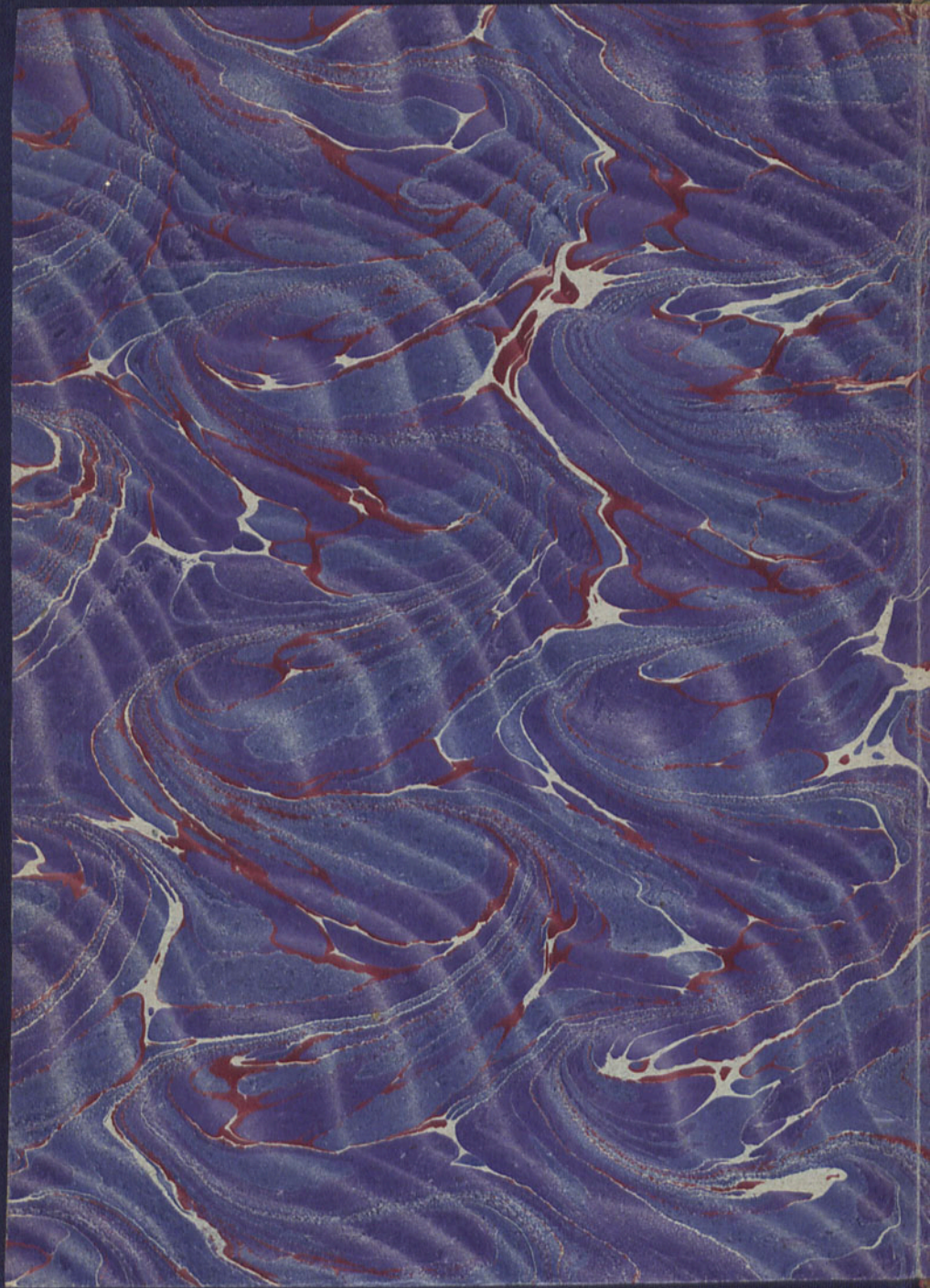
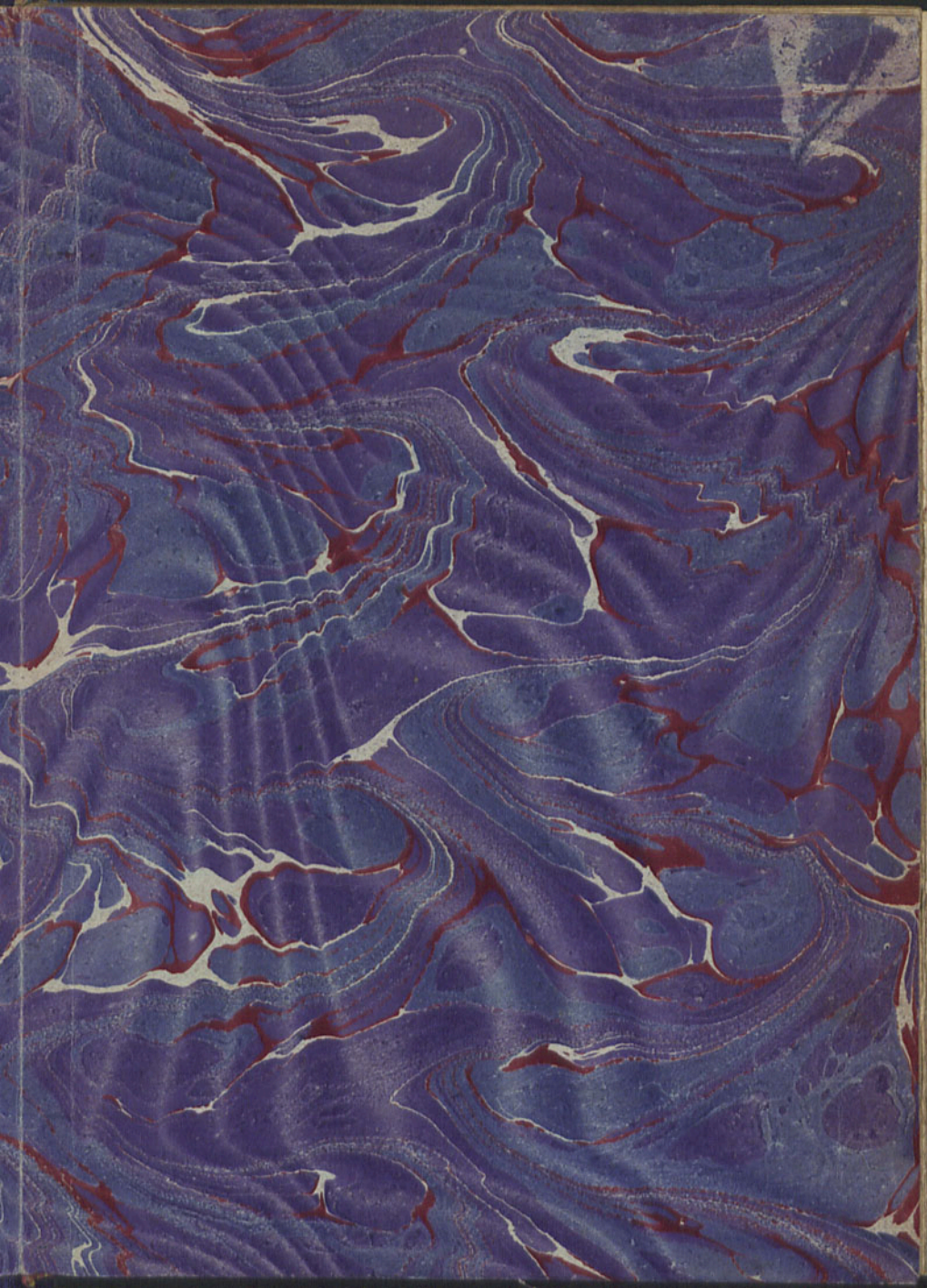


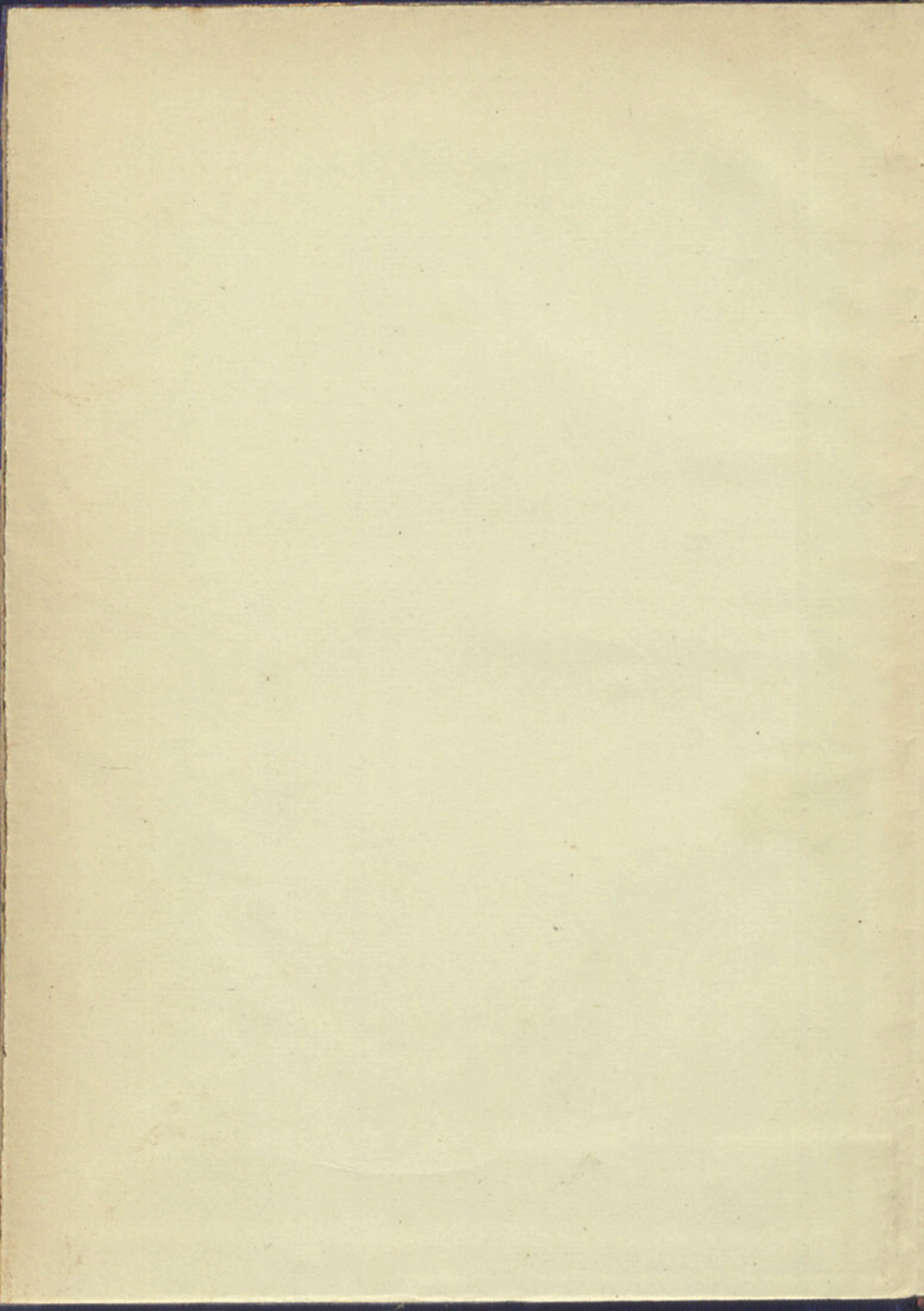


XIX

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CONFIDENTIAL.

ABSTRACT of MILITARY OPERATIONS in
PORTUGAL, and in the adjacent Provinces in
SPAIN, from September 1809, to the Close of
-1810.

AT the time when the conclusion of the Treaty of Vienna left Napoleon at liberty to direct all his efforts to the subjugation of the Spaniards, the British Army in the Peninsula was for the most part in cantonments upon the frontiers of Estramadura; the Head-Quarters being at Badajoz.

It consisted of about 34,000 men, of whom 4000 were Cavalry; but it was in a very sickly state, owing to the distresses it had suffered after repulsing the French Army at Talavera, and was in great need of rest and re-equipment. See return of 25 Oct. 1809.

The Portugueze Forces, at the same time, were making progress in discipline and improvement of System; but were still unfit for the greater operations of the Field; and were kept cantoned for the purposes of instruction in the interior of Portugal. Marshal Beresford's Letter to Lord Wellington of 26 Sept

The Spaniards had a Corps of about 10,000 Men under General Bassecourt in Estramadura; a large but undisciplined and ill-provided Army collecting in La Mancha; and a few thousand Men

under the Duque del Parque in the Mountains near Cindad Rodrigo.

See Lord Wellington's of 6 Oct. Of the Enemy's Forces in this part of Spain, Ney's Corps was in the Neighbourhood of Salamanca ; *Soult's* at Talavera de la Reyna ; and those of Mortier, Victor, and Sebastiani at Toledo, Aranjuez, and other positions covering Madrid.

Do. Both parties required rest, and both had an interest in remaining on the defensive. The assemblage, however, of a large Spanish Army, under General Equija in La Mancha, and the object of obtaining for themselves the resources of the Province, induced the Enemy to concentrate a considerable force, and to advance towards Equija, who prudently declined a Contest in the Plains, and retired to the Sierra Morena.

Oct. 1810.
Oct. 22.
Oct. 31. Upon the 13th of October the greater part of Ney's Corps (consisting of 10,000 Infantry and 1,200 Cavalry) marched from Salamanca, under General Marchand, with the view of dislodging the Duque from his strong positions in the Mountains ; the latter, however, took post at Tamames, and in that advantageous ground beat off the Enemy after a severe action, which cost the French near 2,000 Men ; and they left one piece of Cannon in the hands of the Spaniards. The following day Del Parque was joined by General Ballesteros with a Corps of 7,000 Men, and advanced to Salamanca, which the Enemy abandoned at their approach.

Nov. 16. Marchand was however immediately reinforced by Kellerman's division from Valladolid, and by part of the Corps of Mortier, who took the command in this Quarter ; and the Duque del Parque found it necessary to evacuate Salamanca, and to retire to the Mountains of Bejar.

Early in November, in spite of the strong opi- Private 30
 nions expressed both by Lord Wellington, and by Nav.
 the British Minister, against so rash an operation, ditto to Mr.
 the Central Junta of Spain resolved to risque the Frere 19 Nov
 safety of their principal Army in the Plains of La 30 do. Pub-
 Mancha, and imagined, that, with an unweildy lick.
 body of 50,000 raw levies, commanded by inex-
 periençed Officers, and without discipline or confi-
 dence, they could overcome the formidable French
 Corps which covered Madrid.

The command of this devoted Army was given
 to General Areyzaga. He pressed forward imme-
 diately across La Mancha, and his advanced guard
 made an unsuccessful attack upon the night of the
 10th, on 6,000 French, posted in the Town of
 Ocaña, who retired on the next morning to
 Aranjuez. The Spaniards passed the next week
 in useless demonstrations against the left of the
 French; and were meditating a serious attack upon
 the Enemy's Forces, which had now concentrated,
 when their rapid advance on the morning of the
 19th anticipated General Areyzaga's intentions.

The Spanish Forces, undisciplined, and inca-
 pable of manœuvering, were wholly unable to
 counteract the rapid and decisive movements of the
 Enemy. Their Cavalry were thrown into confusion
 in a moment; and though some of the Spanish Foot
 made a fair resistance, a total rout soon ensu-
 ed. The Spaniards dispersed in all directions,
 leaving above fifty pieces of cannon, their bag-
 gage, &c. in the hands of the Conqueror. Soult
 commanded the French Army at this Battle, at
 which Joseph Bonaparte was present. Most of
 the fugitives escaped into Valencia and Murcia,
 while a part fled across the Sierra Morena. So
 compleat was the dispersion of the Army, that for

several days no Troops could be collected to defend the passes of the mountains; and if the Enemy had pursued, he could have marched without resistance to Seville, and perhaps have made himself Master of Cadiz.

The Central Junta had fancied that the forward movement of Areyzaga's Army could have been protected by the march of the Spanish Corps in Estramadura (now under the Duke d'Albuquerque) to the Tagus, where it was to be joined by del Parque's Division; but this attempt at diversion produced, as was predicted by Lord Wellington, no effect whatever. The whole of these disatrous operations were planned and executed by the Central Junta in opposition to the advice and remonstrance of the English General and Minister.

19 Nov.

Enclosures in
Letter of 30
Nov.

The Panic which was now inspired into the Spaniards, and the exposed state of their Southern Provinces, made it necessary for the British Army to remain on the Frontiers of Estramadura for some time, to give countenance and protection to the re-assembling of the Spanish Troops: it had otherwise been proposed by Lord Wellington to have crossed the Tagus at this time, and to have moved towards Almeida and Cindad Rodrigo.

Dec. 7.

Enclosed in
Mr. Frere's,
Seville, 6
Dec.

The defeat of the Spanish Army in La Mancha was immediately followed by a vigorous attack made by Marshal Mortier upon the Duque del Parque's Corps (which instead of joining Albuquerque's Division upon the Tagus, advanced into Old Castile): the action took place on the 27th November at Alva de Tormes, and though the Spaniards suffered much, their Infantry behaved so steadily that the retreat of the Corps was effected in good order; and on the 30th this Divi-

sion took up a Position in the Mountains, near Miranda del Castañar.

December.

The Spanish Troops began to reassemble in considerable numbers behind the Sierra Morena, but having thrown away their Arms and Accoutrements, and lost all their Baggage, &c. in the rout of Ocaña, they were in a very inefficient State; and the Winter setting in they soon began to be sickly. The French did not manifest any intention of moving to the South—and Lord Wellington began his march across the Tagus.

Lord Wellington's, 21 Dec.

14 December

The British Troops still continued to suffer much sickness from the unhealthy nature of the country near Badajoz, where they had been quartered.

Towards the middle of the month, the Enemy's Army consisting of the Corps of Soult, Victor and Sebastiani, moved forward across la Mancha, and drove the Spanish Out Posts into the Mountains; but immediately afterwards retired without making any attempt to force the Passes—while at the same time Mortier's Corps was employed in a similar operation on the Frontier of Valencia.

21 December

January

Great progress began to be now perceptible in the improvement of the Portuguese Army under Marshal Beresford and the English Officers who had been appointed to instruct and act with it; and near 20,000 Men were in a state to take the Field.

Jan. 4, 1810.

A new invasion of La Mancha was made by the French in greater force than before: and with the exception of detachments left in Madrid, Toledo and Talavera, the Corps of Soult, Victor, Mortier, Sebastiani and Joseph's Guards, amounting to 70,000 Men, marched with the view of forc-

Jan. 24.

ing the Passage of the Sierra Morena: while their Troops in Old Castile were collected and moved to Bejar to keep in check the Duke del Parque's Division.

The Spanish Troops in the Sierra Morena were not in a state to make resistance. Sickly, without Provisions, Clothing or any necessary; without Organization or Hope, and still under the orders of Areyzaga.

Jan. 31.

The French made various demonstrations along the line of the Sierra from Almaden to Segura, between the 14th and 20th, and on the latter Day carried the passage at all points, the dispirited Spaniards flying without the least resistance, and dispersing in all directions. The fate of Spain appeared to be now decided: She had no longer an Army. The Central Junta was execrated by the Nation, and on the point of dissolution—Gerona had fallen, and the French Troops that had become disposable by the Peace of Vienna began to appear in Leon and Biscay. Andalusia was laid open: the rich and important city of Seville was not defensible; and even Cadiz was without a Garrison.

The Duque d'Albuquerque, who at this time commanded about 15,000 men in Estremadura, probably saved Spain by his promptitude and decision in this extremity.—Leaving 4,500 men for the defence of Badajoz, he marched rapidly with the remainder past the right of the French Army which extended to Hinojosa, and threw himself between the Enemy and Seville, occupying the position of Carmona upon the 24th of January.

As he found however, that none of Areyzaga's Army could be collected in time to attempt the de-

fence of Seville, he decided upon marching immediately to the Isle of Leon, which he reached without loss.

In the mean time the Central Junta fled from Seville, but their authority was for ever at an end, and a Regency of five persons, of whom Castaños was President, assumed the reins of Government. 9 February

Joseph Bonaparte entered Seville without resistance on the 1st of February. The Corps of Sebastiani marched upon Jaen, Granada, and Malaga. The 1st. and 5th Corps accompanied Joseph, and the former pursued its march to Xeres, Santa Maria and Chiclana, in the hope of surprizing the Isle of Leon; but the timely arrival of Albuquerque had frustrated their design, and three British, and one Portugueze Batallion from Lisbon, and 800 men detached from Gibraltar, arrived at the same time at Cadiz, and rendered the security of that most important place compleat. February

The second Corps of the French Army had re-assembled upon the Tagus; and Ney's Corps, and the Division of Kellerman remained in Old Castile, expecting the arrival of the numerous Divisions which were known to be upon their march from France. Feb. 9.

The British Army, under Lord Wellington, was at this time in the valley of the Mondego, and beginning to recover in health. The instruction of the Portugueze Troops was persevered in with increased activity; and the principal Fortresses of Portugal were put into a good state.

A small part of Areyzaga's scattered Army having appeared at Monasterio, on the borders of Estramadura, Marshal Mortier was detached from Se- Feb. 21.

ville, to drive them away : upon his approach the Spaniards retreated to Ayamonte ; and Mertier pushed across Estremadura in the hopes of surprising Badajoz. He arrived before this city on the 12th of February, but he found there the Marquis de la Romana, (who had been recently appointed to the command of the Duque del Parque's late Division) and the place in a state not to be taken, but by a regular siege. At the same time Soult arrived with the 2d Corps at Placentia, and sent a Division across the Tagus to Caceres, to put himself in communication with Mortier. On the 12th also, Marshal Ney advanced to Ciudad Rodrigo, and summoned the town ; but neither his offers, nor the fire of his field Artillery produced any effect, and he was obliged to return upon the following morning to the Tormes and the Douro.

Since the expulsion of Soult from the North of Portugal, and of Ney from Galicia, in the Summer of 1809, this latter province, as well as Asturias and a part of Leon, had been free from the Enemy, and had enjoyed comparative repose.

At this time, however, the arrival of Junot's Corps d'Armée, and of other reinforcements in the North of Spain, enabled the French to extend themselves. Bonnet's Division penetrated into the Asturias, and Loison marched against Astorga. He attacked this city (which has no other fortifications than its old Moorish walls) upon the 12th of February, but was repulsed with some loss. The garrison of the town consisted of about 2000 Gallician Soldiers, aided by the Inhabitants. The province of Galicia was in no condition to make any great efforts for its defence ; the events of 1809, had reduced it to a state of famine, and exhausted all its means. With difficulty, about

10,000 men were collected to watch the line of frontier, from the borders of Asturias to the confines of Portugal.

The provinces of Valencia and Murcia, yet remained untouched, and though Gerona had fallen, after one of the most heroick defences recorded in history, the spirit of the Catalans remained unsubdued, and the French made hardly any progress towards the subjection of Catalonia.

Towards the end of February, the 2nd Corps Feb. 28. of the French Army, under General Regnier, (Marshal Soult having been appointed to the command of the united Armies in the South of Spain), was collected on the right of the Guadiana, about Montijo, while Mortier's Corps remained upon the left bank, and the river continued fordable.

The Spanish troops, under Romana, were scattered along the frontier of Portugal, one Division near Ciudad Rodrigo; one at Albuquerque; one at Castel Vide; and one in Badajoz. As this latter place appeared to be menaced by Mortier and Regnier, General Hill moved with about 5000 British, and a Portuguese Division to Portalegre, to be at hand to support the Marquis de la Romana. Feb. 21.

March

The Enemy continued inactive during the first fortnight of this month. A part of Romana's Corps moved to Xeres de los Caballeros, to impede Mortier's communications with Andalusia. On the 18th both Mortier's and Regnier's Corps broke up; the former retreated to Monasterio and Santa Ollala, while the latter moved to Truxillo. This March 14th. movement was supposed to be occasioned by a serious insurrection of the Peasantry in the Sierra de Ronda, and the Mountains of Grenada. 28th.

Junot's Corps (the 8th.) was assembled in the province of Leon, but allowed several weeks to pass by, before he renewed his attempt to make himself master of Astorga.

The 6th Corps, under Ney, supported by the Divisions of Loison and Kellerman, was upon the Tormes, with its advanced posts upon the Agueda, on the other side of which rivulet was the advanced guard of the English and Portuguese Armies, under Brigadier General Craufurd. One of his posts, consisting of four Companies of Riflemen, under Lieutenant Colonel Beckwith, was attacked on the night of the 19th, by a considerable Corps of French, who were beaten off with a gallantry that did great honour to the English detachment.

March 28

See Cadiz
Correspondence.

Victor's Corps continued in front of the Isle of Leon, and was employed in hutting itself, and constructing Redoubts and Batteries. He had detachments towards Medina, Sidonia and Ronda, to communicate with Sebastiani's Corps, which occupied the province of Grenada.

A part of Areyzagas Army, which had retreated through this Province after the passage of the Sierra Morena, had assembled on the Frontiers of Murcia, and being reinforced and equipped, began to acquire a respectable consistency under the orders of General Blake.

Lord Wellington's of
6th April.

Mortier had been followed upon his retreat by General Ballesteros, as far as Ronquillo, but the 2d Corps (formerly Soult's, but now commanded by General Regnier) which had fallen back as far as Truxillo, again advanced to Caceres, and had it's posts upon the Salor in front of the Marquis Romana, and of General Hill.—Romana pushed a

Detachment on the 30th March to Meridan but it did not arrive in time to establish itself, and retired to Badajoz on the approach of Regnier, who occupied Merida on the 1st of April, and pursued his march in the following day to Medellin, occupying Don Benito, Serena, and Adjacents.—Some movements were made by Ney's Corps with a view to confine the communications with Ciudad Rodrigo; and early in April his force was concentrated at Ledesma, and Salamanca, where the Enemy began to collect heavy Ordnance and Stores.—4 or 5000 French moved towards Bejar and Baños. April 11.

A great part of Junot's Corps was still occupied before Astorga. The enmity borne by the People of Spain to the French appeared at this time to acquire fresh force. Their hopes were strengthened by the failure of Suchet's attempt to get possession of Valencia and the Guerillas became more active and audacious.

During the first half of April Regnier's Corps was engaged in continual marches and counter marches in Estremadura; and on the 13th Detachments of his force attacked Ballasteros in his position at Talamea Real; and at the same time a Spanish Corps under Contreras near Ronquillo:—In the former attack the Enemy was repulsed; but he succeeded in dislodging and dispersing the Troops of Contreras. On the 20th Regnier reassembled the whole of his Corps d'Armée at Merida; and on the following days fell upon the advanced Guard of Romana's Corps posted at La Rocca, and having destroyed a part, appeared to threaten the post of Albuquerque occupied by General O'Donnel's Division. Mendizabal however joined the latter in time; and General Hill moving to their support, the Enemy (who had been re-inforced by 8,000 Men)

April 26.

retired to Merida, and towards the close of the month, his parties reconnoitred Badajoz, while General Hill resumed his position at Portalagre. —

May 2.

At this time the main body of Mortier's Corps d'Armée was at and near Seville, with its advanced Guard in the Sierra Morena: and the Spanish Troops under Ballasteros were at Aroche and Xeres. On the 22d April the city of Astorga was taken after a very gallant resistance, by the 8th Corps d'Armée commanded by Junot, which after leaving a sufficient Garrison, began to move towards the Douro, and Old Castile. On the 25th

May

Marshal Ney's Corps (the 6th) approached Ciudad Rodrigo, and invested the town on the right of the Agueda; in consequence of which Lord Wellington transferred his Head Quarters from Vizeu to Celorico, and began to concentrate his Troops (which had been in cantonments in the vallies of the Mondego and the Tagus, nearer to the frontier. Upon the 12th of May General Mermet, commanding a Division of Ney's Corps, summoned Ciudad Rodrigo. On the same day Regnier reconnoitred Badajoz, and his Troops appearing to threaten Ballasteros, who was posted at Xeres, General Hill moved upon the 15th and succeeded in dislodging him. Marshal Massena arrived at this time at Salamanca to take the chief command of the Army of Portugal, composed of the Forces under Ney, Junot and Regnier.

May 30.

Joseph Bonaparte returned from Andalusia to Madrid under the escort of a strong body of Troops about the middle of May, and towards the end of the month the whole of Ney's Corps closed up to Ciudad Rodrigo, throwing bridges over the Agueda above and below the town, and on the 28th the heavy Ordnance began to move from Salamanca. By this time Junot's Army had arrived in

June 6.

the neighbourhood, and the united force of the 6th and 8th Corps were estimated at full 60,000 Men.—To the Southward, General Ballasteros advanced through the Sierra Morena, and on the 25th of May attacked and drove back to Seville the advanced Guard of Mortier's Corps.

Upon the 27th, a strong Division of French moving from Seville, attacked Ballasteros at Aracena, and after a severe Action in which the Enemy is supposed to have lost 1500 Men, the Spaniards retreated from the Field, but their opponents retired the next day and Ballasteros resumed his forward Position at Aracena.

Upon the 11th of June, Marshal Massena pushed Troops across the Agueda, and occupied all the Roads leading to Ciudad Rodrigo, but it was not till the 22d that communication with the Garrison was finally cut off.

The Enemy broke ground before that place upon the 15th, although his heavy Artillery had not arrived; but on the 24th he opened his fire and continued it with great vigour.

Lord Wellington in his Letter of the 20th June, states his persuasion that he shall not be able to relieve Ciudad Rodrigo, unless the Enemy should be obliged by circumstances to make very great detachments, of which the increased activity and daring of the Guerrillas in the rear of Massena's Army gave some hope.—With the view of being ready to take advantage of any opportunity, Lord Wellington had drawn his Army together, and he fixed his Head Quarters at Almeida on the 25th June.

In the beginning of the month the Gallician Troops under General Mahy made some attempts,

June

Lord Wel-
lington's of

13 June

20 —

27 —

but without success, to establish themselves in Leon.

July 4

In Estramadura Regnier made a demonstration of attacking Badajoz and Campo Mayor, but returned to Merida on the 22d, after collecting a quantity of cattle upon the frontier. It is believed, that Regnier was to have crossed the Tagus at this time, in order to join, or act in communication with the main Army under Massena; but on the 23d of June, a reinforcement that was on its march from Seville to join the 2d Corps, was attacked and defeated at Los Santos by a part of Mendizabal's Division:—in consequence of which Regnier was obliged to march with his Corps to Zafra, in order to form a Junction with his reinforcements: after which he made a forward movement with the view of cutting off the Spanish Divisions extending from Olivenza to Xeres de los Cabaleros. Smart Skirmishes took place, in which the Enemy sustained some loss: and the Spaniards effected their retreat towards the Portugueze frontier. About this time the Marquis Romana came to Lord Wellington's Head-Quarters, and remained some days in order to confer with him as to the possibility of relieving Ciudad Rodrigo—but they agreed in opinion, that this could not be attempted without great risque. The defence of Ciudad Rodrigo was continued with great resolution till the evening of the 3d of July, when the breach being practicable, and the Enemy prepared for the assault, the place surrendered after a most brilliant resistance.

July 11.

The besieging Army consisted of 57,000 effective men, including above 9,000 Cavalry.

On the morning of the 4th of July the Enemy passed the Agave in Force, obliging the British advanced guard, under General Craufurd, to fall

back upon Fort la Conception. A Squadron of the 1st Regiment of German Light Dragoons distinguished itself in covering this movement. The whole of Junot's Corps was now collected between the Agueda and Agave, having its picquets beyond the latter River.

Brigadier General Craufurd made an attempt upon the morning of the 11th, to carry off a strong July 13. patrol of French from the front of their Army; but he failed in his attack upon their Infantry, and only succeeded in taking about 30 Hussars—an equal number of British Dragoons were killed or wounded in this affair, Lieutenant Colonel Talbot being among the former.

Massena remained inactive after the Capture of July 18. Cindad Rodrigo, waiting the Junction of Regnier's Corps, which began its march from Merida on the 10th of July, and crossed the Tagus by the various ferries between Almaraz and Alconete, where the Spaniards had neglected to remove the boats. This movement was covered by a strong detachment sent by Massena towards Coria, and by the occupation of the Salor. As their march could not be molested, General Hill's Corps moved in a corresponding direction, crossing the Tagus at Villa Velha, and a Corps de reserve was assembled under General Leith at Thomar, consisting of three English Battalions, and a Corps of Portugueze.

At this time the British Army consisted of about 32,000 Rank and File, of whom 4,000 were Cavalry, and the Army was particularly healthy.

The Portugueze Regulars amounted to 40,000 Men, including 4,000 Cavalry; and about 45,000 Militia appeared upon the returns. Lord Welling-

July 18

ton's Head Quarters were at Alverca. Complete returns of the French Army had been intercepted a little before this time; by which it appeared, the Enemy's Force in Spain consisted of 322 Battalions, 179 Squadrons, and 179 Companies of Artillery, besides the Guards, estimated at 10 or 12,000 Men. Of this Force 98 Battalions, 66 Squadrons, and 48 Companies of Artillery, composed the Army acting against Portugal.

Some unimportant Actions took place between the Division of Ballasteros and Mortier's advanced Troops in the Sierra Morena. And in the North, General Serras (who commanded a French Division in the Province of Leon to cover the right of Massena's movements) continued nearly inactive.

July 25.

Upon the 21st of July, the Enemy advanced in Force, and obliged the advanced posts of the Allies to fall back to the Coa, and the Fort of Conception was abandoned and blown up by Lord Wellington's order.

Brigadier General Craufurd took post to the Right of Almeida, with the advanced Guard consisting of Three British and Two Portuguese Battalions of Light Infantry, and of some Squadrons of Light Cavalry.

The Coa (not fordable at this time) was in his rear, and only one Bridge by which the River could be crossed. In this disadvantageous Situation he was attacked upon the 24th of July, by a great portion of the French Army; and after a severe action effected the retreat of his Division across the Coa, with the loss of about 270 Men, with a large proportion of Officers. The Enemy, who had suffered severely, followed up his success by three

See *Moniteur* of

desperate attempts to carry the Bridge by storm, but was repulsed with great slaughter. The 43d and 95th Regiments particularly distinguished themselves.

After this action Lord Wellington withdrew his See Ld. Wel-
 Infantry into the Valley of the Mondego, with the lington's of
 exception of one Division posted at Guarda; but Aug. 1.
 the British Cavalry remained in advance, watching
 the Enemy's movement upon the Coa.

Regnier's Corps was now upon the frontier of Lower Beira, and General Hill's Corps took post at Sarzedas, maintaining his communication with Guarda by an intermediate Corps of Portugueze; his advanced Guard of Infantry occupied Castel Branco, and General Fane, with a strong body of Cavalry, stretched along the Banks of the Ponsul.

Estremadura was now cleared of the Enemy: Mortier's Corps was concentrated on the Guadalquivir, and Romana began to assemble his Troops at Merida and Olivenza.

Massena's main Army invested Almeida at the end of July; but did not break ground before the place till the 15th of August.—The rocky nature of the soil retarded his progress and exposed his workmen to considerable loss from the fire of the place.

Aug. 8.

— 22.

In the mean time some small parties, pushed forward by Regnier from Peñamaçon and Zibreira, were cut to pieces by the Portugueze Cavalry and armed Peasantry—and a French Detachment of 150 Men having crossed the Tagus, and occupied a fortified post at the confluence of that river and the Rio del Monte—were attacked by a Spanish detachment under d'Espagne, and the whole of them were killed or taken.

August.

Upon the 29th of July, General Serras had detached 5 or 600 Men, Infantry and Cavalry, to occupy the town and castle of Puebla de Sanabria: a small body of Spaniards retired at their approach, but the Portugueze General Silveira marched from Braganza with some Cavalry and a Corps of Militia: with the former he fell upon the French Cavalry on the 4th of August and took or destroyed the whole: he then, re-inforced by the Spanish Detachments, blockaded the Enemy's Infantry in the castle of Sanabria, and obliged them to surrender on the 10th.

The Marquess Romana having advanced with his Army towards Andalusia, Mortier collected his Troops upon the Frontier, and finding the Divisions of Mendizabel and Ballasteros hazarded too far in front of Romana's main body, he fell upon them at Buenvida on the 11th of August, and completely defeated them with heavy loss.—The French however could not profit by their success: and affairs remained much in the same state as before in Estramadura and Andalusia.

Aug. 29.

Sept. 5.

Upon the night of the 25th of August the Enemy opened his fire upon Almeida, and shortly afterwards the great powder magazine was blown up with dreadful effect; almost the whole of the ammunition of the place was destroyed—great numbers of Artillery men were killed—guns dismounted and the walls breached; so that the Governor was obliged to surrender on the night of the 27th.

The Corps opposed to each other under General Regnier and General Hill remained nearly in the same positions till the 28th of August, when the former marched from Zarza Mayor, and arriving the following day at Sabugal, formed a junction

with the main Army under Massena: some days previous to this movement a Patrol of 60 French Dragoons having fallen in with a Squadron of the Allied Cavalry were all killed or taken.

In consequence of the concentration of the French Army Lord Wellington now withdrew the Division which had hitherto remained at Guarda, where he only left a party of observation: his Cavalry continued in the plain country in rear of Celerico, but his Infantry was gradually withdrawn further down the valley of Mondego. Sept.

No movements of importance were made during the early part of September: but on the 15th the left of Massena's Army entered Guarda, and upon the same day, the right wing moved upon Trancoso. Capt Burgh's Narrative.

The Enemy's line of operations appearing now decided, and none of his Troops remaining on the side of the lower Beira, General Hill's Corps, and the Division under General Leith at Thomar, were both ordered to march upon the Ponte de Murcella, where they were to unite with the main body of the Army.

The Enemy continued his advance, but not rapidly. His most forward parties were charged upon the 16th by the 1st German Light Dragoons, and several Prisoners taken. The movements of the French Columns on the following days proved that it was Massena's plan to march by the right bank of the Mondego, for the sake of avoiding the strong position of Murcella, although he involved himself by this means in a very bad as well as in a longer route. Lord Wel. Sept.

Sept. 30.

The Portugueze Militia had assembled in separate bodies upon the Douro, and hung upon the flank and rear of the Enemy's march. Upon the 20th one of these Divisions under Colonel Trant had an opportunity of attacking the escort of their reserve Artillery and Military Chest, making many prisoners.

As the French advanced, the Inhabitants of the Upper Beira abandoned their Towns and Villages, carrying off with them their effects; so that the Country which the Enemy traversed was a desert, and his communications with Spain were cut off by the Militia and armed Peasantry.

Lord Wellington being now convinced that the Enemy intended to march by way of Coimbra, both for the sake of the resources it afforded, and as that route turned and rendered useless the position of Murcella, now crossed the Mondego with the main body of his Army, and placed himself between the French and the City of Coimbra. This movement was executed with ease and regularity. The Allies occupied the strong position offered by the Sierra de Busaco; over which pass the roads leading from Vizeu to Coimbra. As the Enemy appeared determined to attempt to force his passage, the Corps of Generals Hill and Leith crossed the Mondego on the 26th of September, and formed the right of the allied Army. On the 27th was fought the Battle of Busaco, in which the whole of the Corps of Ney and Regnier were engaged; while the 8th Corps, under Junot, formed the reserve. Ney assaulted the heights towards the left of the Allies, while Regnier made a simultaneous effort by a road that led to the right of the Center: both attacks were repulsed with great slaughter. The Enemy's loss has been estimated at about

8,000 Men ; but few prisoners were made. The loss of the Allies was less than a 1,000 Men including Officers.

Upon the 28th, the Enemy, who now found the impracticability of penetrating by the direct road, began to move towards his right, and on the same night his whole Army was in march to gain the high road from Oporto to Coimbra, by which the Sierra de Busaco is avoided.

Lord Wellington preferred to withdraw his Army from Coimbra and the Mondego, and to retire upon his expected reinforcements, rather than risk a general Battle on ground which offered no advantages. He continued however to hold Coimbra until the 1st of October (by which delay the Inhabitants of the city and its environs were enabled to remove with their effects) when the Army retreated leisurely towards Leyria and Thomar. Oct. 5.

In the end of August or beginning of September, Romana's Force in Estremadura had been reinforced by two Regiments of Portugueze Light Dragoons, under the command of Brigadier Gen. Madden, and after some trifling success, in cutting off two or three of the Enemy's small Parties, the Marquis advanced towards Seville, his advanced Guard penetrating to within three leagues of that city. Marshal Mortier, however, collecting his Corps d'Armées, moved out to oppose the Spaniards, who fell back to Fuente Cantos, where the French Cavalry came up with the Vanguard of Romana's Army, and the whole of the Spanish Cavalry, on the 14th of September. These were attacked and beaten, many taken prisoners, and the rest were flying in great disorder, closely pursued by the Enemy, when Brigadier General Madden Sept. 20.

arrived with his Portugueze Dragoons. He immediately charged and broke the French Cavalry, and pursued them two miles—killed and took a great number, and released the Spaniards who had been previously captured. This exploit saved the Spanish Army; and Romana retiring to Merida, and leaving a good Garrison in Badajoz, took up a position between the Tagus and the Guadiana.

October.

Oct. 5 & 13.

Lord Wellington having resolved to retire to the fortified positions (which had been prepared to cover Lisbon) continued his retreat unmolested: the Allied Cavalry covered the rear of his march, and had opportunities of shewing a marked superiority over the Enemy. On the 7th and 8th of October the Army reached its positions, and on the latter day the rains began to set in. The Enemy shewed themselves in force towards Sobral on the 12th and 13th, and made attacks upon the Outposts, in which they met with no success;—and Colonel Hervey's Brigade of Portugueze Infantry distinguished itself in repulsing the principal effort.

On the 14th a more serious attempt was made, but the French were charged with the bayonet by part of the 71st Regiment and driven back with loss.

The following days were employed by the Enemy in reconnoitring the position of the Allies; and in strengthening his own by Field Works. Our Troops were at the same time occupied in increasing the strength of their Lines.

When Massena followed Lord Wellington across the Mondego, he left in Coimbra his Sick and Wounded under the care of a very small garrison: and on the 7th of October Colonel Trant with his Portugueze Militia attacked the town and made

about 5,000 prisoners. Many more of the French were taken about the same time by other Divisions of Militia, and by light parties that hung upon Massena's Rear and Right Flank.—The desertion from his Army was also very great, and his Troops suffered great privations and hardships, having no Magazines, and the country they had traversed being stripped of all its resources by the universal flight of the Inhabitants.

By this time the British Forces had been greatly augmented by the arrival of Troops from England, from Cadiz, and from Nova Scotia. On the 8th of October the British Rank and File, under Lord Wellington, amounted to 41,000, and the Portugueze regular Army to about 40,000, of whom a small proportion were employed upon detached duties. The Militia, now under arms, was formidable in point of numbers; and towards the latter end of the month, the Marquis Romana (leaving two Divisions of his Army in Estremadura), arrived with 6 or 7,000 Men to join the Allies in front of Lisbon. It now became manifest that the Regency of Portugal had neglected to pursue in Estremadura the measures which Lord Wellington had so successfully adopted in Beira, to distress the Enemy by the removal of all resources. Massena found not only the Indian corn harvest untouched upon the ground, but also great quantities of cattle and other supplies. The richest part of the country was that which extended along the right banks of the Tagus, and he soon began to establish posts in this direction, and to push his detachments towards the Zezere; at the same time he was busied in collecting and in building boats to form a bridge over that river, and he began to fortify the town and position of Santarem.

See Returns.

Ld. Wellington's of Oct. 27.

November. The Enemy's communications with Spain had been entirely cut off since he passed Vizeu; but in the beginning of November Gen. Foix (charged with dispatches for Paris) succeeded in crossing Beira Baxa, under the escort of a strong Corps of Cavalry, and reached his destination.

Ld. Wellington's of 3d and 10th Nov
 At this time General Silveira with his Division (Militia and a few Cavalry) was on the Coa, confining the Garrison of Almeida; Colonel Trant was at Coimbra; and other Divisions of Militia, under Colonels Miller and Wilson, (as well as the Garrison of Peniche, under Colonel Blunt) were employed in hovering upon and annoying the French from the side of Pombal and Espinhal. Abrantes was held by a sufficient Garrison, and well provided. On the night of the 14th, Marshal Massena broke up from before the position of the Allies, and retreated upon Santarem. The rear was followed by the British Cavalry, and about 400 prisoners taken. As the Enemy had thrown two bridges over the Zezere, covered by works at Punhete, and General Fane, (who was on the left bank of the Tagus with the Portugueze Cavalry) observed large bodies moving in that direction from Santarem; General Hill's Division crossed the Tagus on the 17th, and took post at Chamusca and in the adjacent villages, to watch the Enemy's further movements. The position however, which the Enemy had taken up at Santarem, was found upon examination too strong to be attacked, and the rains had destroyed the mountain roads, and inundated the low grounds bordering upon the Tagus. Lord Wellington therefore established his head quarters at Cartaxo, confining and watching the Enemy, while the Divisions of his Army (with the exception of General Hill) stretched in a sort

Ld. Wellington's of Nov. 21.

of column from the front of Santarem to his former position of Torres Vedras.

His Force had now received some addition by the arrival of the 23d Regiment from Halifax, and of Detachments from England.

About the middle of Nov. French Troops began to appear upon the frontier, and were known to be assembling with the intention of reinforcing Massena.

The advanced Guard of Gardanne's Division was worsted in an affair with General Silveira's Corps, upon the 14th; after which the whole Division turned to its left, and marched rapidly through Lower Beira towards the Zezere. The weather was extremely bad, and the Column was harrassed on its march by the armed Peasantry; it however reached Cardigos on the 25th of November, being thus within three leagues of Massena's out-posts, and without an intervening Enemy. It appears however, that Gardanne was ignorant how nearly he had effected a junction, and no communication having taken place, he suddenly took alarm, and retreated precipitately to the Spanish frontier, destroying his baggage and unserviceable animals, and losing many Men by the attacks of the Peasantry.

Early in December Marshal Massena detached a strong Body (chiefly Cavalry) to surprize Coimbra, and the bridge over the Mondego, but they found the place sufficiently defended, and returned to their main Army.

A large Body of French Troops (consisting, it is estimated, of about 20,000 men) which had been

encamped near Nantes during the Summer, entered Spain in the month of August, and being placed under the orders of General Drouet, formed a 9th Corps of the Grand Army. A part of this Corps had been collected about Salamanca, Ciudad Rodrigo, and Almeida, where it relieved the Troops which entered Portugal under General Gardanne's command, in November. After the hasty retreat of the latter, Drouet's Corps was brought more forward, and his leading Division being reinforced by Gardanne's diminished Force, crossd the Coa on the 15th and 16th of December, and, continuing its march by the Puerte de Murcella, effected its junction with Massena on the 26th of December.

FINIS.



