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and stores for the use of the army. An order of council was also published in England, permitting British vessels to trade with these and such other French ports as might be under the protection, or in the military occupation of his Majesty's arms. To this then were the decrees of Berlin and Milan come at last! The tyrant who had endeavoured to shut the ports of all Europe against British ships and British merchandize, and at one time had well nigh accomplished his barbarous and barbarizing purpose, saw England now regulating the commerce of his own ports, and levying duties in France, . . . not after his example, with blind and merciless rapacity, but upon those principles of moderation and equity, on which her power has been raised, and by which her prosperity is supported. Three years had not elapsed since the official journal of Buonaparte's government had said, that instead of defending Portugal and Cadiz, Great Britain's efforts would soon be required for the defence of Gibraltar; that Spain having been conquered foot by foot was on the point of being entirely subjected; that Wellington's mode of defending Portugal had been by abandoning the fortresses and laying waste the country, and God grant, said the *Moniteur*, that he may one day defend England in the same manner! "Our continental system," said the official journalist, "is completed; it diminishes your receipts by crippling your commerce, and increases your expenses by obliging you to keep armies in Lisbon and Sicily. In the meantime the French army, according to our fundamental law, lives on the country in which it is making war, and only costs us the pay which it would do at home." "The credit which sustained the colossal power of Great Britain," said Buonaparte to his Legislative Body in the summer of 1811, "is no more. Her allies are either lost or destroyed. She ruins all whom she would subsidize; she exhausts her own people in useless efforts. But the struggle against this modern

Carthage will now be decided on the plains of Spain ; the peace of the continent will not be disturbed ; England herself shall feel the evils which during twenty years she has inflicted on the continental nations. A clap of thunder shall put an end to the affairs of the Peninsula, seal the fate of her armies, and avenge Europe and Asia by terminating this second Punic war." With what feelings must Buonaparte now have reflected upon these bootless boasts !

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With as little satisfaction too could he reflect upon the result of that fundamental principle of his military system, by which his armies were made to live on the countries wherein they were making war. The principle of the British commander was to demand nothing from the inhabitants, and to seize nothing ; not a single ration was required from them ; they were paid on the spot for every thing which they brought, while Soult's army drained the adjoining provinces by its requisitions, and his soldiers were rendered at once formidable and odious to their own countrymen by the insolent and lawless habits which they had acquired in the Peninsula. The passage of the Nive had put the allies in possession of a large tract of country singularly fertile ; they obtained great part of their forage from it ; and the right wing by its position on the left of the Adour, commanded the navigation of that river, and often intercepted the enemy's supplies. In that deep soil, and in a season of continued rain, it was not possible for the army to advance, an individual indeed could with difficulty make his way any where but on the paved road ; . . it was hardly thought bad walking if the waters were not more than knee-deep. One of those unforeseen effects which frequently arise when man interferes upon a large scale with the works of nature, has rendered this country liable to inundations in winter and spring, and to drought in summer.

*Injury done
by destroy-
ing the
woods in this
part of the
Pyrenees.*

CHAP. About the middle of the seventeenth century a speculator*
 XLVI. undertook to supply the French government with ship timber
 1813. from the Pyrenees; to effect this it was necessary for him to
 December. increase the waters of the two rivers, or, as they are there called,
Gaves of Pau and Oleron; and by turning into them the course
 of numerous rivulets, he doubled the volume of the latter stream,
 and increased the current of the Adour so much that a 50-gun
 ship could cross the bar of Bayonne with less difficulty than
 before that time was experienced by a vessel with ten guns.
 He expended 300,000 crowns upon this scheme, succeeded in
 it, and ruined his family. But permanent evil was occasioned
 to the country: for when the mountains were clothed with woods,
 the snow which was collected there melted gradually under their
 shade, and fed the streams during the whole year; afterwards,
 when the snow was exposed to the sun and rain, the streams
 poured down in torrents, rendering the rivers destructive during
 the winter and spring, and scarcely supplying water enough in
 summer for navigation.

While the allies waited in their cantonments till the season
 should allow them to recommence their operations, telegraphic
 signal stations, to guard against surprize, were formed on the
 churches of Guethary, Arcangues, and Vieux Monguerre, and
 these communicated with one upon a high sand-hill, on the
 north side of S. Jean de Luz, near the entrance from the Bay-
 onne road: so that notice of any hostile movement might almost
 instantaneously be communicated to the head-quarters. Works

* The father of Baron de Lahoutan, in whose *Voyages dans l'Amerique Septentrionale* (Amsterdam, 1709, t. i. 149.) these facts are stated: the consequences were related by M. Dufort, of the Gironde, in the Legislative Assembly, 31 Aug. 1814.

were thrown up in front of the left, as the most assailable part of the line, at Bidaut, at Arcangues, and almost on every knoll. On such occasions it was that unavoidable injury was done to the inhabitants. If a chateau unfortunately stood where it was deemed expedient to fortify it, every part was pulled down that did not serve for the purposes of defence; and all the noble trees around it were felled, while the owner looked on a sad and helpless spectator of the ruin. These were cases of individual hardship; nothing could be more honourable to the British character than the extreme care which was taken to prevent all avoidable injury, and this was acknowledged by the people with equal surprize and thankfulness. No army ever behaved better even in its own country than the British army at this time in France, and this was owing to Lord Wellington's regulations. There was another part of the British general's conduct which attracted the notice and commanded the respect of the French people; he regularly attended divine service, with all his staff, not in the church, but on the sandy beach, the brigade of guards forming a square there. The service of Christmas-day* was

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* As an instance of English character, it is worth stating in a note, that an honest butcher of Slough, near Windsor, Edward Shirley by name, sent Lord Wellington, as a Christmas present, the rump and sirloin of a famous ox. Government forwarded the present, and with the next dispatches Lord Wellington's letter of thanks arrived, and was forwarded to Slough from the secretary of state's office by a king's messenger. The letter was as follows:—

“ St. Jean de Luz. Jan. 19.

“ SIR,

“ I received the day before yesterday the sirloin and rump of beef, which you were so kind as to send me; which although it did not arrive in time for the new year's day, was a most welcome present for the queen's birthday.

“ I beg you to accept my best thanks for it; and to be assured that I duly appreciate the patriotic motives which induced you to avail yourself of an opportunity at the

CHAP. performed there, on a bright frosty day, not a breath of wind
 XLVI. stirring, and no extraneous sound but that of a high surf break-
 1813. ing at least half a mile from the shore, and flashing in the
 sunshine.

December.

*Movements
 in the month
 of January.*

1814.

Towards the end of December the floods carried away the bridges which had been thrown over the Nive, but they were soon replaced. A detachment was sent towards Hasparren to clear the country in the rear of the right wing of the enemy's cavalry under Paris; and on new year's day a small island in the Adour, near Monguerre, was taken from the French without opposition. At this time Clausel was assembling a considerable force on the Gave de Oleron; on the third he drove in the cavalry piquets between the Joyeuse and the Bidouze, and attacked the posts of Major-General Buchan's Portuguese brigade on the former river, near La Bastide, and those of the third division in Bouloc. The enemy turned the right of the Portuguese brigade on the heights of La Costa, and established two divisions there and on La Bastide, on the Joyeuse, with the remainder of their force on the Bidouze and the Gave. The centre and right of the allies were immediately concentrated and prepared to move; Lord Wellington reconnoitred the enemy the next day, and would have attacked them on the ensuing, if the weather and the swelling of the rivulets had not

present moment of conveying to me your sense of the manner in which I have carried into execution his Majesty's commands, and those of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

“ I have the honour to be, sir,

“ Your most obedient, humble servant,

“ WELLINGTON.

“ To Mr. Edward Shirley, butcher,
 Slough, near Windsor.”

occasioned a day's delay. But on the 6th the attack was made by the 3d and 4th divisions, supported by Buchan's Portuguese brigade of General Le Cor's division, and the cavalry under Major-General Fane; the enemy were dislodged without loss on our side, and the troops resumed their former positions. Mina was at this time with three battalions at Bidarray and St. Etienne de Baygorey, observing the movements of the enemy from St. Jean de Pied-de-Port. The people of the vale of Baygorey had distinguished themselves in the war of 1793 by their brave opposition to the Spanish troops; that spirit had been transmitted to the present generation, and it was called into action by their countryman Harispe, one of the most active of the French generals. They were the only peasantry who manifested any disposition to act against the allies; by their aid, with that of Paris's division, and such troops as could be spared from the garrison of St. Jean, Harispe moved against Mina, and compelled him to retire into the valley of Aldudes.

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Jan. 12.

These were the only military movements on this side during the month of January; and the state of affairs here was disguised as much as possible from the French people: Buonaparte persisting to the last in that system of falsehood by which he had so long flattered and deluded them. It could not, indeed, be concealed, that Lord Wellington's army was wintering in France, though by what train of events it should have arrived there the French were left to guess. But it was affirmed that he had been defeated in the actions before Bayonne with the loss of 15,000 men; that he now thought of nothing more than intrenching himself within his own lines; that Clausel had assumed an attitude which alarmed him; . . . that his situation was becoming more and more critical; . . . that the misunderstanding between the Spanish and English troops increased every day; . . . that the British commander began to fear lest the part of the French army which remained in the camp at Bayonne might cut off his

False reports circulated by the French government.

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*The Duc
d'Angou-
lême goes to
Lord Wel-
lington's
army.*

retreat; in fine, that the allies were filled with consternation, and that while they were suffering from want of provisions, their convoys were wrecked upon the coast of the Landes department, and supplied the French with beef and clothing, and with packages of pressed hay, which were sent to Bayonne, and there served out to Marshal Soult's cavalry.

But while the *Moniteur*, in its official articles, dwelt thus upon a chance shipwreck, and attempted, in its usual strain, to deceive the French people, that part of the nation who remembered what had been the state of France before its baneful revolution regarded the progress of the British arms with secret satisfaction, because it offered a hope of the restoration of the Bourbons, and of that peace and security which could be obtained by no other means. The Bourbons themselves thought it was now time for them to take advantage of the course of events, and remind France that by putting an end to their unmerited exile she might put an end to her own multiplied calamities. The Duc d'Angoulême, therefore, with the Duc de Guiche, Comte Etienne de Damas, and Comte d'Escars, sailed from England for Passages, and proceeded to S. Jean de Luz. But as the allied powers, whether wisely or not, had as yet held out no encouragement to the hopes of this royal family, Lord Wellington could receive him with no public honours. Many of the inhabitants, however, hastened to pay their court to him; and the mayor of this little town, expressing to him a hope that the calamities which France had so long endured would soon be terminated by peace, observed, that peace could no otherwise be guaranteed than by the word of their legitimate sovereign; and requested his Royal Highness to convey to the King an assurance of cordial allegiance from the municipality and people of that place. Deputations were also sent to him from the neighbouring communes; and, before his arrival, a circumstance had occurred which more unequivocally

manifested the disposition of the people. There was an emigrant officer in the British army whose family estates were in the neighbourhood of Pau; a native of that part of the country came to S. Jean de Luz charged by the tenants of those estates to tell him how much they wished to live again under their own old laws and customs, and how happy they should be once more to pay their rents to their old master. The Duc, under the name of the Comte de Pradelles, lived with the utmost privacy, as the circumstances required; but he addressed a proclamation to the French army, and agents were not wanting to circulate it. He called upon them to rally round the *fleurs-de-lys*, which he was come, he said, to display once more in his dear country; and he guaranteed, in the name of the king, his uncle, their rank and pay to those who should join him, and rewards proportionate to their services. "Soldiers," he said, "it is the descendant of Henri IV.; . . it is the husband of a princess whose misfortunes are unequalled, but whose only wishes are for the prosperity of France; . . it is a prince who, forgetting, in imitation of your king, all his own sufferings, and mindful only of yours, throws himself now with confidence into your arms!"

A movement such as this address was intended to excite had already begun, but it was among men who had been trained in better principles than the soldiers of the revolution. An agent of Louis XVIII. had arrived at Bourdeaux, and had found in that city the Marquis de la Rochejaquelein, whom it was part of his commission to see, and say to him that the King depended upon him for La Vendée. Rochejaquelein is one of the redeeming names that appear in the black and bloody history of the French revolution. The present Marquis had succeeded to the title, the principles, and the virtues of his brother, who, in the first Vendean war, had addressed his soldiers in these memorable words: "*Si j'avance, suivez-moi; si je recule, tuez-moi; si je meurs,*

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Rochejaquelein comes to the British camp.

CHAP. *vengez-moi**!" "If I advance, follow me; if I falter, kill me; if
 XLVI. I fall, avenge me!" He now went through Anjou and Touraine,
 1814. and awakened that spirit which the National Convention had
 January. not been able, even by its most atrocious barbarities, to suppress.
 A scheme was formed for delivering Ferdinand from Valençay; but the person who was to have headed the enterprize died at the time when it should have taken place; and, indeed, no advantage could have been derived from it then, if it had succeeded. Rochejaquelein's designs were suspected, and M. Lynch, the Mayor of Bourdeaux, who was then at Paris, warned him by an express that orders were given for arresting him, and bringing him dead or alive before Savary, Buonaparte's worthy minister of police. He escaped to Bourdeaux, and, while remaining there in concealment, heard that the Duc d'Angoulême was with the English army. Upon this he determined immediately to repair to him, and receive his orders; but before he set out upon this most hazardous adventure, he requested an interview with M. Lynch, who was just then returned from the capital. That magistrate, who was always a loyalist at heart, foresaw the speedy overthrow of Buonaparte, and had already given his word to the Polignacs (then in confinement), that if Bourdeaux declared for the King, he would be the first to mount the white cockade; this promise he now renewed to Rochejaquelein, and charged him to assure the Duc of his devoted services, and that he would deliver to him the keys of the town. After many difficulties and dangers, the Marquis succeeded in getting on board a ship bound, with a license, to St. Sebastian's; and,

* After Buonaparte's return from Elba, the Marquis put himself at the head of the Vendéans, repeated these words of his heroic brother, and died, like him, in the same cause.