The Duke's policy of forbearance gradually made itself felt. The country settled down into a state of comparative quiet everywhere, except in Ireland, and there Daniel O'Connell was supreme. He had been infinitely useful to the Government in helping them to carry their great measure, and they found it impossible now either to throw him over or to satisfy his further demands. His support thus became a source of weakness to Earl Grey, and to Lord Grey's successor at the Treasury. Hence, perhaps as much as for any other reason, the ministerial majorities in the House of Commons fell off, and the Lords began again to exercise their rights, though with extreme caution. I happen to know that already, in 1834, the Duke counted on a speedy return of the Conservatives to office. It is further within my knowledge that he was averse to Sir Robert Peel's journey, at that time, into Italy, and that he spoke of it afterwards with a slight tone of bitterness. Sir Robert, however, took his departure, scarcely disguising the fact, that he wished to be out of the way lest a crisis should come. But the crisis came nevertheless. The death of Earl Spencer, and the removal of Lord Althorpe to the House of Lords, furnished the King with an opportunity for which he had long watched, and on the 14th of November the Duke received a summons to attend his Majesty at Brighton.

The story of that remarkable interlude in the history of England is well known. The Duke declined, himself, to form an Administration, but undertook, with the assistance of Lord Lyndhurst, to keep the machine going till Sir Robert Peel should return. He was as good as his word. Sworn-in Secretary of State for the Home Department, he assumed the charge, not of that office only, but of all the public offices in London, and it is well known that at no period, either before or since, was the business of the country more regularly or carefully transacted.

The impression made upon the minds of men in general by these proceedings, no language can describe. They were astonished, confounded, and not a little amused. All wondered at his boldness, and not a few who began by denouncing

the act as unconstitutional, perhaps treasonable, ended by expressing their admiration of the man. But the interlude came to a close; Sir Robert Peel returned from Rome. He found every office in and out of the Cabinet at his disposal. He formed his Administration, placing the Duke at the Foreign Office, and continuing to Lord Lyndhurst the possession of the great seal. And after issuing his famous manifesto to the electors of Tamworth, he dissolved the Parliament. This last step, it is but just to say, was not of his seeking; he would have greatly preferred meeting Parliament as it was, with the power to dissolve in case of need, and doubtless he was right. But the Duke, and those with whom he took counsel in Sir Robert's absence, thought otherwise. The consequence was that, under the influence of old prejudices, the country returned a House of Commons which the minister could not command, and on every important question as it arose he was defeated. After originating some wise measures, with which he was not permitted to go through, he found himself face to face on the 30th of March, 1835, with Lord John Russell's famous motion. And on the 7th of April, at 4 o'clock in the morning, he was left in a minority of 33.

There followed next evening the resignation of the first Peel Cabinet, and the return of Lord Melbourne and his friends to Downing Street. Never again, to the day of his death, was the Duke of Wellington in charge of a distinct department of the State. A politician he continued to be, —it was impossible that he should cease to be a politician, but his line was henceforth that rather of a guide and counsellor to the nation at large, than of the busy leader of a party struggling for power. There never occurred a difficulty at home or abroad, on which he was not consulted by the minister of the day, whosoever he might be. The Crown was never in a strait because of the mistakes of its servants, or through disagreements, personal or otherwise, of the Cabinet, that he was not sent for to advise in the case. The Crown and the people appeared alike to have confidence in his judgment, and he became more than ever an object of veneration to all classes of society.

One of the first and most remarkable proofs of the universal respect in which he was held, was evinced about this time by his elevation to the dignity of Chancellor of the University of Oxford. On the 12th of January, 1834, Lord Grenville died; and, contrary to all precedent, a proposal was made in the Senate to offer to the Duke of Wellington the vacant Chancellorship. The Duke had no claim to this distinction on the ground of scholarship, or even of patronage extended to scholars. He was totally unconnected with the university itself, except so far as that, simultaneously with Marshal Blücher, and the late Sovereigns of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, he had received from it in 1814 the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. But the heads of houses believed that they had fallen upon perilous times; and that the university stood more in need of a chancellor who should be able, as a statesman, to defend its privileges, than of one who, by his writings or otherwise, might add to its renown as a nursery of learning. As was to be expected, the leaders of the party opposed to the Duke, endeavoured to throw ridicule upon the whole proceeding. Among others, a distinguished but eccentric prelate, the late Archbishop Whateley, of Dublin, is said to have waited officially upon the Lord-lieutenant, and begged that he might be appointed to a troop of dragoons. When asked to give a reason for so curious a request, he replied: "Your Excellency must know that I have as good a right to be made a captain of cavalry, as the Duke of Wellington, your brother, to become Chancellor of the University of Oxford." Oxford, however, had made up her mind what to do, and went gallantly through with her purpose. The installation, which took place on the 9th of June, 1834, was one of the most brilliant affairs that had ever been witnessed; and the enthusiasm of the under-graduates, seldom under much control, proved quite overwhelming. "I perfectly understand now," observed the Duke, when he met his friends later in the autumn at Walmer, "how revolutions are got up in such places as the *Ecole Militaire* in Paris, and in Warsaw." "The under-graduates were very boisterous, were they?" "Boisterous! You never saw anything

like it in your life! Let these boys loose in the state in which I saw them, and give them a political object to carry, and they would revolutionize any nation under the sun."

It is not to be supposed that the Duke, successful as he was in great affairs, passed through life without his own share of private and domestic trials. Perhaps the very turn of his mind, and the constant dedication of his energies to the public service, in some degree unfitted him for the enjoyment of domestic life. Perhaps, as often happens where blame is scarcely attributable to either party, he was ill-matched in his domestic relations. Be this as it may, it would be idle to conceal the fact, that the Duke's home, properly so called, was never a sunny one. It is certain that his confidence was much more largely given out of the domestic circle than within it; and for this reason, even when not abused, it scarcely filled up the measure of his aspirations. In moments of despondency, of which the crowd saw nothing, he has been heard to say, "There is nothing in this world worth living for." Yet no man felt more acutely than he the pang of severance from those to whom any share of his affections was given. From his mother he had experienced in youth and early manhood little else than neglect. As he grew into fame, pride with her expanded into affection; and when she died at the advanced age of ninety-six, he mourned for her with sincere sorrow. So also the death of the Duchess, on the 22nd of April, 1831, touched him keenly. They had seen comparatively little of each other for years. There was no natural congeniality between them in tastes, habits, or pursuits; and unfortunately for both, the Duchess, while she doted on her husband, never appears to have thought it necessary to adapt her own views of things to his. Hence alienation stole in, which there were no opportunities of living down, though it never resulted in a formal separation. But during her last illness, he was indefatigable in his attentions to her; and when she ceased to breathe, he evinced great emotion. She was buried at Strathfieldsaye, the Duke following her to the grave, and showing every mark of respect to her memory.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

DEATH OF WILLIAM IV.—ACCESSION OF QUEEN VICTORIA—THE DUKE IN AND OUT OF PARLIAMENT—THE DUKE'S GREAT AFFECTION FOR HER MAJESTY—HIS PROCEEDINGS AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

On the 20th of June, 1837, died William IV., leaving the vacant throne to be filled by her present most gracious Majesty; then barely of age to exercise the functions of royalty. No change was thereby effected, either in the state of political parties in Parliament, or in the position of the Duke of Wellington in connection with them. Her Majesty retained in office the minister whom she found at the head of affairs, and the Duke took his seat, as heretofore, on the opposition benches in the House of Lords. But the same wise discretion which had characterized his proceedings since the passing of the Reform Bill characterized them still. He supported every measure, no matter by whom proposed, which he believed to be deserving of support. He resisted every proposition, the tendency of which he believed to be mischievous. He would be no party to a factious move, however sure the prospect of success; and he restrained his own friends, over and over again, from pushing fair—though perhaps unseasonable—contests to an extremity. The honour of the Crown, the safety and well-being of the country, were the sole objects which he appeared to keep in view; and perhaps his prudent reserve exercised as great an influence in securing them, as the wisdom of the Cabinet

on the one hand, and the zeal and activity in criticizing its policy among opposition statesmen on the other.

The Duke's public duties, apart from those of a peer of Parliament, were at this time such as devolved upon him from his connection with Hampshire, as Lord-lieutenant of the county; with the Cinque Ports, as Lord Warden; with the Tower of London, as Constable; and with the University of Oxford, as its Chancellor. Of the University of Oxford his care was sleepless, without being troublesome. It was a season of difficulty, if not of danger, for the demand for change was incessant; and this, so far as it appeared to him unjust or unreasonable, he resisted. It is proper to add, that he seldom acted on such occasions without previous consultation with those whose knowledge of the subject could not fail to be more extensive than his own, and that before making up his mind to any course of proceeding, he heard, and carefully considered, everything that could be said, as well against as for it. Hence, after checking repeated attempts to innovate upon the rights both of the University and of particular colleges, he assented to that commission of inquiry, from the report of which have emanated changes acceptable to all; to some, because they were not undertaken on compulsion, to others, because in themselves they are changes for the better.

Of the Duke's attention to the business of the Cinque Ports, it is impossible to speak too highly. No court of Lode-manage was ever held during his periodical visits to Walmer without his presiding over its deliberations; and often, if the occasion seemed to require, he would travel from London, and even from Strathfieldsaye, to Dover, on purpose to take part in them. For it was one of his maxims, that whatever charge a man undertakes, he is bound, whether the business in hand relate to great or small matters, to treat it as if it were important. And in his estimation few matters could be more important than to provide competent pilots for the navigation of the Channel, and to maintain among them when appointed strict discipline. He was, as is well known, the last of those

functionaries permitted to exercise powers which took their rise in times gone by, when Sandwich was an important naval station, and the defence of the coast, from the North Foreland to Hastings, depended mainly upon the inhabitants of the towns which lie between them. But it cannot be said in this, as in most other cases of the kind, that an institution once vigorous expired at last of its own innate corruption. The pilotage of the Channel was never so carefully attended to as just before the right of superintendence and selection passed from the Lord Warden for ever.

The same reforming hand which effected so much at Dover and along the Kentish coast, was felt in the Tower also. Hitherto the Constables of that fortress had been in the habit of selling warder's places, whilst offices superior to that of warder were dispensed, worthily or not, under the pressure of political or private influence. The Duke put an end to all this. Warderships under him became prizes to which meritorious non-commissioned officers might aspire; and higher posts were given to gentlemen who had done good service as commissioned officers in the field. One of the most deserving of these was the late Colonel Gurwood, a distinguished veteran of the Peninsula and of Waterloo, to whom the world is indebted for the greatest military work which has appeared in any age or in any country. His compilation of the Wellington Despatches was begun in 1835, when he himself held a staff-appointment at Portsmouth. It arose out of a previous publication—a collected edition of the Duke's General Orders. In the progress of both works the Duke took a very lively interest, himself reading the proof-sheets, and striking out with his own hand every sentence, and indeed every word which was likely to give unnecessary pain to individuals. It was due to the editor of such works that the country should mark its sense of the services which he had rendered to posterity, and the Duke, as representing the country, bestowed upon him, when it fell vacant, the lieutenancy of the Tower, which, with the honorary dignity of squire to his patron, Gurwood held to the day of his death.

Equally assiduous in his habits as Lord-lieutenant of Hampshire, the Duke neglected no application that was made to him; and received at Strathfieldsaye everybody who came to him on public business. He made a point, likewise, of dismissing all other demands upon his time that he might be at home to receive and entertain the Judges when they arrived in the county on circuit. At the bottom of this practice, as of many others to which the Duke was addicted, lay that which seems to have been the grand principle of his life. The Judges represented the Sovereign; and no claim of society, no call even of duty, was strong enough to hinder him from paying to them the same marks of respect which his loyalty would have induced him to pay to the Sovereign, had she been personally present.

Of the relations in which he stood towards the royal lady who now happily fills the throne of these realms, it is scarcely necessary to speak. They were of the most intimate and even affectionate nature. By every possible token of public esteem and private confidence her Majesty's regard for her great subject was shown; while the Duke's loyalty to the Sovereign was, in her Majesty's case, mixed up with such feelings as animate an aged and experienced parent towards a child whom he not only loves but respects. He remained, moreover, under every change of circumstances, on the best terms, personally, with her constitutional advisers. The consequence was that Lord Melbourne, appreciating aright the perfect integrity of his character, expressed neither jealousy nor surprise when his royal mistress desired from time to time to have the benefit of the Duke's opinion; and took in excellent part the avowal, that her Majesty considered the Duke of Wellington to be not only the greatest but the best and wisest of her subjects. All this soon got abroad, and tended more and more to replace him in the affections of the English people, who, though, like the natives of other free states, they are not always under the guidance of judgment and moderation, seldom prove permanently ungrateful to those who serve them faithfully.

The ceremony of her Majesty's coronation took place in 1838. All the crowned heads of Europe sent special am-

bassadors to represent them on that occasion — Louis Philippe selecting for the service one of the ablest of the Duke's former opponents, Marshal Soult, Duke of Dalmatia. Marshal Soult was received wherever he showed himself in London with such a burst of enthusiasm as surprised as much as it delighted the old warrior; and the Duke, in particular, embraced every opportunity of treating him with kindness and urbanity. A pleasant sight it was to see these two aged rivals in arms seated amicably together; and very gratifying to listen to the terms in which, on fitting occasions, they spoke one of the other. This was especially the case at the Mansion House, when, in reply to a toast which coupled their names together, the Duke alluded to Soult in language which seemed to stir every generous feeling in the French marshal's heart. Marshal Soult, during his stay in London, was a frequent visitor at Apsley House, and made there the acquaintance of many officers with whose names the events of the Peninsular war had rendered him familiar. Among others, the late Lord Hill was presented to him, and was greeted in these words, "What! have I found you at last? You, whom I followed so long without ever being able to overtake you." This was said in allusion to Hill's masterly retreat from Madrid to Alba de Tormes, after the failure before Burgos. It was meant as a compliment to the vigilance and activity of the English general, and as a compliment Lord Hill, the best-hearted and gentlest of men, accepted it.

Though meeting Lord Melbourne in private on friendly terms, and ever ready to advise when consulted on points which might be referred to him, the Duke never, as a public man, compromised his own principles, or affected to approve, far less to support, measures which contradicted them. He condemned, on all fitting occasions, the policy of the Government in conniving at the growth of Mr O'Connell's influence in Ireland, and denounced what he called its truckling to Chartist agitators in England and to the chiefs of the democratic party in the Canadas. Its relations with foreign states, though less complicated than they had been, were still, according to his view of such matters, unsatis-

factory; and with the general treatment of the colonies, and especially of the West Indies, he was by no means pleased. But while he took care to express himself freely on these subjects, he carefully avoided bringing on premature divisions; and lost no opportunity of urging his supporters in the House of Lords to bide their time. That, however, which the leaders of the opposition would have willingly deferred, the ministers themselves at length precipitated. Lord Melbourne, unable to cope with the question of the Corn Laws, and with the absolute anarchy into which Ireland was falling, took advantage of a defeat on the suspension of the constitution of Jamaica to send in his resignation. This was in 1839, and proved to be a step for which no one in or out of Parliament was prepared. The Queen, young and without experience, could not but feel the loss of a minister who had been, so to speak, her first instructor in public affairs; while the Duke, however instinctively adverse to Whig Government, was not disposed, if the step could be avoided, to sanction a change for which he believed that the public mind was scarcely ripe. Being sent for by her Majesty, however, he at once obeyed the sommons, and recommended that she should take counsel with Sir Robert Peel. From the complication of mistakes which arose out of that interview, it is not worth while to raise the veil which time has thrown over them. There was no difficulty in allotting the great offices of state to individuals recommended by the future minister; but when the royal household came to be touched, misunderstandings arose. I need not go further into the discussion of these matters than to state, that the minister in making one demand, was understood to make another; and that her Majesty, refusing to submit to what had been represented to her as an unprecedented outrage on her personal dignity, Sir Robert Peel felt that his commission was at an end. The result was, that after an interregnum of less than a week, Lord Melbourne returned to office, and that for two years more the affairs of the country were conducted as they had previously been.

Though restored to office the ministers were far from re-

gaining the confidence of the country. Their majorities in the House of Commons fell off from day to day; and at last, in the summer of 1841, a direct vote of want of confidence was carried. Nothing now remained except either to resign or to dissolve Parliament, and the latter expedient being tried, the issues went against them. An amendment to the address in answer to the Queen's speech was carried in both Houses, and ministers immediately resigned. In the new Cabinet, of which Sir Robert Peel became the head, the Duke accepted a seat, but without office. It was an arrangement dictated entirely by that principle of self-abnegation, which was stronger, perhaps, in the Duke of Wellington than in any public man of his age; and though it placed him, under a constitutional Government, in a somewhat anomalous position, it had its advantages too. It left him leisure to discuss every question, both of home and foreign policy, without imposing upon him the labour of attending to the details of administration; while it placed him, towards both the people and the Crown, in the position of an independent and therefore unprejudiced adviser. No great while elapsed, however, ere the anomaly, if such it deserved to be called, passed away. In 1842 Lord Hill died, and the command of the army, which thereby became vacant, was at once pressed upon the Duke. Moreover, in order to avert the risk of his again resigning it, a patent of office was made out in his favour and presented to him. It is curious to contrast the position of the Duke of Wellington, in this as well as in other stages of his career, with that of his illustrious predecessor in glory and in a nation's caprices, John Duke of Marlborough. The latter, when driven into exile, was charged, among other delinquencies, with having plotted to obtain from Queen Anne an appointment by patent to the command of her armies. The former, without any solicitation on his part, was by Queen Victoria constituted, by patent under the great seal, Commander-in-chief of her armies, during the term of his natural life.

The command of the army thus conferred upon him, the Duke retained to the day of his death; and as there is

probably no interval in his public career with respect to which so much misunderstanding prevails, it appears to me that I cannot do better than give here a brief and connected view of his habits of acting and thinking; and of the estimation in which, as a man of business, he was held by those who had the best and readiest means of forming a correct judgment on that subject.

It was the Duke's custom, when no special business pressed, to arrive at the Horse Guards about one o'clock in the day; and during the sitting of Parliament to remain there, till his presence in the House of Lords was required. His attendance in the Lords was, as I need scarcely observe, very punctual, and he almost always arrived in time for prayers, or soon after. When Parliament was not sitting, he often remained at the Horse Guards till six, and sometimes till seven in the evening.

As soon as he entered his room, his messenger proceeded to inform the several heads of departments of his arrival; and they all waited upon him with their papers, if they had any reports to make, or points on which to consult him. They came, however, one by one, and one by one he saw them. Nor was this ceremony omitted, even if there happened to be no special reason for the interview. On many occasions the officer looked in, wished him good morning, and told him the news of the day; and if there followed the statement, "I have nothing with which to trouble your Grace this morning," the never-failing answer was, "I am very glad to hear it." Nor need it be a matter of surprise that he should so express himself. The business of his own department proved often to be that which made the smallest demand upon his time; and wearied, as he generally was when he arrived at the Horse Guards, a respite from any fresh strain on his attention could not prove otherwise than agreeable.

"I remember," writes one who knew him well,* "when his own friends were in office, going over to him on one occasion with my box full of papers, when he turned to me,

* Private letter from General Sir George Brown, G. C. B.

and asking what I had, observed rather angrily that he had already had thirteen boxes referred to him that morning, before he left Apsley House." The same correspondent observes, "Speaking from the experience which I had of him, I should say that the Duke was a remarkably agreeable man to do business with, because of his clear and ready decision. However much I may have seen him irritated and excited with the subjects which I have repeatedly had to bring under his notice, I have no recollection of his ever having made use of a harsh or discourteous expression to me, or of his having dismissed me without a distinct and explicit answer or decision in the case under consideration. Like all good men of business, who consider well before coming to a decision, his Grace was accustomed to adhere strictly to precedent; to the decisions he may have previously come to on similar cases. This practice greatly facilitated the task of those who had to transact business with him, seeing that all we had to do in concluding our statement of any particular case, was to refer to his decision on some similar one.

"During the latter years of his life, the Duke had a great objection to waste his time in deciphering or making out the meaning of cramped or indistinct manuscripts. It was customary, therefore, to have all such clearly written out by a clerk, to whose hand he was accustomed, and to announce every case by a short statement or *précis;* in which, however, no one ever attempted to dictate to him what his decision should be. The *précis* generally concluded with some such words as these:—'Perhaps your Grace may consider that this case can be disposed of as was done in so and so.'

"These *précises* were always written out distinctly in half margin. His Grace usually gave his answers on the opposite side of the page, for the most part laconically, but sometimes in great detail. These memoranda of his never failed to exhibit that thorough acquaintance with the details of the military service, for which he was remarkable. And if, at any time, he happened to be at fault, or that recent changes had occurred, modifying regimental matters since he was

intimately associated with them, the circumstance had only to be pointed out. He would listen with the greatest patience to such explanations, and never made the slightest difficulty in modifying his memoranda so as to meet them."

Although the Duke did not always read the correspondence in the cases laid before him, he nevertheless insisted that it should invariably accompany the statement or *précis*, in such order of arrangement as that he should be able to refer to it, if found requisite, without difficulty or delay.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that all orders for the movement of troops, for the assembling of general courts-martial, &c. &c., as well as leaves of absence to officers, and furloughs to the men, emanate from the commander-in-chief. In granting leave of absence to any but general officers in command of districts, and officers commanding regiments, the adjutant-general seldom troubled the Duke by referring to him. But the applications of general and commanding officers were always submitted. On such occasions his unvarying question was, "How is the duty to be done?" and if the arrangement proposed seemed to him satisfactory, he never refused the indulgence.

There was nothing of which the Duke was more jealous, than of proposals which involved, or threatened to involve, any addition to the expense of maintaining the army. His scruples on that head originated in two sources. In the first place, the Duke as a minister and a statesman was, perhaps, the most rigid economist in modern times. He effected larger reductions in the public expenditure during the brief period of his Administration, than had been effected before, or have been effected since, by any other head of the Government within the memory of man. In the next place, he retained to the last a persuasion that the less the army, its expenditure and general management, is brought into public notice, the better. "Depend upon it, gentlemen" (a common expression of his when he was in earnest), "that the greatest enemies the army has in this country, are those who would add unnecessarily to its expense."

It was during his administration of affairs at the Horse

Guards that the questions of improving the armament of the troops, and establishing a better system of education in regiments, originated; and a general impression seems to prevail that he stoutly resisted both. This is far from being correct. In regard to the infantry soldier's old weapon, it is perfectly true that he often spoke of it as the most formidable thing of its kind in Europe; and that he was accustomed to quote the authority of Marshal Marmont in corroboration of that sentiment. But so far was he from expressing any desire to check the progress of improvement, that he has often been heard to declare that, "looking to the amount of mechanical skill in this country, and the numerical weakness of our army, as compared with those of the great continental Powers, British troops ought to be the best armed troops in the world." Accordingly it was with his express sanction and approval, that the Minié musket was introduced; and the manufacture of 28,000, undertaken by Lord Anglesey, who was then Master-General of the Ordnance. The one point to which the Duke adhered was, that the old bore should be retained, partly because the greater size of the English bullet had rendered it much more effective than any other in former wars; partly because, in the event of the stock of conical bullets running short, the troops, in case of emergency, would be able to use the cartridges which were already in store. Besides, the fabrication of the new weapon was necessarily a work of time, and it could be introduced only by degrees into the ranks. He would not, under such circumstances, consent to have two different kinds of ammunition in use, out of which confusion must almost inevitably arise were the army to take the field in a hurry.

It was with this weapon, the Minié musket, bored up to the diameter of the old firelock, that the battles of the Alma and of Inkermann were fought. The Enfield, which is a lighter weapon of the same construction, though of narrower calibre than the Minié, was introduced when Lord Hardinge presided at the Ordnance Office, and came ultimately to supersede the Minié.

The first specimens of the Minié musket made use of

were put into the hands of detachments from Chatham and other places, which assembled at Woolwich for practice, under Captain Brownrigg, of the Grenadier Guards. Anxious about the matter, and desirous himself of witnessing the operation, the Duke arranged with Sir George Brown, then Adjutant-General, that they should proceed to Woolwich together; Lord Charles Wellesley, the Duke's younger son, bearing them company. "There were about 100 men," says General Brown, "extended in a line of skirmishers for the purpose of firing at a target, placed near the butt. I took the Duke up to the butt, in order to see the practice they made, but he did not remain there five minutes before he expressed a wish to go back to the skirmishers. It was not the practice made that he desired to witness,—of that he had no doubt,—but the loading and manipulation of the cartridges, in respect to which he was anxious to satisfy himself. He accordingly went along the whole line, watching each man as he loaded his musket; and having satisfied himself that there was no difficulty, at once recommended that the manufacture of the arms should be proceeded with. As soon as a portion of them was prepared and distributed to the troops, it became necessary to issue some instructions in regard to the mode of loading and using them. I accordingly drew up a short paper of instructions, and submitted it to his Grace for approval. In reading it over, I saw him deliberately pass his pen through the word 'rifle' wherever I had used it; and on my asking him why he had done so, he explained 'we must not allow them to fancy they are all riflemen, or they will become conceited, and be wanting next to be dressed in green, or some other *jack-a-dandy* uniform.' He then went on to say, that there was nothing we ought to watch more jealously than any infringement on the national uniform, nor anything more important to maintain, than the solidity and steadiness of our infantry."

Of this infantry,—of what he called the infantry of the old stamp,—it is well known that the Duke entertained the highest admiration. He believed that the world had never seen anything equal to it. In illustration of this fact,

Sir George Brown has kindly communicated to me the following facts:—

"It was my practice, while in office, to inspect the troops, reporting direct to head-quarters; and to make a verbal as well as a written report of the state in which I found them to the Duke. Returning on one occasion from the inspection at Canterbury of the 97th regiment, which had recently landed from North America, I informed his Grace that I had found the regiment in excellent order; that the men looked robust and healthy, and that they were well drilled, and remarkably steady under arms. I concluded by stating, that they had adopted no newfangled notions, either in their dress or appointments, and that, on the whole, the regiment presented the best specimen I had lately seen of the old stamp of British infantry, and appeared to me to be all that could be desired. His answer was, 'I am very glad to hear it, very glad indeed. Depend upon it, there is nothing like them in the world in the shape of infantry. Let the men have their furloughs, and visit their friends.'

"When he was at Walmer, in the winter, I always apprized him as often as I was about to inspect the troops at that place, and at Dover. He generally attended these inspections in his Lord Warden's uniform, accompanied by any friends he might have staying with him at the Castle; and when I found any corps in particularly good order, I used to ask his Grace to say a complimentary word or two to the commanding officer, which he always willingly did. On one occasion, at Walmer, when the depôts of two regiments were there, and had been formed into one small battalion under the senior officer, the Duke, after he had performed several evolutions, in order to amuse himself, and no doubt expecting to puzzle the major, desired him to place his battalion in line between the spire of a chapel to the north of the barrack-yard, and a windmill standing out in the fields to the southward.

"It may not, perhaps," observes my correspondent, "be very generally known, that one individual has no means of adjusting himself exactly on an alignment between two distant points; and that it can only be accomplished by two

or more mutually dressing each other on the points respectively. Having allowed the major, therefore, to boggle at it for some time, the Duke good-humouredly himself took the matter in hand, showing how it might be done; and in the course of his ride afterwards, set to work on the Downs drilling the party which was with him in the same exercise!"

There was not one of all his exploits of which the Duke loved more to speak, than of the affair with Marmont's cavalry at El Boden. This was never done with a view to self-glorification; but in illustration of the steadiness and discipline of his troops, of which he held that it afforded a most remarkable proof.

"On the same day to which I refer," says General Brown, "when the battalion was formed into square, he broke out on the subject, declaring that 'it was with two or three squares such as that, *we* beat off all the French cavalry. Ay, not only beat them off, but attacked them, and recovered the guns which those fellows were about to carry off.' And then he made me move the square, without reducing it, in order to show how easily it could be done."

The Duke, except in bad weather, generally proceeded to his office at the Horse Guards on foot or on horseback. If on horseback he usually rode through the Park, if on foot he came by the streets, and always alone. Everybody knew him; and everybody, high and low, rich and poor, saluted him as he passed. He never failed to acknowledge these marks of respect in his own peculiar way, by touching his hat with the two first fingers of the right hand, which he held upright, the palm of the hand itself being turned to the front. The Duke's punctuality in keeping engagements is well known. It is not, perhaps, so generally understood, that he was very particular in his record of time. He used often to step into Dent's shop at Charing Cross, on his way to the office, to see how his watch was going, and to put it right. This watch was made by Mr Dent, after instructions given to him by the Duke himself; and besides having hands so arranged that the Duke, by bring-