

those of the man who had formed them. He accordingly declined interfering in any way till the result of the struggle should be known, and took upon himself the direction of future operations only when the defeat of the enemy was ascertained. At that critical juncture, Sir Arthur Wellesley represented to him, in the strongest terms, that this was the moment for advancing; that whilst part of the army followed up the beaten enemy, part should push on by the nearest road to Torres Vedras. He pointed out that such a movement must inevitably cut off the French from Lisbon, and either place them between two fires, or compel them to begin a ruinous retreat, by the route of Alenquer and Villa Franca: he reminded him that there was no deficiency either of ammunition or provisions in the camp; that the British soldiers were in high spirits and admirable discipline; their enemies disheartened, wearied with their late marches, and almost disorganised. All this he urged upon the field with the warmth and earnestness of a successful officer, and the clearness and perspicuity for which he is remarkable. But Sir Harry was not to be moved from his determination. He had made up his mind already not to quit Vimiero till Sir John Moore should arrive; and he saw nothing in the events of the day to cause a change in his sentiments. The cavalry, he said, were certainly not strengthened, nor the

artillery horses improved, by the exertions which they had undergone. In a word, he was resolved not to act with precipitation; and the British troops were accordingly commanded to rest upon their arms.

CHAPTER VI.

Inactivity of the British army under Sir Harry Burrard—Arrival of General Kellerman at Vimiero, with proposals—Sir Hew Dalrymple takes the command, and enters into a treaty with Kellerman—Difficulties as to the disposal of the Russian fleet, and preparations for a renewal of hostilities—Arrival of Sir John Moore's corps—Junot consents that the two Admirals shall arrange the point at issue between themselves—The convention of Cintra condemned by both Portuguese and Spaniards—Almeida and Elvas given up—The British troops enter Lisbon—Joy of the inhabitants—Carrara's corps restored to liberty, and re-armed—The French army sails for France, and the Russian fleet is conveyed to England.

It has been stated, in the preceding chapter, that among the variety of motives which induced Sir Harry Burrard, both before and after the victory of Vimiero, to check the advance of the British army upon Lisbon, one, and certainly not the least influential, was the expectation which he entertained, that every day would bring into his camp a re-inforcement of ten thousand men, under

the command of Lieutenant-general Sir John Moore. The corps in question (to which it was the writer's good fortune to be attached) had embarked at Portsmouth so early as the 31st of July; but owing to a continuance of baffling and adverse winds, it was the 19th of August before it arrived in Mondego Bay. It arrived, too, at a moment when the leaders of the divisions which had preceded it were too much occupied with other matters to pay to its movements any particular attention; and it became, in consequence, essential to open an immediate communication with them, and to ascertain how, and upon what service, it should prepare to employ itself.

Having learned from some of the coasting vessels that the right of the British army was in position at St. Martinho, Sir John Moore did me the honour to desire that I should proceed at once to that point, and communicate to Sir Arthur Wellesley, or Sir Harry Burrard, or the officer, whoever he might be, in command, the fact of his arrival. In obedience to these instructions I set sail in a light frigate, hoping, and indeed expecting, that I should be able to reach my destination on the following day; but at an early hour on the 20th the breeze died away, and what was still more distressing, the appearance of the sky and the state of the atmosphere, indicated a long continuance of calm weather. Under these circum-

stances I did not consider it prudent to remain any longer on board of ship ; a boat was therefore manned, which conveyed me twelve leagues by rowing, and landed me soon after sunset at the village of St. Nazareth.

It was not without great difficulty, and the loss of several precious hours, that I here succeeded in procuring either a guide to direct my steps, or the means of conveyance ; indeed, of my journey from thence to head-quarters no inconsiderable portion was performed on foot. On this account I failed, unfortunately for myself, in reaching Vimiero till the 24th, three days after the battle had been fought, and the campaign was, to all intents and purposes, at an end ; for the heads of departments were, I perceived, all busily occupied in conducting a negociation, of the origin and end of which the following is a brief account :—

Sir Harry Burrard, in pursuance of his system of procrastination, continued inactive in the position of Vimiero, when, at an early hour on the 22nd, Sir Hew Dalrymple arrived from Gibraltar to take upon himself the chief command. Sir Hew was of course ignorant, as well of the condition of his own army, and the state of the country, as of the means and resources of the enemy ; and he could form no other judgment respecting the line of conduct which it behoved him to pursue, than that which his predecessors in command

might happen to suggest. But for the attainment of sufficient information some time was necessary; and before any definite course had been determined on, an event occurred which gave a new turn to the General's deliberations.

In the evening of the same day on which Sir Hew reached the camp, a body of cavalry was espied advancing by the road which the enemy had taken in their retreat. The pickets instantly stood to their arms; but the alarm, if such it deserves to be called, which had momentarily seized them, was at once allayed, when it was observed that the body in question were the bearers of a flag of truce. They were stopped, as is usual in such cases, at the out-posts, till a report of their coming should be made at head-quarters, and an officer sent down to ascertain their business. They proved to be the escort in attendance upon General Kellerman, who had been despatched by Marshal Junot, in consequence of the resolution to which he and his principal officers had that morning come, in a council of war; and who was the bearer of proposals for the conclusion of a suspension of arms, as the prelude to a more definitive treaty respecting the evacuation of Portugal.

Various rumours prevailed in the camp, as to the reception which General Kellerman's proposition received in different quarters. By some it was asserted that it gave singular satisfaction to

all; and that even Sir Arthur Wellesley, feeling that the moment for action had passed away, offered no objection to the measure; by others his opposition to it was represented as having been both strenuous and persevering. Be this, however, as it may, Kellerman was conducted, with every mark of respect, to the house where Sir Hew Dalrymple resided; and after a conference of some duration, his first request was granted. An armistice, to continue during forty-eight hours, was entered into; and then began the more important negotiation, to the conduct of which the armistice was but a fore-runner.

With admirable tact Kellerman opened his part in this transaction by magnifying, in every possible form, the strength of the French army, and the amount of its resources. He spoke of his General as determined to accept no terms which should not be to the most minute tittle honourable to the French arms; and represented him as prepared, in case matters should be driven to an extremity, to bury himself under the ruins of Lisbon. This done, he proceeded to lay before the British commanders a string of propositions, rather as if they had been suggestions from himself, than official communications; for he earnestly desired it to be understood that he had no powers to conclude a treaty, and that his present business was simply to ascertain the fact, whether any desire to treat

existed on the part of the English. The conversation had not, however, proceeded far, when either his memory, or his regard to consistency, forsook him; for he produced a written document, which authorised him to act at his own discretion, and pledged the honour of the Commander-in-chief to fulfil any agreement into which he might be induced to enter.

It is hardly necessary to repeat here that the evacuation of the whole of Portugal, including the forts of Elvas and Almeida, in which the French had garrisons, formed the basis of the present negotiation. To this the enemy would consent only on the following conditions:—first, that the French army should, on no account, be considered as prisoners of war; secondly, that the troops should be transported with their arms, baggage, and private property to France, and be at liberty to serve again, either in the Peninsula or elsewhere, as soon as they should re-assemble; thirdly, that no individual, whether Frenchman, Portuguese, or foreigner, in alliance with France, who chanced to remain in Portugal after the departure of the French, should be molested in any way, on account of the sentiments which he might have expressed, or the line of conduct which he might have pursued, during the late occupation; and that all such persons, if they desired it, should be at liberty to withdraw from Portugal, with all

their effects, within a year ; fourthly, that the port of Lisbon should be recognised as a neutral port, and the Russian fleet which lay there treated as enemies' vessels are usually treated when in the harbours of a neutral power ; and lastly, that all the horses attached to the Frency army, as well those belonging to the cavalry and artillery as those of the staff, should be conveyed to France together with the men.

When the substance of these proposals began to be generally understood, and a rumour got afloat that they had been conditionally agreed to, the indignation of all ranks and classes in the army rose to a great height. There was not an individual who appeared to entertain a doubt that Junot felt his situation to be a desperate one ; and that nothing short of such a feeling would have tempted him to treat about an evacuation at all ; whilst the terms which he sought to obtain for himself were, as if by one consent, pronounced to be absolutely and totally inadmissible. But that which most powerfully stirred up the wrath at least of the junior departments, was the impudent endeavour, on the part of the French leader, to stipulate for the unmolested departure of the Russian fleet. It was seen at once that his object in introducing that article was of a twofold nature ;—that he wished both to reconcile his own master to the disgrace which his arms had suffered ; and to con-

ciliate the good will of the Russian autocrat, whose squadron he hoped to preserve ; and it was earnestly trusted that the British Admiral, to whom reference must of course be made, would not give his consent to an arrangement so derogatory to the dignity of the British flag. Nor was the general discontent directed altogether against the details of the convention. Murmurs might here and there be heard, all of them condemnatory of that excess of caution which had checked a victorious army in the midst of its career ; whilst a thousand wishes were expressed, that the new chief's arrival had been delayed till the campaign, so prosperously begun, had been brought to a conclusion.

Whilst one part of the army, and that by far the most numerous, thus expressed themselves, there were others, who, equally regretting that advantage had not been taken of the victory of the 21st, were nevertheless disposed to view the pending arrangement as, under existing circumstances, an extremely prudent one. In their eyes it was a matter of the first moment to deliver Portugal entirely from the presence of French troops, even though the troops thus expelled should be immediately brought into play at some other point on the theatre of war. These persons no more doubted, than their more sanguine comrades, as to the ultimate results of the campaign, were it renewed ; but they saw, in the loss of

time which a recommencement of hostilities would occasion, evils which not the most absolute success would be sufficient to compensate. Besides, it was by no means impossible that the French, in possession of the commanding position of Torres Vedras, masters of Lisbon, and having garrisons in Elvas and Almeida, might protract the war till reinforcements should reach them from Spain; for though at the present moment their prospects in Spain appeared clouded, no one dreamed that the cloud would not sooner or later be dispelled. Then, again, winter was hard at hand; the resources of the country were exhausted; and to obtain supplies from home might not be at all times practicable. Under all these circumstances, they gave their ready assent to the terms of the convention, with this solitary exception, that they saw no wisdom in treating with the Russian Admiral through the medium of a French Marshal.

During the period which intervened between the conclusion of the armistice, and the return of the messenger who had carried a copy of the convention to Sir Charles Cotton, all things remained in a state of perfect quiet. Officers of every rank met together, indeed, in coteries, to indulge in an occupation to which soldiers upon active service are peculiarly prone, namely, speculation as to the future; and couriers came in from time to time with despatches of greater or

less moment from different parts of the country. But neither the speculations on the one hand, nor the despatches on the other, proved worthy of being recorded at length, though they were not without interest at the moment, and that too of the highest order. Among other topics of conversation which chanced to be occasionally introduced at head-quarters, it was but natural that the probable plans of the French, after they had cantoned their troops about Burgos, should prove not the least attractive. On this head the general opinion seemed to be, that they would attempt nothing further than to keep their own ground, till powerful reinforcements should have been sent to them from France. Then, again, there arose another question, namely, by the adoption of what line of operations the British army would be best able to render effectual aid in their expulsion. That we should not continue inactive in Portugal, after it was evacuated by the French, was well known; how then was it probable that we should proceed? It was answered to this, that whatever might be the plans actually carried into effect, Catalonia and the south of Spain held out numerous advantages to a British force, which it could not expect to enjoy in the Asturias or Galicia. The latter provinces, naturally barren and mountainous, had already endured the miseries of war for some time; their forage was therefore con-

sumed, and their resources exhausted. It was not so with Catalonia, where supplies of every kind were represented to be abundant, and where the people were spoken of as brave even to a proverb. To Catalonia, therefore, it was hoped that a separate corps might be despatched, even if it should be deemed unwise to choose it for the scene of our principal operations. Nor were the present and future condition of Portugal left unnoticed in these social discussions. The desire of the junta of Oporto, to transfer thither the seat of the executive, was well known; and it was equally well known that the Bishop had received some encouragement, even from British functionaries, to declare himself the head of the government; but to that arrangement Sir Hew Dalrymple appeared strongly opposed. He declared his determination to re-establish the regency as it had been appointed by the Prince previous to his departure for the Brazils; and he expressed himself dissatisfied with the conduct of those persons who had ventured, on their own responsibility, to excite a contrary expectation. Then, again, there came despatches from Castanos, stating his design of marching direct upon Madrid, and his great anxiety to be informed of the expulsion of the enemy from Portugal, and the advance of the British army to co-operate with him. But all these matters, as has been already hinted, though full of interest at

the moment, possess no claim upon the attention of the general reader now ; they need not therefore be enlarged upon.

Men's minds were wound up to a pitch of very considerable anxiety, when on the 26th a letter from Sir Charles Cotton arrived, in which he declared his decided disapprobation of that article in the treaty, which had reference to the neutrality of the Tagus, and the treatment of the Russian fleet. No words can convey an adequate idea of the satisfaction which universally prevailed, as soon as this most acceptable piece of intelligence spread abroad. The French were understood, with reference to this point, to have assumed a tone so high, that no one entertained a doubt of the immediate renewal of hostilities ; and the expectation was certainly not diminished, when the troops received orders to take their ground in marching order, at an early hour next morning. In forty-eight hours the armistice would expire ; then would operations recommence ; and so confident were all ranks that they would be resumed in real earnest, that the following plan was openly spoken of as on the eve of being carried into execution.

It so happened that the fleet which contained Sir John Moore and his division appeared at this critical juncture in the offing. Nothing could have occurred more opportunely ; for though the

state of the weather was such as to render a disembarkation at the instant impracticable, there was little reason, in the month of August, to apprehend a very long continuance of the gale. As soon as the surf became moderate, the troops would of course land; when it was understood that they would press forward to Torres Vedras, and occupy that important post, from which the enemy had lately withdrawn to a fortified position at Cabeza. In unison with this movement, Sir Arthur Wellesley, at the head of his own corps, was to advance by his left from Ramalhal to Buccellas, for the purpose of turning the heights of Cabeza, and threatening Lisbon; whilst the Portuguese army would take the coast-road, and straiten the enemy there by the occupation of Mafra. By these arrangements, the French, it was anticipated, would either be compelled to fight on their strong ground, under the disadvantage of being assailed from three quarters at once; or, in the event of their retiring upon Lisbon, would probably be shut up there, and then driven at last to the necessity of surrendering at discretion. All, however, must depend upon the decision at which Junot might arrive, whenever he should be made aware of the Admiral's determinations; and that time might not be needlessly wasted, Colonel Murray, assistant quarter-master-general, and Captain Dalrymple, military secretary

to the Commander-in-chief, were instantly despatched to lay these determinations before him.

The hope which this sudden obstacle to the conclusion of a treaty had for a moment excited, was destined not to be of long continuance. Marshal Junot was too well acquainted both with his own weakness and the strength of his enemy, to break off a negociation so favourable to himself, because of the rejection of a single article; on the contrary, he soon consented that the two admirals should settle every question relative to the shipping between themselves, and the definitive treaty was signed with as little apparent reluctance as if no Russian fleet had lain in the Tagus. Thus, in the short space of seventeen days, was the campaign brought to a conclusion; and a kingdom, which previous to its commencement lay, as it were, at the feet of a conqueror, was restored most unexpectedly to independence, and to its former rank among the nations.

The excitement produced by these arrangements had hardly begun to subside, when new sources of uneasiness arose, and that too in quarters from which no causes of uneasiness had been anticipated. The Portuguese, though they took care to keep as much as possible aloof from their allies whilst perilous attempts were to be made, and great interests placed at issue, no sooner perceived the turn which affairs had taken, than they

chose to interfere in a manner as little agreeable as, to say the truth, it was unexpected. General Freire, who had refused to co-operate with Sir Arthur Wellesley, but who, as soon as victory declared for the English, had marched his troops towards Lisbon, visited Sir Hew Dalrymple on the day after the conclusion of the armistice, and declared his dissatisfaction with every article in the definitive treaty. He complained grievously of the disrespect shown to the Portuguese nation, as well in the stipulation, that persons should not be held amenable for their conduct during the recent usurpation, as because no reference whatever was made to the junta of Oporto, or to any other legislative body. To this Sir Hew replied, that the convention was in all its parts a military treaty, in which no mention was or could be made either of the Portuguese or of the British government; and he further reminded Freire, that in point of fact no government of Portugal existed. The junta of Oporto had, indeed, assumed to itself a superiority over other juntas, and it had been, to a certain extent, obeyed by the people of Portugal; but if any legitimate government existed anywhere, it must be sought for in the regency which the Prince had appointed; and he took it for granted that General Freire would not acknowledge it, adulterated as it was with Frenchmen and French agents. He nevertheless requested that General

Freire would commit to writing all the observations which he might desire to make on the treaty in question; and he pledged himself that the utmost attention would be paid to them, when the terms of the treaty were in process of execution.

This difficulty had scarcely been got over, when other and no less serious objections to the convention were started by the leaders of the two Spanish and Portuguese corps, which at this time blockaded the fortresses of Elvas and Almeida. Elvas had long been kept in a state of irregular investment by bands of armed peasants, whose utmost exertions never went further than to poison a well or two, where the cattle of the garrison were accustomed to drink, and to cut off straggling parties, as often as they issued from the town. Before Elvas, again, the Spanish General Galluza, provisional commandant of the army of Estremadura, had seen fit to sit down; in ignorance, perhaps, that a treaty was going on at the moment for its surrender; but in positive contempt of orders from his own superiors, which required him to begin his march, without delay, for Castile. The Portuguese, though, like their comrades nearer to the capital, far from being satisfied with the tone of the convention, were easily persuaded to subdue their own feelings; and Almeida being given up, the French garrison was quietly marched under a British escort, to Oporto. It was not

so at Elvas. When a British regiment which had been appointed to take charge of the works arrived in his camp, General Galluza positively refused to permit its passing further. He insisted that the Spanish corps under his command was entitled to all the privileges of a besieging army; and he protested that the French garrison should not pass the ditch on any other terms, than as prisoners of war prepared to lay down their arms. Neither Colonel Ross, the commissioner, nor the battalion which attended him, could, of course, compel an alteration in Galluza's sentiments; but advice was instantly despatched to Sir Hew Dalrymple, who was justly incensed; and at first declared his determination to withhold all succours from the Spaniards, and to cease all correspondence with them, if his wishes, in the present instance, were not promptly attended to; but being reasoned out of this resolution, Sir Hew consented that Colonel Graham should repair to Elvas, with full powers to conciliate the Spanish General. The Colonel, was, moreover, furnished with 10,000 dollars, as a means of enforcing his arguments, should they be violently opposed; and as a last resource, he was required to proceed to Madrid, and to lay before the Spanish government a statement of the case. All this was as it ought to have been; but Sir Hew's feelings were too violently excited to permit him to stop here. Sir

John Hope's division of infantry, with two squadrons of cavalry, were ordered to cross the Tagus. He was directed to move, in a menacing attitude, upon Elvas ; and in case things came to the worst, to compel, by force of arms, an adherence to the terms of the treaty. Fortunately for all parties, this species of interference was not needed. The Spaniards, convinced by Colonel Graham's weighty arguments, that no good, but much evil, must arise, out of a breach of any compact, however rashly or improvidently entered into, at last consented to allow the departure of the garrison with its arms and baggage ; and the garrison accordingly proceeded, as the garrison of Almeida had done, under a British escort, to its place of embarkation.

It may not be amiss if I record here the fate which ultimately befell these detachments. Wherever they passed, on their journey from the forts to the place of embarkation, they were met with the revilings and hootings of an enraged peasantry ; nor was it without the utmost difficulty that they were preserved from the violence with which they were threatened. By great exertions, however, on the part of the escort, they were at length conducted to their vessels ; but the troops from Almeida, ordered to take shipping at Oporto, had not yet weighed anchor, when an accident occurred, which had well nigh proved fatal to them. In

moving a military chest on board one of the transports, it fell to the ground, and bursting open, some church-plate rolled out. There was now no arresting the fury of the populace. The ships were instantly boarded, the French disarmed, their baggage taken on shore, examined, and plundered; and when it became apparent that, under the head of private property, the pillage of the most sacred edifices in the kingdom was about to be conveyed away, the lives of the whole detachment were placed in imminent danger. At last, however, the native authorities, aided by such British officers as happened to be at hand, prevailed upon the people to abstain from personal violence; but to talk any longer of the safe departure of these detachments, would have been useless. They were disarmed, to the number of fourteen hundred, and treated as prisoners of war.

In the mean while, one division of the British army, under the command of Lieutenant-general Sir John Hope, moved into Lisbon, and took possession of the different barracks, and of the castle. Shouts and blessings greeted them as they passed along; whilst persons of every rank, from the fidalgo down to the beggar, vied with one another in protestations of gratitude and affection. The windows were filled with females, who showered down flowers upon the soldiers' heads, and waved their handkerchiefs in token of amity; whilst the

men thronged the sides of the streets, and made the air ring with their cries, "Long live the English!" "Death to the French!" But the most gratifying spectacle of all, which met us on the present occasion, was exhibited on the following morning; when to the Spanish corps, which had hitherto been detained as prisoners in the hulks, not their liberty only, but their arms and accoutrements were restored.

To render the ceremony as imposing as possible, it was determined that it should take place in public, and announcements of what was about to be done were everywhere circulated. Great crowds were accordingly drawn together on the morning appointed, when the Spaniards, in number about four thousand, assembled in a large open space called the Campo d'Ourique, and forming a hollow square, with their generals and other officers in the centre, awaited the result. They were not kept long in suspense, ere General Beresford, to whom the arrangement of the ceremony had been intrusted, followed by a large concourse of British officers, made his appearance. Instantly General Beresford, having passed along the line, and saluted first the General and afterwards the whole corps, presented to the former, with great grace and dignity an elegant sword, and in an animated speech requested that the latter would again accept their arms from the

King of England, never to lay them down till the cause of Ferdinand VII., of Europe, and of humanity, had triumphed. This address, which was forcibly and well delivered, had not yet come to a close, when it was drowned in the reiterated vivas of soldiers and inhabitants; whilst the roar of cannon, and the braying of trumpets, echoed from one end of Lisbon to another. When the tumult had in part subsided, the Spanish General hastened to make his reply. He spoke evidently under the influence of strong feeling, and every sentence which fell from him gave testimony, that what he did speak, was spoken without premeditation; but his speech possessed all the fire which the circumstances under which it was delivered were calculated to excite. He then addressed his men in the language of genuine patriotism; exhorted them never to forget the events of this glorious day; and ended by declaring that, whenever the people of the Peninsula should cease to bear towards England the love and reverence which were due from the oppressed to their deliverers, they would prove themselves unworthy of a better fate than that which, but for English interference, would have befallen them. Finally, the troops marched past, and the business of the morning was concluded by a grand *déjeûné à la fourchette*, at which the Spanish officers became so intoxicated with wine and joy, as to dance waltzes;

fandangos, &c. in their boots, swords, and complete field-equipment.

The rejoicings having ended, it became a question of considerable moment how these troops were to be disposed of. Destitute as they were of money, and of almost every article necessary to their efficiency, it was quite evident that they could proceed nowhere in a body, nor act to any purpose, unless the means of moving and acting were advanced from the funds of the British army; and the Commander-in-chief seemed to entertain serious doubts, whether his instructions authorised him to make such advance. After a good deal of discussion, however, he was at length prevailed upon to supply them with 20,000 dollars, in addition to a certain number of days' pay, and complete supplies of arms, ammunition, and horses; and then the question as to their ultimate disposal was resumed. The first idea on that head was, that it would be advisable to march them off in the direction of Badajoz; because, being composed principally of detachments from different regiments, of which the main bodies were understood to be in the neighbourhood of that place, they might be enabled, when there, to join each its respective battalion. Preparations were accordingly begun with this view; but before they were completed, there arrived from Catalonia two deputies, whose representations

caused an immediate change in the plans. These strongly pressed upon Sir Hew the necessity of sending troops of all arms, but more particularly cavalry, into their province. They stated that the Catalonian army amounted to forty thousand men, which, though miserably supplied with equipments of every kind, were, nevertheless, able to cope with the enemy among the mountains; but that in the plains and level country, owing to the presence of five or six hundred French cavalry, they could not venture to show themselves. Under these circumstances, they besought the British General to send round by sea a corps of one thousand horse and ten thousand foot, the arrival of which would, they were assured, occasion an immediate rising throughout the whole province, particularly in Barcelona and other large towns, where nothing but the presence of an overwhelming force kept the people in subjection to the French yoke. There was a good deal of justice in the remarks of these deputies; nor, perhaps, would it have been an unwise thing, had Sir Hew Dalrymple obeyed their councils; but to do this he hardly felt himself authorised. The Spanish corps, however, being absolutely at his own disposal, he could employ it at any point, and on any service, which to himself might appear most desirable; and he instantly placed it in the hands of the Catalonian deputies. It was

embarked in a few hours afterwards, and set sail for Catalonia.

All this while arrangements were busily making for the transportation of the French troops to their own country. Whilst the few garrisons which they had scattered through the interior, received instructions to march upon Oporto, the main body, including the corps which had occupied the castle of Lisbon, and the forts at the mouth of the Tagus, assembled in one camp, and made ready to embark as soon as the ships were cleared out for them. Much discussion, however, and many difficulties arose, as to the construction which each party desired to put upon those articles in the convention of Cintra, which had reference to the private baggage of the army. The Portuguese were naturally anxious that the men who had plundered their churches, museums, and even their dwellings, should not be permitted to carry away that plunder under the head of private property; whilst the French protested violently against any search being made, or any inquiries instituted into the contents of their trunks or store-rooms. It was no easy matter for the British General to steer a proper course in such circumstances, keeping, as he desired, a strict regard to the sacredness of his own promises. On the one hand, he could not but feel, that whatever might be the words of the

treaty, its spirit was not such as to sanction the numerous acts of peculation and robbery of which the French might have been guilty ; and he took care to state this with great distinctness to Marshal Junot. On the other hand, he saw that in many cases of alleged plunder it would be extremely difficult, if not utterly impossible, to identify the property said to have been stolen. Thus embarrassed, he took the only judicious step which it was in his power to take. A committee of inquiry was appointed, before which all claims might be brought ; and the quantity of goods restored by its decisions to the rightful owners was immense.

Before dismissing the subject of Cintra altogether, I consider it right, without at all desiring to discuss the wisdom or impolicy of the arrangement in question, to lay before the reader an outline of the impression produced in England by the first intelligence of the convention, which was communicated to me in the following extract of a letter :—

“ The tumult of our joy on Wellesley’s glorious conduct and successes has been cruelly disturbed by a communication of a supposed convention, the operations of which instrument would, if carried into effect, secure to the French advantages beyond their reach, under the most brilliant success ;

whilst their ten thousand men are now pressed upon by not less than thirty to forty thousand men, British and Portuguese.

“ In the first place, it is a recognition, on the face of the instrument, of Buonaparte as emperor of the French.

“ 2ndly. It provides for the safe retreat of an enemy's corps, destitute of all other means of escape.

“ 3rdly. It gives France the entire grace of saving for Russia her fleet, whilst in truth she had not a remnant of power left to protect it.

“ 4thly. It makes a gratuitous sacrifice of the fleet of an enemy, and in the manner of doing it, recognises rights of neutrality on the part of Portugal towards Russia, which, if they could have ever subsisted for a moment in a port occupied by a French army, were destroyed, even in pretence, by the formal appointment of Junot as Buonaparte's Lieutenant of Portugal, and entails upon us all the encumbrance of watching, with a fleet, a port of our own, whilst we must give the enemy forty-eight hours' start of us, lest we should catch him.

“ 5thly. It gives France not only the immediate use of her army, which, without an active assistance, she could not have, but gives her also the plunder of Portugal, under the mask of private property.