and results of these operations, it is necessary that we should now speak somewhat in detail.

The force destined for the reduction of St. Andero, was placed under the command of General Merle. Before the insurgent army were aware of his having entered the Asturias he had reached Reynosa. While there he received orders to halt, in consequence of an insurrection having broken out in Valladolid, a city whose military importance was incalculably greater than that of St. Andero. To reduce this place to obedience, General Lasalle was despatched by Bessieres with a force of about five thousand men, and six pieces of artillery. He arrived at Torquemada on the seventh of June. Five hundred peasants had obstructed the passage of the bridge with chains and waggons, and taken post in the surrounding houses and in the

Jun. 7.



CHAP. VI. church of Torquemada. The bridge was at  
1808. once carried by the infantry of Lasalle, the town  
June. was sacked and burned, and the flying peasants  
were pursued and mercilessly sabred by the  
enemy.

Jun. 8. On the eighth, Lasalle entered Palencia. The  
prayer of the Bishop, that the town should be  
spared, was granted; and, having disarmed the  
inhabitants, he proceeded to Duenas on the  
twelfth. There he was joined by General  
Merle; and the army, thus strengthened, ad-  
vanced on the following day to attack Cuesta,  
Captain-General of the province, at Cabeçon.

Jun. 9. The force of that General was drawn up on the  
right bank of the Pisuerga, with the intention  
of defending the bridge and the town. The  
French made a vigorous attack in two columns,  
and were completely successful. The Spaniards  
were driven with great slaughter at all points,  
and many plunging into the river were drowned.  
The loss occasioned to the French, by this en-  
gagement, amounted only to twelve killed and  
thirty wounded; that of Cuesta's army is report-  
ed to have been very great, and no quarter was  
granted by the victors.

Having achieved this victory, the French

Generals continued their advance to Valladolid. CHAP. VI.  
 The defeat of Cuesta had left that city at the  
 mercy of the enemy. A deputation of the chief  
 authorities, headed by the Bishop, came forth to  
 solicit clemency, and offer submission. All the  
 arms and warlike stores found in the arsenal,  
 were sent to Burgos; and fifty hostages, for the  
 future obedience of the city, chosen from the  
 families of greatest rank and influence, were ex-  
 acted by the French Generals.

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 1808.  
 June.

While affairs had put on so pacific an aspect at  
 Valladolid, the presence of the French armies  
 was required in other quarters. On the six-  
 teenth, General Lasalle broke up from Valla-  
 dolid, and returned to Palencia. The division  
 of General Merle was ordered to resume its op-  
 erations against St. Andero; and a brigade, un-  
 der General Ducos, was directed to advance by  
 Frias and Soncillo, to effect a junction with the  
 force under that officer.

Jun. 16.

During his march to Reynosa, where he ar-  
 rived on the twentieth, Merle's army encoun-  
 tered no opposition. But in the mountainous  
 country around the Venta del Escudo, he found  
 an insurgent force prepared to oppose his pro-  
 gress. They occupied a range of defiles, through

Jun. 20.

CHAP. VI. which it was necessary the French should pass on their route to St. Andero ; and had the skill and vigour of the defence been equal to the strength of the position, the French must have been unsuccessful in the attempt to dislodge a military body so formidably posted.

1808.  
June.

Merle formed his army into three columns, two of which were directed to scale the mountains, and take the enemy in flank, while the third advanced by the road, and made a charge on the front of the position. The Spaniards were driven at all points ; several guns were captured ; and the pursuit of the flying enemy was continued for some distance along the St. Andero road.

Before reaching the point of his destination, General Merle had another obstacle to encounter. The road between Las Fraquas and Somahoz, is scooped out of the rock for a considerable distance, and is flanked on one side by an almost perpendicular mountain, and on the other by a steep and precipitous ravine. Here the Spaniards had barred the road by an *abattis*, surmounted by four pieces of cannon, and defended by a numerous detachment of their army.

In order to overcome this formidable impedi-

ment, Merle sent out columns on either flank, directing them, by a circuitous route, to take the enemy in rear. These lateral movements were successful. The Spaniards no sooner descried the approach of the columns than they hastily retreated; and the French, without further opposition, entered St. Andero on the following day. In that city a junction was effected with the corps of Ducos, who, on his march, had defeated a considerable body of the insurgents, by whom his progress had been obstructed at the pass of Soncillo.

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

These vigorous measures were for a time successful in subduing resistance in the surrounding country; and the chief towns of Leon, Biscay, Asturias, and Navarre, awed into temporary submission, sent deputies to Bayonne, to make formal declaration of obedience to the intrusive sovereign.

The operations against Aragon, were conducted by Lefebvre Desnouettes. The leader of the insurrection in that kingdom was Don Joseph Revollo de Palafox, whose name, if devoted patriotism afford claim of exemption from oblivion, will be pronounced with honour by posterity. Palafox was the youngest of three Cavallero.

CHAP. VI. brothers, and belonged to one of the most ancient and distinguished families in the kingdom. He had accompanied his sovereign to Bayonne; and his loyalty, amid the trying circumstances of the times, had been ardent and unswerving. As Captain-General, he had exerted his authority in suppressing popular commotions, and in organizing an effective system of resistance to the common enemy. In this honourable path his progress was beset with difficulties. Aragon was alike destitute of regular troops, and of arms and ammunition. No province in the kingdom was poorer in defensive resources. She was rich only in the spirit of her people, and in the talent and heroic devotion of her leader. By Palafox every thing was done to give effect to the popular resistance. With the deserters from the regular army in other provinces, he organized new regiments. A body of artillery was equipped for the field; and all who could procure arms, enrolled themselves as his followers.

When Lefebvre was directed to advance against Aragon, the Baron de Versage, an officer of the Walloon Guards, was at Calatayud, which he occupied with a battalion of students, and was daily adding to his force by the volun-



tary enlistment of the neighbouring population. CHAP. VI.  
 Palafox was at Zaragoza, from which place he  
 detached a body of his army to assist the people  
 of Tudela in defending the passage of the Ebro. 1808.  
 The roads from the neighbouring provinces were  
 guarded by detachments of troops, armed and  
 organized with as much efficiency as the urgency  
 of the juncture would permit. June.

On the seventh of June, Lefebvre commenced Jun. 7.  
 his march from Pampluna, with a force of five  
 thousand infantry, eight hundred cavalry, and  
 several pieces of artillery. On the ninth, he Jun. 9  
 came in contact with the insurgent force at  
 Tudela, and routed them without difficulty. With  
 unwarrantable cruelty, the leaders of the insur-  
 rection were put to death, and the French army  
 continued its advance on Zaragoza.

On learning this disaster, Palafox, with nine  
 thousand of his raw levies, and a few pieces of  
 badly organized artillery, advanced to Mallen,  
 and took post on the rivulet of Huerba. Here  
 he was attacked by Lefebvre, and driven with Jun. 13.  
 slaughter and loss of cannon from his ground.  
 Another attempt was made to dispute the pass-  
 age of the Xalon, but without success. The  
 French army took possession of Alagon on the

CHAP. VI. fifteenth, and on the day following appeared before Zaragoza.

1808.

June.

Jun. 16.

Palafox and his army had already retreated to the city, where every preparation for defence was immediately set on foot. He took up a position in the surrounding gardens and olive grounds, and along the banks of the canal; and having planted his cannon to defend the gates of the city, awaited the approach of the enemy. The conflict which ensued was bloody. The insurgents fought without order, yet with a resolution worthy of their cause. A body of the French army forced its way into the city, but was driven back with heavy loss by the inhabitants, who assailed them from the roofs and windows of the houses. The carnage was great on both sides; and Lefebvre, probably little prepared for a resistance so vehement and determined, having dislodged Palafox from his position, withdrew his army, and awaited the arrival of reinforcements.

Zaragoza was a walled, but not a fortified city. It stands in an extensive plain covered with vineyards and olive groves; and, within reach of cannon, is commanded on the south-west by a hill called the Monte Torrero, which forms the

site of a convent. On one side the walls are washed by the Ebro, across which the communication with the suburbs is by a bridge of stone; and at the base of the Monte Torrero, the canal of Aragon runs in a direction nearly parallel to the course of the river. On the east and west, the country is intersected by two tributaries of the Ebro, one of which, the Huerba, approaches very closely to the walls of the city. In summer the Huerba is generally dry; but the winter torrents have worn deeply into the soil, and thus formed a ravine, which is crossed in the neighbourhood of the city by two bridges. The Gallego, a river of considerable magnitude, discharges its waters into the Ebro, nearly opposite to the point of confluence of the Huerba.

The walls, though old, were massive, generally about ten feet high, and built of brick and rough stones. They were, apparently, not meant for the purposes of defence, but merely to enable the civic authorities to levy taxes on every article brought into the town for sale. The gates, which are nine in number, are of the most simple construction, and the alignment between them is, in some places, preserved by the mud-wall of a garden—in others, by convents and

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

Vaughan.

CHAP. VI. dwelling-houses, or by the remains of an old Moorish wall, which has a slight parapet, but without any platform, even for musquetry. The city is built of brick; the houses are three stories in height, and the streets narrow and crooked, with the exception of one or two market-places, and the street called the Cozo, situated nearly in the centre of the town.

1808.

June.

Such was the situation, and such the defensive appliances, of Zaragoza. To an eye merely military, it would probably have appeared incapable of resisting a siege. To one of keener penetration, which saw that all the energies of its numerous population were powerfully roused to the determination of resolute resistance, the cause, though perilous and doubtful, might not have seemed hopeless. But of a defence so gallant and heroic, as that by which the siege of Zaragoza has been rendered for ever historically memorable—of an endurance so unshrinking—of sufferings, which it is even painful to contemplate, no anticipation could have been formed by the most prescient observer.

Palafox, driven into the city, did not relax in his efforts for its defence. He exhorted the inhabitants to continue steadfast to the cause in

which they had gloriously embarked. He be-  
sought them to prove, by their actions, that  
they were worthy of the precious blood which  
had been already shed in their behalf. He  
animated them by assurance of victory, but  
did not conceal the price at which it was neces-  
sary it should be bought. Their soil was already  
moist with the martyr blood of their brethren.  
The Moloch of tyranny required new victims—  
“ Let us,” he said, “ be prepared for the  
sacrifice.”

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

But the views of Palafox were not confined to the internal defence of Zaragoza. As Captain-General of Aragon, his duties had a wider scope. He had to organize and embody the resistance of the whole province; and, unwilling to hazard every thing on a single contingency, he determined to distract the attention of the enemy from the siege, by another effort from without. He accordingly quitted Zaragoza; and, crossing the Ebro at Pina, with such force as he had been enabled to collect, proceeded to Belchite, where he effected a junction with the corps of Versage. With the army thus collected, amounting to about six thousand men, Palafox immediately advanced to Epila, in order to

CHAP. VI. cut off the supplies of the French army. Some  
 1808. of his troops betrayed reluctance again to en-  
 June. counter in the field an enemy with whom it was  
 already apparent they were unequal to cope ;  
 and several of the higher officers proposed re-  
 treating to Valencia. Such timid counsels were  
 rejected. Palafox offered passports to all who  
 chose, at such a moment, to forsake his standard.  
 " Let those who love me follow me," was his  
 brief but emphatic address to the soldiers :—the  
 whole army followed him.

Jun. 23. Lefebvre no sooner learned that Palafox was  
 in the field, than he advanced to attack him. On  
 the night of the twenty-third the engagement  
 took place. The Spanish army were unequal to  
 cope with the superior skill and discipline of  
 their opponents. Two thousand of their num-  
 ber were killed or wounded ; the whole artillery  
 was captured ; and Palafox, defeated but unsub-  
 dued, retreated to Calatayud. There he re-  
 mained for a few days, endeavouring, with un-  
 daunted spirit, to re-organize the wreck of his  
 Jul. 1. gallant band. On the first of July he again en-  
 tered Zaragoza.

In the meanwhile, the army of Lefebvre had  
 been joined by that of General Verdier, who

had been successfully employed in the reduction of Lograno, and by some battalions of Portuguese. A heavy battering train was likewise brought up from Pampluna; and the combined force, thus collected for the siege of the city, amounted to about twelve thousand men. On the twenty-seventh, an attempt was made to carry the Torrero by assault, in which the enemy were repulsed with severe loss, leaving six guns and five waggons of ammunition in the hands of the besieged. On the following day, their efforts were more successful; and, owing to the cowardice of an artillery-officer, who afterwards suffered death for his misconduct, the Torrero, and a neighbouring battery, fell into their hands. This misfortune prevented all communication with the city from the south.

The French battering train was now brought into full action on the city. But the increasing danger which surrounded them, only roused the enthusiasm of the inhabitants to a higher pitch. They planted cannon at every commanding point; broke loopholes for musquetry in the walls and houses, and converted the awnings of their windows into sacks, which they filled with

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

Jun. 27.

CHAP. VI. sand, and placed in the form of batteries at the gates. Every house in the environs of the city, which could afford shelter to the enemy, was destroyed. The gardens and olive grounds were even rooted up by the proprietors, wherever they were supposed to impede the general defence. Thus was it, that in this noble struggle for freedom, all private interests were disregarded.

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1808.

June.

The share taken by the women in the memorable defence of Zaragoza, it belongs to history to record. By their voices and their smiles, the men were rewarded for past exertions, and animated to new. Regardless of fatigue and danger, they formed parties for relieving the wounded, and for carrying refreshment to those who served in the batteries. Of these undaunted females, the young, delicate, and beautiful Countess Burita was the leader. Engaged in her blessed work of merciful ministration, with death surrounding her on all sides, she went, with unshrinking spirit, wherever anguish was to be relieved, or sinking courage to be animated. Never, during the whole course of a protracted siege, did she once swerve from her generous and holy purpose. With all a woman's softness



of heart, yet without a woman's fears, she par-  
 took in every danger and every privation—a  
 creature at once blessed, and bringing blessings.

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 1808.

June.

It was impossible, in such circumstances, that the defence of Zaragoza could be otherwise than heroic. Where women suffer, men will die. All ranks and classes of society laboured alike in the defence. Mothers, tearless and untrembling, sent forth their children to partake in the common peril, and to perform such labours as their strength would permit. The priests took arms and mingled in the ranks. The ammunition was made into cartridges by the nuns. In Zaragoza all hearts were animated by a sacred zeal in the cause of liberty and their country.

On the night of the twenty-eighth, a powder magazine blew up in the centre of the city, by which fourteen houses were destroyed, and two hundred men killed. This has been attributed to treachery, but without evidence. The enemy, however, took advantage of the confusion which such an occurrence could not fail to create, and opened a heavy fire on the city, which continued with little interruption during the whole of the succeeding day.

Jun. 28.

CHAP. VI.

1808.

June.

In the morning the Portillo gate, and the castle in its vicinity, became the chief object of attack; and the fire of the French artillery, concentrated on that point, destroyed the sand-bag battery erected for its defence. This, however, was continually re-constructed by the indefatigable labours of the people. Here the carnage was excessive. The battery was repeatedly cleared of its defenders; and so vehement and overwhelming was the fire of the enemy, that the citizens at length stood aghast at the slaughter, and recoiled from entering a scene already glutted with victims.

At this moment it was, that a young female, named Augustina, of the lower class of the people, arrived at the battery with refreshments. She read the prevailing consternation in the countenances of those around her; and snatching a match from the hand of a dead artilleryman, she sprung forward among the bodies of the dead and dying, and fired off a twenty-six pounder; then mounting the gun, made a solemn vow, never, during the siege, to quit the battery alive. This animating spectacle revived the drooping courage of the people. The guns were instantly re-manned, and point-

ed with such effect, that the French were re- CHAP. VI.  
 pulsed with great slaughter; and having suffered  
 severely at other points, Verdier at length gave  
 orders for retreat. 1808.  
 July.

On the second of July another attempt was Jul. 2.  
 made to effect an entrance by the Portillo. A  
 strong column advanced toward the gate with  
 fixed bayonets, and without firing a shot. They  
 were received with so destructive a fire, both of  
 grape shot and small arms, that their ranks fell  
 into disorder; and, dispersing on all hands, no  
 further attempt was made on that quarter of the  
 city. Another column advanced against the  
 gate Del Carmen; and there also the enemy ex-  
 perienceed a spirited repulse.

Hitherto the French had remained on the Jul. 11.  
 right bank of the Ebro. On the eleventh they  
 effected the passage of the river at a ford above  
 the city; and Verdier crossed a body of his ar-  
 my, in order to protect a floating bridge which  
 he was engaged in constructing. This was fin-  
 ished on the fourteenth, notwithstanding every Jul. 14.  
 effort of the garrison to impede the work. The  
 cavalry immediately passed the river; and scour-  
 ing the country in all directions, destroyed the  
 corn-mills, levied contributions on the villages,

CHAP. VI. and deprived the city of its supplies. The powder-mills of Villa Feliche, from which the city received its supplies, after a severe contest with the corps of Versage, were likewise gained possession of by the enemy.

1808.

July.

Vaughan.

But the energy of Palafox, and the fertility of resource by which he was distinguished, did not desert him in these trying circumstances. In the city he erected corn-mills, which were worked by horses, and the monks were employed in the somewhat unclerical and anomalous operation of manufacturing gunpowder. For this purpose all the sulphur in the city was collected; nitre was extracted from the soil of the streets; and charbon was supplied by the hemp stalks, which in that part of Spain are of unwonted magnitude.

By the end of July the city was entirely invested, and its defenders had already suffered severely from want of provisions. But the spirit of the people did not flag. Frequent sorties were made with the view of re-opening the communication with the country; and, emboldened by the arrival of the regiment of Estremadura, which had found its way into the city, an attempt was made to regain the Torrero by as-

sault. This failed; and the inhabitants, despair- CHAP. VI.  
 ing of success in any external effort of hostility,  
 determined to remain within the walls of their  
 1808.  
 August.

On the night of the second of August and on  
 the following day, the French bombarded the  
 city. An hospital, containing the sick and Aug. 3.  
 wounded, caught fire, and was speedily reduced  
 to ashes. Every effort was made to rescue the  
 sufferers. Men and women distinguished them-  
 selves alike in this work of noble humanity, and,  
 rushing amid the flames, braved all danger in the  
 high excitement of the moment. It is pleasant  
 that the annals of war and bloodshed, may be  
 occasionally redeemed by the record of events  
 like these.

The efforts of the besiegers did not slack,  
 though their progress was retarded by the daily  
 sorties of the garrison. On the fourth of Au- Aug. 4.  
 gust, at daybreak, they began battering in  
 breach, and by nine o'clock the troops in  
 two columns advanced to the assault. One  
 of these made good its entrance near the Con-  
 vent St. Engracia, the other by the Puerta del  
 Carmen, which was carried by assault. The

CHAP. VI. first obstacle overcome, the French took the batteries in reverse, and turned the guns on the city. A scene of wild havoc and confusion ensued. The assailants rushed through the streets, and endeavoured to gain possession of the houses. The Convent of St. Francisco and the general hospital took fire, and the flames spread on all hands. Many cast themselves from the windows on the bayonets of the soldiers; and the madmen escaping from the hospital, added to the horrors of the scene, by mingling with the combatants—shouting, shrieking, or laughing, amid the carnage.

1808.

August.

Cavallero.

Wherever the French penetrated they were assailed by a dreadful fire from the houses, all of which had been barricadoed. Dismayed by a resistance so obstinate and destructive, towards evening they lost courage, and retreated in confusion to that quarter of the city which remained in their possession. The terrible events of the day had thinned the ranks of the assailants. Of their number above fifteen hundred had fallen, including several generals.

In such circumstances it was, that the French

General summoned Palafox to surrender, in the following laconic note :—

CHAP. VI.

1808.

August.

*Quartel General—Santa Engracia.*

LA CAPITULACION.

The answer immediately returned was—

*Quartel General—Zaragoza.*

GUERRA AL CUCHILLO.

The morning dawned and brought with it a renewal of the dreadful conflict. The French had penetrated to the Cozo, and occupied one side of the street while the Spaniards were in possession of the other. In the centre, General Verdier was seen giving orders from the Franciscan convent. Here a contest almost unexampled took place. War was waged from every house; the street was piled with dead, and an incessant fire was kept up by both parties. The batteries of the Zaragozans, and those of the French were frequently within a few yards of each other. At length the ammunition of the city was nearly expended, yet even this circumstance induced no thought of surrender. As Palafox rode through the streets, the people crowded round him, and declared that if am-

Aug. 5.

CHAP. VI. munition failed they were ready to resist the enemy with their knives. Towards sunset, however, their hopes were cheered by the unexpected arrival of Don Francisco Palafox, the brother of their heroic leader, with a reinforcement of three thousand men.

1808.

August.

Eleven days passed, during which this murderous contest was continued, and new horrors were gradually added to the scene. The bodies of the slain which were left unburied in the streets, had become putrid, and tainted the atmosphere with pestilential odours. This was partially remedied by securing the French prisoners by ropes, and pushing them forward into the streets, in order to remove the bodies for interment.

Aug. 8.

On the eighth a council of war was held in the garrison, and in that assembly no voice was heard for surrender. It was determined to maintain those quarters of the city still in their possession with unshaken resolution; and should the fortune of war be eventually unfavourable to their cause, to retire across the Ebro, and, destroying the bridge, to perish in defence of the suburbs. There is a moral sublimity in the courage of the unfortunate, in that patient and



unshrinking fortitude of the spirit, which enables the sufferer to stand fearless and unsubdued amid the fiercest storms of fortune. The devotion and patriotism of the Zaragozans had been tried by fire, and they came forth pure and unsullied from the ordeal.

CHAP. VI.

1808.

August.

The resolution of their leaders was communicated to the people, and received with loud acclamations. The conflict was continued from street to street, from house to house, from room to room, and with renewed spirit on the part of the defenders. They gradually beat back their opponents, and regained the greater portion of the city. In the meanwhile, Verdier being wounded had retired from the command, and Lefebvre received orders from Madrid to raise the siege, and take up a position at Milagro. On the night of the thirteenth, a destructive fire was opened by the enemy from all their batteries, and many parts of the city were set on fire. The Church of St. Engracia was blown up, and that venerable fane of ancient religion was levelled with the dust. But the night of terror was followed by a dawn of joy. In the morning the inhabitants beheld the distant columns of their enemy retreating discomfited, from one of

Vaughan.

Aug. 13.

Aug. 14.

CHAP. VI. the most murderous and pertinacious struggles of which history bears record.

1808.

August.

Thus concluded the ever memorable siege of Zaragoza, and thus was achieved the brightest and most honourable triumph of a people struggling for freedom. "There is not," says Mr. Southey, in a strain of eloquence worthy of the occasion, "in the annals of ancient or of modern times, a single event recorded, more worthy to be held in admiration, now and for evermore, than the siege of Zaragoza. Will it be said that this devoted people obtained for themselves, by all this heroism and all these sacrifices, nothing more than a short respite from their fate? Wo be to the slavish heart that conceives the thought, and shame to the base tongue that gives it utterance! They purchased for themselves an everlasting remembrance upon earth—a place in the memory and love of all good men, in all ages that are yet to come. They performed their duty; they redeemed their souls from the yoke; they left an example to their country never to be forgotten, never to be out of mind, and sure to contribute to, and hasten its deliverance."

"Let it not be said," observes General Foy, speaking of the defenders of Zaragoza,

“ that it would have been better to preserve themselves, because at a subsequent period they were forced to yield. Leonidas also died at Thermopylæ, and his death was certain before he went into battle. The glory of Zaragoza is of a similar kind. There too burst forth that religious fervour which embraces the present and the future, the cradle and the tomb, and which becomes still more holy when it is exerted against foreigners and the oppressors of our country. There also was exhibited that sublime indifference to life and death, which thinks of nothing but obedience to a noble impulse; and there the triumph of moral over physical nature was signally achieved.”\*

CHAP. VI.

1808.

August.

The retreat of the besieging army left the

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\* After these writers it is almost painful to quote Colonel Napier. “ It is manifest,” he asserts, “ that Zaragoza owed her safety to *accident*, and that the desperate resistance of the inhabitants, *was more the result of chance than of any peculiar virtue.*” CHANCE! Such is the melancholy extremity to which a writer so talented as Colonel Napier is driven, in denying the heroic devotion of the Zaragozans; and the hypothesis has at least the advantage of being one not likely to encounter refutation.

CHAP. VI. Zaragozans in a state of extreme suffering and exhaustion. Yet the privations of their situation were borne without a murmur. Many there were who had been reduced from opulence to abject poverty. Parents had to lament their children, wives their husbands, orphans were cast shelterless upon the world. Yet the voice of wailing was not heard in Zaragoza. Private sorrows were not suffered to disturb the glory of the public triumph. The time of trial and excitement had passed away, yet the fortitude of the brave and devoted Zaragozans remained unshaken.

1808.  
August.

Vaughan.

Measures were immediately adopted to preserve the city from infection. The streets and ruins were cleared from their dead. Ferdinand was publicly proclaimed, and rewards were bestowed on those who had distinguished themselves in the struggle. The undaunted Augustina was distinguished by peculiar honours; and Palafox, in the name of his sovereign, granted to the inhabitants of Zaragoza, the exclusive privilege of being perpetually exempted from disgraceful punishment for any cause, save treason or blasphemy.

## CHAPTER VII.

## OPERATIONS IN CATALONIA.

OF the movements in Catalonia we have not yet spoken. It is now necessary we should do so.

CHAP. VII.

1808.

While the reliance of Spain on the faith of her invaders was yet unbroken, Duhesme, who commanded the army of the eastern Pyrenees, had succeeded by fraud and intimidation in gaining possession of the city of Barcelona, and the fortresses of Figueras and Mont Jouy. On its occupation by the French, the garrison of Barcelona amounted to about four thousand men, but so precarious was the tenure by which that city was held by the intrusive army, that Duhesme connived at their escape, and they

CHAP. VII. were suffered silently to depart and unite their  
 1808. strength with that of the neighbouring insur-  
 May. gents.

It was in Manresa that the earliest and most formidable ebullition of popular feeling took place. The inhabitants of that town, regardless of danger, were unanimous in declaring their adherence to Ferdinand; and the decrees from Bayonne, and the edicts of the servile Junta of Madrid, were burned publicly in the market-place. In Tortosa the Governor was murdered by the inhabitants, in the first exacerbation of their loyalty, and Duhesme thought it prudent still further to strengthen his position by the occupation of Lerida. The Spanish regiment of Estremadura, which had joined the French standard, was detached on this service; but the Leridans, with natural distrust, refused admission to their countrymen; and this body, unwilling again to unite themselves with the invaders, were subsequently received into Zaragoza, and bore part in the defence of that city.

There were at this period many difficulties by which the French army in Catalonia were surrounded. The Junta of Gerona was indefati-