

duke, and with insolence equal to their ingratitude, and falsehood if possible surpassing both, they called him, in direct terms, an impudent calumniator and an enemy to his country. Each of the members of this body signed it individually; it was printed as a hand-bill, and a copy of it was sent to London by some private hand, and reached Alburquerque through the two-penny post, that no possible mark of insult might be wanting to the transaction.

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Alburquerque ought to have despised any attack from that quarter, and more especially one which, by its intemperance and scurrility, so plainly showed in what vile passions it had originated. But he wore his heart for daws to peck at, and his enemies knew but too well the infirmity of his nature. At first he endeavoured to repress or to conceal his feelings, and drew up a short and dignified representation to the Cortes; but this did not satisfy him; notwithstanding the earnest dissuasions of his friends, he determined upon replying to the Junta, and he devoted himself to this composition with an earnestness which made him forgetful both of food and of sleep. Three days were thus employed in a state of restless and feverish anxiety. The wound all this while was rankling, and the venom of the Junta did its work. On the fourth day a frenzy-fever seized him; he felt the approach of the disease, and was perfectly sensible of the cause, for having sent for D. J. M. Blanco White, he took from his pocket, as soon as he saw him, a strip of paper on which he had written, "*como calumniador y enemigo de la patria,*" . . the words which had stung him to the heart, . . and said, "When they ask why I have lost my senses, this paper will answer for me." . . A dreadful scene ensued; fits of tears were followed by paroxysms of rage, and on the third day of his illness he expired: happily in the course of the disease the sense of his own wrongs, intolerable and fatal as it had proved, gave

CHAP. way to a deeper feeling : he forgot himself in thinking of his
 XXXVI. country : his repeated exclamations of vengeance upon Napo-
 1811. leon Buonaparte were so vehement and loud that they were
 distinctly heard by the passers in the street ; and his last breath
 was spent in imprecations upon the tyrant whose wickedness
 had caused all the unutterable miseries of Spain. Every public
 honour which the British Government could bestow was paid
 to the remains of this illustrious man, and his body was deposited
 in that same vault in Henry VII.'s chapel wherein Marlborough's
 had formerly been laid, till it could be sent home, to rest with
 his ancestors*.

* The following epitaph upon Albuquerque, worthy of the author and of the
 subject, is the composition of Mr. Frere :—

“ Impiger, impavidus, spes maxima gentis Iberæ,
 Mente rapax, acerque manu bellator, avita
 Institui monumenta novis attollere factis ;
 Fortunâ comite, et virtute duce, omnia gessi ;
 Nullâ in re, nec spe, mea sors incœpta fefellit.
 Gadibus auxilium tetuli, patriamque labentem
 Sustentavi ; hæc meta meis fuit ultima factis,
 Quippe iras hominum meritis superare nequivi.
 Hic procul a patriâ vitæ datus est mihi finis,
 Sed non laudis item ; gliscit nova fama sepulto,
 Anglorum quod testantur proceres populusque,
 Magno funus honore secuti, mœstitiâque
 Unanimes. Æterna, pater, sint fœdera, faxis,
 Quæ pepigi. Nec me nimium mea patria adempto
 Indigeat, nec plus æquo desideret unquam.
 Sint fortes alii ac felices, qui mea possint
 Facta sequi, semperque benignis civibus uti.”

CHAPTER XXXVII.

GRANT AND SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE RELIEF OF THE PORTUGUEZE. OPERATIONS ON THE ALENTEJO FRONTIER. BATTLES OF FUENTES D'ONORO AND ALBUHERA. BADAJOZ UNSUCCESSFULLY BESIEGED BY THE ALLIES.

It was now made apparent, as well by the battle of Barrosa, as by the whole conduct of the Cortes, that no successful exertions were to be expected on that side; and that, though the subjugation of the Peninsula could not but appear every day more hopeless to the Intruder's government, all reasonable hope of its deliverance must rest upon Lord Wellington, and the allied army under his command. Thus far his foresight had been fully approved by the issue of Massena's invasion; that general had entered Portugal with 72,000 men, and had received reinforcements to the amount of about 15,000 more: ten he had lost at Busaco; about as many more had died while he perseveringly maintained his ground; and what with prisoners, sick and wounded, and the losses on the retreat, about 40,000 only were remaining when he recrossed the frontier. The invaders had lost their horses, carriages, ammunition, and cannon; but for this they cared not; they had the strong hold of Ciudad Rodrigo on which to retire; and even the wreck of their army was more numerous than the force which drove them out of Portugal.

During these events, the opponents of the English ministry improved with more than their wonted infelicity the opportunity

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*Opinions of
the opposi-
tion writers
at this time.*

CHAP. afforded them of exhibiting their errors in judgement, their want
 XXXVII. of that knowledge which is the foundation of political wisdom,
 1811. and their destitution of that generous feeling which sometimes

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renders even error respectable. When the first news arrived that the French were breaking up from their position, they cautioned the public against extravagant expectations; "such accounts," they said, "have come too often to raise enthusiasm in any but simpletons and stock-jobbers; and there seems no reason for altering the opinion which we have so often expressed, that, happen what may partially, the ultimate loss of the Peninsula is as certain as ever it was, and that we are only delaying the catastrophe by needless proofs of a valour, which our enemies admire much more than our allies. In the mean time, Spain does nothing, except calumniate and kill her exiled patriots; and reasonable people have long ceased to look to any place but South America for the resuscitation of Spanish independence."

When it was known beyond all doubt to those whose belief was not influenced by their wishes, that Massena was in full retreat and Lord Wellington pursuing him, "these retreats and pursuits," said they, "are fine things for tickling the ears. Most probably the retreat is, as usual, an alteration of position; and the pursuit a little look-out on the occasion, enlivened by the seizure of a few unfortunate stragglers." At the discovery that this change of position was from the Zezere to the Agueda, .. nothing less than the evacuation of Portugal, .. the despondents were neither abashed nor silenced. "Buonaparte's honour," they said, "was pledged to effect his projects in the Peninsula, and unfortunately his power was as monstrous as his ambition. Massena would now throw himself upon his resources both in men and provisions; he was removing from a ravaged and desolate country, to one comparatively uninjured and fertile; and

it was to be remarked, that while the French were falling back upon their supplies, the allies were removing from their own. In such a state of things, could Lord Wellington's army long exist on the frontiers? The war had become one of supplies and expenses; if the enemy could establish large magazines at Almeida, they could again advance, the same scenes would again be repeated, and Lisbon would again become the point of defence. The result must certainly be determined by the success or ill success of the French in Spain. If Spain falls," said they, "nothing short of a miracle can preserve Portugal; and that Spain will fall, is almost as certain as that her people are self-willed and superstitious, her nobility divided and degraded, and her commanders incapable, arrogant, or treacherous." We were, moreover, warned by these sapient politicians, to remember, that there were seven marshals in Spain, besides generals, with distinct commands; and that the French, having retired upon their resources, had only abandoned Portugal for the season, that they might return and reap the harvest which they had left the natives to sow. It was not enough to dismay the nation by thus prognosticating what the French would do, they threw out alarming hints of what, even now, it was to be apprehended they might have done. "If," said they, "Massena had received adequate reinforcements from France, the positions which he took at Guarda and Almeida would have drawn the allies into a most dangerous predicament; and let us imagine what might at this very instant be the perilous situation of Lord Wellington, if a considerable army had really been collected under Bessieres!" Happy was it for England, that the councils of this country were not directed by men who would have verified their own predictions, leaving the enemy unresisted, as far as Great Britain was concerned, because they believed him to be irresistible!

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*Address of
the Portu-
gueze Go-
vernment to
the people.*

But while the factious part of the British press was thus displaying how far it was possible for men to deaden their hearts against all generous emotions, the Portugueze governors were expressing their gratitude to England for the effectual support which she had given to her old ally. They told the people that their day of glory was at length arrived; they had passed through the fiery ordeal, by which the merits of men were tried and purified; they were become a great nation. "Humbling themselves," they said, "before the first and sovereign Author of all good, they rendered thanks to their Prince, for establishing, in his wisdom, the basis of their defence; ..to his British majesty, to his enlightened ministry, and to the whole British nation, in whom they had found faithful and liberal allies, constant cooperation, and that honour, probity, and steadiness of principle, which peculiarly distinguished the British character; ..to the illustrious Wellington, whose sagacity and consummate military skill had been so eminently displayed; ..to the zealous and indefatigable Beresford, who had restored discipline and organization to the Portugueze troops; ..to the generals and officers, and their comrades in arms, who had never fought that they did not triumph; ..finally, to the whole Portugueze people, whose loyalty, patriotism, constancy, and humanity, had been so gloriously displayed, during the season of danger and of suffering." "Portugueze," said they, "the effects of the invasion of these barbarians; the yet smoking remains of the cottage of the poor, of the mansion of the wealthy, of the cell of the religious, of the hospital which afforded shelter and relief to the indigent and infirm, of the temples dedicated to the worship of the Most High; the innocent blood of so many peaceful citizens of both sexes, and of all ages, with which those heaps of ruins are still tinged; the insults of every kind heaped upon those whom the

Vandals did not deprive of life . . . insults many times more cruel than death itself; the universal devastation, the robbery and destruction of every thing that the unhappy inhabitants of the invaded districts possessed: . . . this atrocious scene, which makes humanity shudder, affords a terrible lesson, which you ought deeply to engrave in memory, in order fully to know that degenerate nation, who retain only the figure of men, and who in every respect are worse than beasts, and more blood-thirsty than tigers or lions; who are without faith and without law; who acknowledge neither the rights of humanity, nor respect the sacred tie of an oath.”

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They proceeded to speak with becoming feeling and becoming pride of the manner in which the emigrants from the ravaged provinces had been received wherever they had fled. The great expense of subsisting the fugitives at Lisbon had been supported, they said, by the resources which were at the disposal of Government, but still more by the voluntary donations of individuals, among whom they mentioned with particular distinction, the British subjects in Portugal. It remained for completing the work, to restore the fugitives to their homes; to render habitable the towns which the barbarians had left covered with filth and unburied carcasses; to relieve with medicine and food the sick, who were perishing for want of such assistance; to revive agriculture, by supplying the husbandman with seed corn, and bread for his consumption for some time, and facilitating his means of purchasing cattle and acquiring the instruments of agriculture. These, they said, were the constant cares of the Government, these were their duties; but their funds were not even sufficient to provide for their defence, and therefore they called upon individuals for further aid.

Lord Wellington in the preceding autumn, as soon as he fell back to the lines of Torres Vedras, had represented to his own

Lord Wellington asks relief for the suffering Portuguese

CHAP. Government the distress to which those districts must be re-
 XXXVII. duced through which the enemy passed, . . . a distress which Por-
 1811. tugal had no means of relieving. "Upon former occasions,"
 he said, "the wealthy inhabitants of Great Britain, and of Lon-
 don in particular, had stepped forward to relieve foreign nations,
 whether suffering under the calamities inflicted by Providence,
 or by a cruel and powerful enemy. Portugal had once before
 experienced such a proof of friendship from her oldest and most
 faithful ally: but never was there case in which this assistance
 was required in a greater degree than at present, whether the
 sufferings of the people, or their loyalty and patriotism, and
 their attachment to England, were considered. I declare," said
 Lord Wellington, "that I have scarcely known an instance in
 which any person in Portugal, of any order, has had communi-
 cation with the enemy, inconsistent with his duty to his own
 sovereign, or with the orders he had received. There is no in-
 stance of the inhabitants of any town or village having remained,
 or of their having failed to remove what might be useful to the
 enemy, when they had sufficiently early intimation of the wishes
 of Government, or of myself, that they should abandon their
 houses, and carry away their property." He therefore recom-
 mended this brave and suffering people to the British Govern-
 ment, and the British people, whenever the country should be
 cleared of its barbarous invaders, as he hoped and trusted that
 it would.

April 3.
 Parlia-
 mentary
 grant for
 the relief of
 the Portu-
 guese.

That hope had now been accomplished: his letter was laid
 before Parliament, and a message from the Prince Regent was
 presented, stating, "That, having taken into consideration the
 distress to which the inhabitants of a part of Portugal had been
 exposed, in consequence of the invasion of that country, and
 especially from the wanton and savage barbarity exercised by
 the French in their recent retreat, which could not fail," he said,

“to affect the hearts of all persons who had any sense of religion or humanity, he desired to be enabled to afford to the suffering subjects of his Majesty’s good and faithful ally, such speedy and effectual relief as might be suitable to this interesting and afflicting occasion.” Accordingly a grant of 100,000*l.* was proposed; Marquis Wellesley saying, when he moved an address to this effect, “he hoped he had not lived to see the day, though he had sometimes been surprised by hearing something like it, when it should be said that ancient faith, long-tried attachment, and close connexion with our allies, were circumstances to be discarded from our consideration, and that they should be sacrificed and abandoned to the mere suggestions and calculations of a cold policy.” Earl Grosvenor was the only person who demurred at this motion. “He felt considerable difficulty in acceding to it,” he said, “particularly when he considered how much had been done already for Portugal, and he would ask whether their lordships were really prepared to take the whole burden upon themselves, and exempt the Portugueze altogether from the charge of relieving their own countrymen? It was a principle as applicable to public as to private affairs, that you should be just to your own people before you were generous to other nations.” The Marquis of Lansdowne spoke in a better mind: “Whatever,” he said, “might have been his opinion regarding the policy of our exertions in Portugal, no doubt existed with him, that the efforts made by the people of Portugal eminently deserved at our hands the aid now asked, to relieve that distress into which they had been plunged by the enemy. Even, therefore, if he believed that Lord Wellington would be again compelled to retreat, still he would vote for the present motion, convinced that it could not fail to make an impression in Europe highly favourable to the British character, by displaying its beneficence, its generosity, and its humanity, as contrasted with the savage bar-

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Marquis
Wellesley.

Earl Gros-
venor.

Marquis of
Lansdowne.

CHAP. XXXVII.
 1811. *April.* barity of the enemy. In extending to the people of Portugal that generosity for which they might look through Europe and the world in vain, we placed our national character upon a pinnacle of greatness which nothing could destroy. Even if our army was compelled to evacuate Portugal, and we should be unable to withstand there the progress of the French, still the posterity of the inhabitants of Portugal would remember with gratitude the aid afforded to their ancestors in the hour of their distress. For these reasons, the address should have his hearty concurrence."

Mr. Ponsonby.

Mr. Ponsonby in like manner, when the vote was moved in the Commons, declared, "that it was not less due to the spirit of Portugal, than to the magnanimity of Great Britain, . . . that it was as consistent with our interest, as it was material to our honour. The only regret," said he, "with which it is accompanied on my part, proceeds from the reflection, that the vast expenditure of this country should render it necessary to limit the vote to so small a sum." But the liberality of the British people has seldom been more conspicuously displayed, than in the subscriptions which were made on this occasion. About 80,000*l.* was subscribed. The public grant was to be measured, not by the necessities of the Portuguese sufferers, but by the means of the British Government; and the Prince of Brazil called it "a most ample donation, entirely corresponding to the generosity with which a great nation and its Government had assisted Portugal." The individual proofs of beneficence were acknowledged in the most honourable manner; the Prince issued an order, that the list of subscribers should be printed at the royal printing-office, and copies sent to the chambers of each of the suffering districts, where, having been publicly read after mass, they should be laid up in the *Cartorios*, or archives of the respective districts; the original list was to be deposited among the royal

Public subscription.