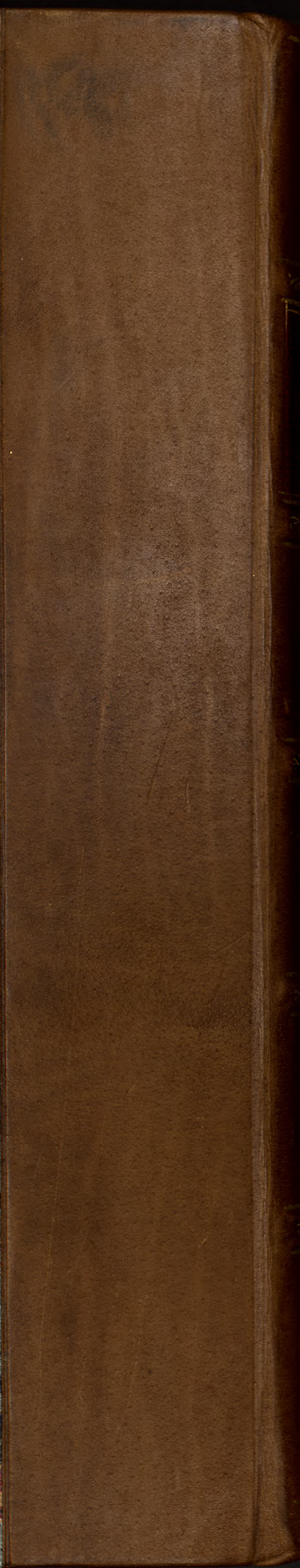




LONDONDERRY  
ON THE  
PENINSULAR  
WAR

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LONDON 1839















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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.

THIRD EDITION,

WITH AN APPENDIX OF CORRESPONDENCE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON :

HENRY COLBURN, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1829.

NARRATIVE

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TO  
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY  
GEORGE IV.

SIRE,

AMONGST the many distinguished honours your Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer on one of your most devoted subjects, none was more deeply appreciated than your appointment of him to the colonelcy of that regiment which your Majesty so long commanded in person. It is from a constant and everlasting sense of this military distinction, that he has ventured most humbly to lay at your Majesty's feet a short narrative of those campaigns in the Peninsula in which he had the honour and good fortune to be engaged.

With the profoundest respect and devotion, the writer begs permission to subscribe himself,

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Subject and Servant,

VANE LONDONDERRY, Lieut.-Genl.

COL. 10<sup>TH</sup> ROYL. HUSSARS.

TO  
HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY  
GEORGE IV.

... that the many distinguished honours  
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With the profoundest respect and devotion, the  
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Your Majesty's  
Most dutiful Subject and Servant

John Foxworth, Lieut.-Genl.  
Colonel Roy's Hussars.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

THESE Reminiscences of some years of an active professional life were never intended to meet the public eye. They were written always in great haste, sometimes at long intervals, and sometimes when fatigue entirely oppressed the body, and when the frame courted sleep rather than the most trifling occupation. But the great motive which prompted the first committal to paper of the imperfect details which these sheets embrace, was the affectionate and indulgent spirit with which they were received by him to whom they were addressed. They would probably have remained buried with the object of that unbounded attachment and devotion which gave them birth, had not the circumstances attending the late events

in Portugal recalled the former scenes passed in that country, where British soldiers had enjoyed so many triumphs, and where the deepest interest had been blended with their career, by their learning, practically, under the greatest Master of this or any former age, that profession in which their destinies were involved.

When a new force was equipped, and, launched under new auspices, was about to sail for that quarter, it occurred to me that these hasty sketches of a former period, however light and imperfect, might not be wholly uninteresting to those brave brother soldiers, who were embarking again for that land where so many laurels had been already gathered.

I therefore determined to arrange, with a friend, my letters and memoranda in the form of a narrative. Their deficiency, in many respects, is frankly acknowledged; and it is hoped that, being composed under the circumstances of constant fatigue and activity, the Author may meet with indulgence. On another point also he has to claim consideration from his brother officers. They know, as well as himself, how impossible it

is for any individual to render justice to the meritorious deeds of every division and corps in a long campaign ; to describe all parts of a field of battle ; to enter into the various views that are taken ; or lastly, to detail the heroism of the several officers in the performance of their duties and exploits. Happily, the task of a eulogist or a critic belongs to higher powers. The following sheets have been compiled for other purposes. If they stimulate young officers to record the events of the moment as it flies, and the interesting scenes they may engage in, for the information of parents and friends at a distance, their publication will accomplish one useful purpose ; and if they enliven one leisure hour, in camp or quarters, of the brother soldiers of the author, his object is more than gained.

V. L.

## MAPS AND PLANS.

Map of Spain and Portugal, showing the seat of war,  
*to face page 1. Vol. I.*

The following six plans to be placed at the end of the Appendix of Correspondence, Vol. II., preceding the Tables :—

I. Plan of the action near Corunna, Jan. 16th, 1809, Lieutenant-general Sir John Moore, commander-in-chief.

II. Passage of the river Douro, on the 12th May, 1809, by the British army under the command of Lieutenant-general Sir Arthur Wellesley, K. B. in face of the French army, commanded by Marshal Soult.

III. Plan of the battle of Talavera.

IV. Sketch of part of the ground about Fuentes and Villa Formosa, occupied by the allied army on the 5th and 6th May, 1811.

V. Plan of Badajoz and its environs, invested March 17th, 1812, and carried by storm on the night of April 6th, by the allied army, commanded by General the Earl of Wellington.

VI. Plan of Ciudad Rodrigo, describing its siege by the allied army, 1812, General the Earl of Wellington, commander-in-chief.



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