

It certainly appeared strange, that a country thinly inhabited and essentially agricultural in its character, possessing an almost unlimited extent of territory, generally capable of producing grain, should be thus periodically liable to suffer from a deficiency in so important an article as wheat, notwithstanding the various regulations which had been framed for the encouragement of husbandry. But the too frequent interference of Government upon former occasions appeared rather to have augmented than corrected the evil, which may in some degree be traced to the local circumstances in which the farmers were placed, spread over a vast extent of country, without such means of communicating with each other as might in some measure enable them to regulate the supply by the demand. It sometimes happened that a year of scarcity, from the stimulus which the high prices it occasioned gave the farmers, and from a large quantity of land being consequently brought under cultivation, was succeeded by one of over production, which reduced the value of wheat considerably below the expense of bringing it from the more distant districts to market at Cape Town. This uncertainty of being able to procure a remunerating price was very discouraging to the farmers, and the mischief was greatly aggravated by the laws which regulated the supply and management of the public granaries or Government corn magazines.

The importance of guarding against the effects of scarcity in a colony circumstanced as the Cape of

Good Hope was, could not fail of engaging the attention of the local authorities at an early period of its history. Too remote from the mother country, and too far removed from other friendly settlements to enable it in times of difficulty to depend on foreign supply, its only reliance was upon its internal resources, a failure in which might not only involve the fate of its own population, but seriously compromise the safety of the Dutch ships trading to India, which from the length of time required to perform the voyage at the period of which we are now treating, found it always necessary to touch at the Cape to renew their provisions and water.

In order to be at all times prepared to meet this essential but fluctuating demand, and at the same time to ensure a constant supply of bread to the garrison and inhabitants of Cape Town, the Dutch Government had appointed a particular administration, called the Grain Commission, with proper store-houses for the reception and preservation of corn. The proceedings of this Commission were regulated by proclamations issued from time to time by the Government; but as the system varied according to the different views of the subject taken by different governors, it had not that character of permanency, nor was it dictated in that spirit of liberality, which could alone reconcile the interest of the farmers with the object in view, and ensure such a growth of wheat in the interior as would prove adequate to every want. The freedom of the market was destroyed by a law, which gave the Grain Commission

a priority of right to make such purchases as it might think proper at a price fixed by authority, and in general much below what might have been obtained by an unconstrained sale : Whilst the land-rostros (or chief magistrates of districts) were authorized in certain cases to compel the farmers to send to the Government stores such portion of the grain which they had raised as might be judged expedient at the rate thus arbitrarily fixed, without reference to any other consideration than the extent of the demand for the public service.

The pernicious tendency of this injudicious interference was proved by the irregularity of the supply, and by the fact that many farmers in the interior preferred to feed their cattle secretly with wheat, rather than incur the risk and fatigue of taking it to Cape Town ; fearful if the quantity at market should be large, of not being able to obtain sufficient even to cover the expenses of the journey, or if smaller, of being obliged by the Grain Commission, to lodge it in the public stores at a price far below what might be obtained elsewhere.

To remedy these evils permanently, Sir David Baird determined to new model this Grain Commission, and place it on a footing which might in a great measure tend to equalize the supply with the demand, and prevent for the future those ruinous variations in prices, which had on many occasions proved injurious to the farmer, alarming to Government, and distressing to the inhabitants of Cape Town. . The plan he proposed, and which

was adopted, was as simple as we have reason to think it has proved efficacious, for since it was brought into operation, about twenty-four years ago, we believe a period of scarcity has not been known at the Cape.

A proclamation was issued rescinding all former regulations relative to the corn trade, and notifying that the Government stores would be open for a specified time to receive wheat of a certain quality, at the rate of sixty rix dollars per muid, and to issue the same at the rate of eighty dollars. These rates (having been in the first instance fixed by a mixed English and Dutch Commission, after careful investigation,) were to be revised at certain epochs, and varied according to the circumstances of the colony and the state of its agriculture. By this regulation the farmer became secure of obtaining a moderately remunerating return for his wheat, whatsoever might be the quantity brought to market, whilst the consumer was protected from the consequences of a short supply, as he might in all cases have recourse to the public stores, should the market price exceed eighty dollars per muid.

Besides these advantages, this arrangement secured the profits accruing to the Grain Commission from the fluctuations in the public market, and the different rates at which it purchased and delivered wheat from its magazines, so as not only to cover all the charges of the administration, but to accumulate a fund sufficient to keep a large stock of corn always in store, and eventually to reimburse the public

treasury in the advances originally made to the Institution.

The beneficial effects of this change of system soon became apparent. Many farmers had concealed stores of corn, which they now hastened to produce for the purpose of profiting by the new regulations, and instead of being compelled to continue to make issues from the public granary to compensate for an insufficient supply, the markets were soon amply furnished with wheat from the interior; the prices progressively fell, and the fears which had universally prevailed of an approaching scarcity were gradually dissipated.

Bearing in mind that one of the most effectual measures for promoting the improvement of a country is to increase its means of communication, and facilitate an intercourse between its inhabitants, Sir David Baird determined to create a post-office establishment for the conveyance of letters between the seat of Government and the interior. The plan was modelled after that of India: the letter bags being carried by men on foot, who were permanently stationed at farm houses on the different lines of road, and relieved each other at the distance of a moderate day's journey. Hottentots of tried fidelity were selected for this service. These aboriginal inhabitants of the southern extremity of Africa, by no means deserve the contempt by which they have been visited; generally inoffensive and well-disposed, frequently intelligent, and almost universally capable of enduring the greatest privations and fatigue, they

might, but for the manner in which their race has been diminished by the oppressive and cruel treatment of the Dutch settlers, have formed a numerous and valuable portion of the population of the colony.

Whilst everything was proceeding at the Cape in a course of steady progress towards a state of prosperity, the tone of the communications received from England, led Sir David Baird to conclude that his stay in the colony would not be very long. The death of Mr. Pitt had been followed by the appointment of a new Ministry, differing in its views and policy from that under which the expedition had been planned. The arrival of the despatch which announced the capture of the Cape, was received in London with joy by the people, but with coldness by the Administration.

When it is recollected that the conquest of the colony in 1795 (although it then possessed inferior means of defence), had been rewarded by the bestowal of two red ribands, one on the Commander-in-chief of the Forces, and another on Sir James Craig; and that Sir George Elphinstone, who commanded the naval force upon the occasion, having previously received that decoration, was created Baron Keith in March 1797, on his return to England, and that the thanks of Parliament were unanimously voted to all those officers; it may be thought perhaps, that the following acknowledgment of Sir David Baird's despatch announcing the capture of the colony in 1806, is as dry and as cold as might be expected, although it was *all* that His Majesty's Government thought fit to bestow upon the successful General.

Downing Street, 1st March, 1806.

SIR,

I have received and laid before the King your despatches, dated the 12th and 13th of January, containing an account of your proceedings with the attack and capture of the Cape of Good Hope, and I feel great gratification in having it in my power to convey to you, His Majesty's approbation of your conduct in the course of that service, as well as of the conduct of the troops under your command.

It would have been more gratifying to His Majesty's feelings to have obtained possession of the Cape of Good Hope without any effusion of blood, but from the resistance you describe, His Majesty feels great satisfaction in observing, that the loss in killed and wounded was not so considerable as might have been apprehended. The measures which you have pursued after the capitulation of Cape Town, appear to have been perfectly judicious; and I trust that General Janssens will have been either induced by the overtures which you had authorized General Beresford to make to him, or compelled by prompt and well-judged movements on your part, to abandon the project of maintaining any farther resistance.

In order to guard against a failure in the measures which you have pursued for procuring a supply of provisions, two victuallers laden with beef and pork, and two other vessels laden with wheat, meal, and flour, have been ordered to proceed with all possible despatch to the Cape consigned to you; the two former are to take advantage of the present East India convoy, and the two latter, if they should not be in time to profit by that advantage, will be directed to proceed as soon as circumstances will permit.

I will take an early opportunity of conferring with his Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief on your representation respecting a reinforcement of cavalry, and although the services of the 59th regiment of infantry, and the re-

cruits destined for India, appear from the latest accounts from that country to be urgently necessary there, still your detention of that regiment seems to be warranted by the circumstances of the case.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

W. WINDHAM.

The doubts which Sir David began to entertain of the permanency of his command from the way in which his services appeared to be appreciated by the King's new Ministers, were soon changed into certainty by the news he received of the disastrous termination of the South American expedition. The reluctance with which Sir David Baird had been brought to engage in that enterprize, has been already noticed; but circumstances having subsequently occurred to connect him more closely with its ill-fortune, it may be proper to give a brief outline of the proceedings of an expedition of which in a military point of view he was virtually Commander-in-chief.

The reader is already aware of the success with which Sir Home Popham exerted his influence over the Governor of St. Helena, to add to the strength of his force. He left that island on the 2nd of May, and shortly afterwards quitted the fleet and pushed on in the *Narcissus* frigate, Captain Donnelly, accompanied by Captain Kennett of the Engineers, in order to examine the channel and coast of the Rio de la Plata, and of deciding upon a place of landing previous to the arrival of the body of the armament.

The fleet, baffled by fogs and contrary winds, did not rejoin the *Narcissus* until six days after it reached the river. A consultation was immediately held between Sir Home Popham and General Beresford, whether it would be advisable first to attack Buenos Ayres, the capital of the province, or the fortified town of Monte Video, which is more accessible from the sea. The former being resolved on, the troops were removed from the heavy ships into the *Narcissus* and the smaller vessels, which, ascending the river about ninety miles through an intricate channel, rendered more difficult by the prevalence of contrary winds and fogs, anchored opposite the city of Buenos Ayres, at about eight miles from the shore on the evening of the 24th June. On the 25th, the fleet approached the coast, and the troops were disembarked at the Point de Quilmes during that day and the succeeding night.

The enemy made no opposition to the landing, but posted themselves to the number of about two thousand men (principally mounted), on a chain of heights about two miles in front of the landing place, having their right flank covered by the Village of Redaction. On the 26th the British troops advanced against the front of the position, from which they soon drove the enemy with the loss of some men and four guns. The Spaniards retreated behind the River Chesilo, the bridge over which they destroyed, and took up a fresh position along its banks, whence, after a slight resistance, they were

again driven by General Beresford, who crossed the river on the 27th, by means of rafts and boats, in the construction and collection of which a detachment of seamen which had been landed from the ships of war proved of the greatest utility. No further opposition to an entrance into the city being offered, motives of humanity induced General Beresford to send his acting aid-de-camp, Ensign the Honourable A. Gordon, of the 3rd Guards, with a summons to the Governor to deliver up the town and fortress, in order to prevent the excesses which might occur if the troops entered in a hostile manner; at the same time informing him that the British character would ensure to the inhabitants the full exercise of their religion, and protection to their persons and private property.

In reply, the Governor despatched an officer to General Beresford, requesting a delay of some hours to draw up conditions, but as this was considered to be inconvenient under the circumstances in which the British were placed, General Beresford, as soon as his whole force had passed the Chesilo, commenced his march upon the city, and was met near its entrance by another Spanish officer, who was the bearer of a number of written conditions prepared by the Governor. To these General Beresford returned a verbal answer, that he had not time to discuss their merits, but that he would confirm in writing what he had promised after his entrance into Buenos Ayres; which engagement was most

honourably fulfilled by the General and Sir Home Popham, after the former had taken possession of the place.

Intelligence of the successful result of the attack on Buenos Ayres, speedily reached the Cape of Good Hope. Whatever might have been the opinion of Sir David Baird as to the propriety in the first instance of undertaking so important an enterprise without specific instructions from the competent authorities, and on a mere verbal understanding that it would be approved of, he felt no hesitation whatever as to the expediency of employing every means to secure the advantages already gained, now that the die was finally cast. Every possible exertion was therefore made to meet General Beresford's application for a reinforcement, and on the arrival at the Cape of two regiments for India, Sir David thought the crisis so important that he ventured to change the destination of one of them, and despatched the 47th, under Colonel Backhouse, with other detachments from the garrison of the Cape, to the Rio de la Plata.

But these reinforcements were not destined to arrive in time to avert the catastrophe which impended. Although the most liberal and conciliatory line of policy seems to have been pursued both by the General and Commodore, they do not appear to have succeeded in reconciling the mass of the inhabitants to the change of Government; whilst the influence of the clergy was secretly but powerfully employed to excite discontent, and promote a scheme for recapturing the city before the arrival of

any additional British troops. Indeed, when the Spaniards obtained the means of quietly contemplating the handful of men to whom they had yielded, they could not avoid feeling deeply humiliated by the fact that a city containing upwards of sixty thousand inhabitants, had submitted to a force which on shore never exceeded one thousand six hundred men.

The following extract from a despatch addressed by General Beresford to the Colonial Minister, affords honourable testimony of the liberal conduct adopted by the British Commanders.

“ I trust the conduct adopted towards the people here has had its full effect in impressing on their minds the honour, generosity, and humanity of the British character. His Majesty’s Ministers will see, by the detail of our proceedings, that after the army had passed the Rio Chiselo, the city of Buenos Ayres remained at our mercy, and that, in fact, the only conditions on which I entered, were such as I myself pleased to offer, and which humanity and a regard to our character, naturally induce me to give under any circumstances. However, to quiet the minds of the inhabitants, I not only consented to put in writing my promises, but acceded to many conditions not expected by them; and contrary to direct stipulations, gave up to the proprietors all the coasting vessels captured, with their cargoes, of which I annex a return, the value of which amounted to one million and a half of dollars.”

In a Proclamation addressed to the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres, the General, with a view of pointing out the advantages they must derive from the change of Government, observes—

“The Major-General thinks it necessary to acquaint the general and commercial interests of the country, that it is His Majesty’s most gracious intention, that a free trade shall be opened and permitted to South America, similar to that enjoyed by all others of His Majesty’s colonies, particularly the Island of Trinidad, whose inhabitants have felt peculiar benefits from being under the government of a Sovereign, powerful enough to protect them from any insult, and generous enough to give them such commercial advantages as they could not enjoy under the administration of any other country.”

This language was well calculated to awaken in a trading community a sense of the benefits the new Government was disposed to bestow. But the Buenos Ayreans do not seem to have been sufficiently prepared for so sudden and important a revolution. Devotedly submissive to the will of their priests, and attached from long habit to the country whence they originally sprang, it could scarcely be expected that they would become immediately reconciled to the dominion of a nation which was vilified by their clergy as undeserving the title of Christian, and by their leaders as the bitterest enemy of Spain.

While a deceitful calm hung over the surface of affairs, a secret conspiracy was in active operation for recapturing the city and repelling the invaders. As we have already said, the influence of the clergy was employed in exciting the people to revolt, whilst a French officer of the name of Liniers, who it is understood had originally established himself at Rio de la Plata for the purpose

of carrying on some commercial speculation, and who held a commission as Colonel of Militia in the service of Spain, was engaged in assembling a force capable of attacking the British. For this purpose men were collected from Monte-Video and Sacramento, and the Militia which had been driven from the town at its capture again approached it. On the 12th of August the British troops were attacked in every direction; General Beresford would have evacuated the place, and have re-embarked his men, but the state of the weather had for several days prevented any communication with the fleet. Some very severe fighting took place in the great square, but the English troops were exposed to a severe and galling fire from the tops of the public buildings and private houses. The fate of the day, considering the nature of the contest and disproportion in the numbers, could not long continue in suspense. General Beresford, after a determined resistance, was compelled to lay down his arms, on conditions which were violated by Liniers, who contrary to his engagements retained the British, prisoners of war. Our loss consisted of one hundred and sixty-five killed and wounded; and about one thousand three hundred men laid down their arms to the Spaniards.

Although the British Ministers were disposed to profit by the success which had in the first instance attended the expedition under Sir Home Popham, and not only sent large reinforcements to South America, but issued orders in Council for regulating

the trade with Buenos Ayres, and with such other possessions as might subsequently be acquired in that part of the world, still, while they were yet ignorant of the subsequent disaster which had occurred, they were by no means disposed to approve of the manner in which the enterprize had been undertaken after they knew of its failure, and the result of all his anxieties and exertions was the recall of Sir Home Popham, accompanied by circumstances of sharpness and asperity which it really seems no conduct of his could have justified.

In one of his letters to Sir David Baird, dated November 17th, 1806, previous to his recall, he says—

“ Surely the Government is highly reprehensible in not sending out some vessel with instructions to the armament in this country. They knew on the 15th June that we were here, and they have been gambling upon the issue ever since; indeed, there has been ample time for a return to the letters by the *Narcissus*, if they had the least activity. I have, however, said in all my letters, that I concluded they were highly pleased with this measure of enterprize, as they had not sent to stop it in its progress, as they were in possession of my despatches in the middle of June; and this is the inference, any rational man must allow, it is fair to draw, and such as I will draw in the strongest colours.

“ They have thrown down the gauntlet at the Cape, and if they throw it down here, I will take it up. I wish for quietness with everybody, as that is the natural bent of my disposition, but if political revenge is to be carried to such a length as to injure the interests of the country, the

country must know it, and John Bull and the Ministers must then fight their own battles.

“ If I had not been a partisan of Mr. Pitt’s and Lord Melville’s, we should have had long ere this, despatches, generals, reinforcements, and everything necessary for them, on the most extensive scale: the time, however, may come, when all will be right again, and it will be our ‘ watch on deck.’ At present I shall say little more, because, in the first place, I expect that you will be in England, or on your way home, before this can reach you at the Cape; and in the next, because I think that I shall soon meet you in London to talk over all these broils and ill-usages, which, however, sit lighter upon me than anybody else, as I am more used to them.”

On the 10th of December the blow fell which Sir Home Popham had so justly anticipated, and so bravely prepared to receive; on that day he writes to Sir David Baird from Maldonado.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

Here I am, once more, a private gentleman in South America, holding up my head against the most arbitrary measure that ever disgraced the most vindictive and tyrannical Minister. I am superseded in my command by Admiral Stirling. He has refused me a ship to go to England in; he has refused to give me a transport, and he has refused to allow me to stay here to settle my accounts, which are necessarily open for the accommodation and provisioning of the squadron at Rio Grande and Rio de Janeiro; those I have accordingly publicly abandoned, and throw the consequences upon him.

He has now declared that he will force me to go by the Sampson, *viâ* the Cape and St. Helena; my answer is, that the order from the Admiralty directs me to proceed

forthwith, which, in the English language, means *quickly*. I, therefore, cannot voluntarily go by the Cape, and as I am now upon half-pay, I have referred him to the twenty-ninth chapter of Magna Charta, which so particularly protects the liberty of the British subject; besides, I told him I would never voluntarily submit to have a precedent established through me, that would give so dangerous a weapon to any minister who might be enabled to send home an officer from Asia by the way of America, which would be just as justifiable as sending home an officer by the way of Africa, who was directed to return forthwith to Europe.

I propose to take my passage in an American prize, although he has threatened to prevent me, and absolutely declares he will take the men-of-war's men out, if she stays one hour after the Sampson.*

In the former resolution, I doubt whether he will be steadfast; in the latter he probably may, although it will be acting contrary to the general usages of the service, and materially affect the interest of the captors; and it will also be establishing a precedent on such an occasion, that it can be used without touching the interest of the person using it. At all events I have taken up one principle, and I shall pursue one steady line of conduct; nothing shall make me give way: you know me, and you may trust to my firmness.

The correspondence between me and Admiral Stirling is the fire of ink. He has had his lesson cut and dried, and presuming on the style of letter which he would have

* This may to some readers require a word of explanation—in war time, a Captain of the Navy may at his pleasure take out of any merchant-ship as many men who are serving on board of her, who may have previously served in the Navy, as he chooses.

to write, I thought they might have been prepared, and legal opinions obtained upon them. I, therefore, changed the ordinary course of writing, and took up what I thought a new ground.

From a perusal of this portion of Sir Home Popham's letter, the reader will form some opinion of that decision and energy which in the earlier part of their acquaintance so strongly prepossessed Sir David Baird in the writer's favour. The following paragraphs seem to give plainer and clearer reasons for the recent failure of our South American expedition, and the disastrous defeat of our troops, than have yet appeared—at least so concisely, before the public.

After expressing his anxiety to get home in time for the general election, and his anxiety to fight his South American battles over again, Sir Home says—

“The case, as well as I can make out, stands exactly thus. When our despatches arrived by the *Margaret*, they had abundance of troops from the collection which returned from the continent, and not having any immediate service for them, a proportion was selected for this country, and they waited for other accounts of the progress and results of our operations.

“The arrival not being so early as was expected, and the cause of Portugal intervening, as well as a demand for an additional force in the Mediterranean, they changed their plan, and having speculated upon a total failure here in the first instance, declared upon the immediate necessity of removing us, under a heavy load of abuse and vituperation.

“Admiral Stirling was ordered to sail directly with the *Sampson*, a gun-brig, and some victuallers, and to inquire

at Rio de Janeiro what had become of us. Finding that we were here, hither he came, Brigadier-General Grey having been suddenly appointed to the Cape, and sent out with him.*

“About a fortnight after the sailing of Admiral Stirling, it appears the *Narcissus* arrived in England, when all the current of abuse against us was changed into high panegyric. The newspapers say that you, Beresford, and myself have been voted the freedom of the city. Six thousand men are coming out here; three thousand cavalry and three thousand infantry. Sir Arthur Wellesley reported to command.†

“It is also hinted that all will be well with me if I do not ride too high. I enter into no compromise with any minister. Lord Melville shall judge of my case, and with his decision I shall be satisfied. *If any energy had existed in the Government, if Miranda had been supported, and they had sent us out some reinforcements three days after the receipt of our letters, we should have had all South America now.* However, when the troops do arrive, they will even yet get it, and all the ingenuity of ministers will never persuade John Bull but we are entitled to the credit of the project. I will draw a good contrast between the promptness of our decision and execution at the Cape, and the inertness of theirs. As General Tarleton says, “They have behaved on this occasion like a set of drones.”

Long before the arrival of this letter, Sir David Baird had received his official recall from the Cape.

* Now General Grey, G.C.B. and brother of Earl Grey, K.G. who at the date of Sir Home Popham's letter, was Mr. Grey, First Lord of the Admiralty.

† This expedition was commanded by General Whitelock; its results are too well remembered to need a word of comment.

The following letter from Mr. Windham, then Secretary for War and Colonies, bearing date, Downing Street, July 26th, 1806, will sufficiently exhibit the tone taken by His Majesty's then ministers upon the subject.

SIR,

I have received and laid before the King your letter, dated the 16th of April, communicating that from intelligence which you had received of the present defenceless state of the Spanish settlements at Rio de la Plata, you had been led to detach a small force, with a view to attempting, in conjunction with the squadron under Sir Home Popham, the possession of those settlements. And I am commanded to acquaint you in reply, that it is impossible a proceeding so extraordinary as that of detaching a considerable force on one service, destined by His Majesty's Government for another, without sanction or authority, either direct or implied, can meet with the Royal approbation, particularly as the measure is not to be justified on the ground of necessity; as you might reasonably have presumed that if His Majesty's Government had had it in contemplation to attack the Spanish settlements at Rio de la Plata, a force more adequate to the service would have been employed than that which you detached under the command of General Beresford; and as you might have presumed also, that if such an enterprize had been meditated by His Majesty's Government, the measure might have been hazarded by your attempting prematurely to accomplish the object of it.

I have it further in command to inform you, that His Majesty having been pleased to *order your recall* from the Cape of Good Hope, a communication to that effect will be made to you by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief; and I am to add, that Lord Caledon having been

appointed Governor, and Major-General the honourable Henry George Grey Lieutenant Governor, you are to deliver over the civil government to either the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor, whichever of them may first arrive at the Cape of Good Hope.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sir David Baird, K.C.

W. WINDHAM.

&c. &c. &c.

Here we have another proof of the returns for public services, which it was the fate of Sir David Baird to receive, and that too at a moment when not only the most perfect tranquillity prevailed throughout the whole colony, but that universal satisfaction was apparent amongst all classes of the community.

It is a curious coincidence, that on the very day on which Mr. Windham conveyed the decision of the ministry upon General Baird's conduct, he was himself writing a despatch to Mr. Windham, in which he says:—

“ Having lately made a short tour in the upper districts, as far as Swellendam and Tulbagh, I had the pleasure of seeing the country in a higher state of cultivation than it has been for years; and of hearing everywhere among the peasantry and others, expressions of their happiness at seeing His Majesty's government once more established in this settlement.”

That despatch also contains copies of proclamations which General Baird had issued, the tendency of which was the advancement of the best interests

of the colony, which seemed rapidly thriving under his paternal sway ; however, the affair was concluded, and a similar fate to that to which Sir Home Popham had been doomed, awaited Sir David Baird ; although the latter had no share whatever in planning the expedition, which with all his admiration of Sir Home Popham's talents, was in the first instance undertaken against his inclinations, and in opposition to the objections he started upon its first suggestion.

It is clear, that Sir Home Popham succeeded eventually in convincing Sir David Baird, of what we have no doubt he was himself convinced, that he had some discretionary power delegated to him upon the point ; and it is equally clear, admitting as we are quite ready to admit a very strong prepossession on the part of General Baird in favour of Sir Home Popham's skill and activity, that believing him to be in any degree authorized from home to plan or execute an enterprize towards the reduction of the Spanish colonies, it would have been most extraordinary if General Baird had resolutely determined to refuse all military aid to his proposed expedition against Buenos Ayres. We have already recorded Sir Home Popham's avowed determination to attempt the expedition even without a single soldier, had Sir David persisted in his refusal. Let us suppose that this had been the case, and the enterprize had failed in consequence—the whole blame of the misfortune, and the whole discredit of the defeat, would then have fallen upon Sir David Baird.

As to the increased responsibility incurred by Sir David Baird, by sending further reinforcements, that appears beyond the reach of censure. He might in the warmth of his zeal have erred in the first instance—he might in the outset have miscalculated or even exceeded his powers; but having taken the line, and admitted the principle, he was not the man either to sacrifice the honour of his country or the lives of her soldiers, by flinching from the increased responsibility of sending reinforcements.*

Things however were decided; and after some time passed in the expectation of the arrival of his successor, the gallant and distinguished brother of the then first Lord of the Admiralty, the honourable Major-General Grey arrived in January 1807, on board the *Asia* of sixty-four guns, bearing the flag of Admiral Stirling, with instructions to that officer, of which Sir David Baird had been

* On the 6th of March, 1807, Sir Home Popham was tried by a court martial at Portsmouth, on the charge of withdrawing the whole of His Majesty's naval force at the Cape of Good Hope, and attacking the Spanish settlements at *Rio de la Plata*, for which he *had no direction or authority*. He was found guilty, and sentenced to be severely reprimanded, which was done accordingly.

It is a curious circumstance, and strongly illustrative of the charge made by Sir Home Popham against the Whig ministry of the time for negligence and inefficiency, that General White-lock's army, destined to follow up the blow struck by Popham and Beresford, actually sailed the *day after* the court martial assembled, by which Popham was reprimanded for undertaking it, *and nine months after the undertaking had succeeded*.

already apprised, to take upon himself the civil government of the colony, in case Lord Caledon should not previously have arrived.

General Baird had by this time become too much accustomed to ill treatment, to feel severely upon this occasion for himself; less of course as he had been previously acquainted with the arrangement; but it certainly did affect him deeply to quit a colony, which, short as had been the period of his government, he saw rapidly advancing in prosperity and civilization under his care; nor was this feeling — however agreeably blended with them — mitigated by the strong and general expression of popular affection and respect which manifested itself upon his Excellency's departure.

Besides numerous testimonials of regard and esteem from all the Dutch inhabitants of the highest classes, the following addresses were presented to his Excellency, the value of which, as evidence to the goodness and wisdom of his administration, is not a little enhanced by the recollection that they were presented to an Ex-Governor, who had conquered them, and who was recalled *in disgrace* !

*To His Excellency Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird,
K.C. &c. &c. &c.*

SIR,

We the undersigned, constituting the Court of Justice, Burgher Senate, and other public boards, civil and ecclesiastical, having heard with the deepest regret of your Excellency's intended departure, being called upon by several of the inhabitants of this colony, beg leave, as well

for them as for ourselves, to request your Excellency's acceptance of our most grateful thanks for the paternal protection we have experienced during your Excellency's administration here, by your wise and well directed measures for our internal government, together with the unparalleled discipline of the troops under your Excellency's command; our rights have been guarded, and the whole colony enjoys at this moment a state of tranquillity and plenty, seldom, if ever equalled.

Though we have not a moment's doubt of the fatherly care of His Majesty to have appointed a successor every way qualified to fill the important situation of the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, still however we cannot help expressing our sincere sorrow at the loss of your Excellency; and we beg leave to assure your Excellency, that our gratitude for the blessings the colony has experienced under your government, will never be obliterated from our memory. Accept then, worthy Sir, of our most heartfelt acknowledgments, and may the Almighty giver of all good grant your Excellency every happiness and prosperity this life affords, in which we may assure your Excellency we are joined by every well thinking inhabitant of this colony.

We have the honour to be,

With the most grateful regard,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servants,

W. W. REYNEVELT,

Fiscal and Acting President in Court.

Court of Justice.

Matthiessen.

G. Diernel.

L. C. H. Strubberg.

W. Hiddingh.

A. Fleck.

Betaerts van Blohland,

J. S. Truter.

Secretary of the Court.

Burgher Senate.

J. J. Vos, President.	E. S. Taliradorg.
And. Brink.	J. C. Brasler.

Orphan Chamber.

W. W. Reyneveld, President.	A. V. Breda. W. Wilerck.
Dariüs de Naas, Vice President.	G. E. Overbeck. J. C. Faure,
A. V. Bengh.	Secretaries.

Vestry of the Lutheran Church.

C. H. F. Hesse, V.D.M.	F. S. Tyneman.
E. S. Taliradorg.	J. Wrensch.
S. Zeibbrandt.	C. Freislich.

Vestry of the Reformed Church.

J. P. Serrurier, V.D.M.	S. Hiergent.
Chr. Fleck.	S. Stronck.
J. H. v. Manger, V.D.H.	A. Baup, Deputy.
Johs. Ms. Hertzog.	

Matrimonial Court.

E. Brandt, President.	H. E. Blanckenberg.
J. H. Vos.	F. Hiergent.
Gt. Hs. Maasdorp.	A. O. Weal,
D. J. Apseling.	Secretary to the Court.

Chamber for regulating Insolvent Estates.

O. M. Beryl.	W. S. Van Strodrings.
J. F. Serrurier.	A. Moorzees.

Lombard Bank.

N. Grant.	Nelson.
A. V. Bengh.	H. D. Maynier.

Cape of Good Hope,
this 16th day of January, 1807.

The following address was also presented to the General by the English residents.

To Lieutenant-General Sir David Baird, K.C. Governor and Commanding-in-chief His Majesty's Military Forces at the Cape of Good Hope and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

We the British inhabitants of this colony, on the eve of your Excellency's departure, beg leave to approach you, under the strongest impressions of gratitude, for our relief and return to the protection of our good and most gracious sovereign, through your exertions and intrepidity.

We waive the tracing of your merits through all your military achievements; these are too well known to the world, to require any compliment from us.

We nevertheless feel ourselves highly gratified in having it in our power to congratulate your Excellency on our having witnessed, under your command, a discipline and good order in the army never experienced before in this colony; and from the wisdom, justice, and moderation of your civil government, you have the singular satisfaction of a conqueror leaving the conquered beloved and regretted by them.

We unanimously and most sincerely wish you the reward due to your distinguished services, health and happiness, and long life to enjoy these blessings.

We have the honour to be,

With the most perfect respect,

Your Excellency's

Most obedient and most devoted servants,

John Murray.

John Wells.

John Elmore.

Evan Rogers.

R. J. Johnson.

Thomas McIvill.

George Anderson.	W. H. Sturgis.
Thomas Hudson.	Richard Heartley.
Alex. Watts.	Thomas W. Doughty.
James Morrison.	Murdoch Morrison.
George Ross.	James Dick.
H. Home.	Robert Rous.
William Caldwell.	A. M'Donald.
J. Osmond.	A. Scott.
Joseph Davis.	R. Ross.
Alexander Tennant.	Joseph Ranken.
Samuel Eusebius Hudson.	S. Murray.
James Callander.	William Duckitt.
John Marshall.	Alexander Robertson.
William Wood.	J. E. Mestaer.
Nicholas Lindun.	

Cape of Good Hope,
16th January, 1807.

Besides these affectionate testimonials, others from the constituted authorities of the provincial districts were forwarded to him ; and when at length Sir David embarked on board the ship, which was to convey him from the scene of his conquest and his government, to England, he was accompanied to the water's-edge by all the principal inhabitants of the colony, who expressed the warmest wish that they might be so fortunate as shortly again to be placed under his care and protection.

Under these circumstances, Sir David Baird left Table Bay on the 19th of January, 1807, in the Paragon transport, and after a moderately good passage, arrived safely in England in March of the same year.

CHAPTER VI.

CHANGE OF MINISTRY—SIR DAVID BAIRD'S LETTER TO LORD CASTLE-REACH — TREATY OF TILSIT—ANTICIPATED CONSEQUENCES OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN RUSSIA AND FRANCE—DEMAND OF THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF THE DANISH FLEET—EXPEDITION TO THE SOUND—SIR DAVID BAIRD APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF A DIVISION—SAILING OF THE EXPEDITION UNDER LORD CATHCART AND ADMIRAL GAMBIER—LANDING AND MOVEMENTS OF THE ARMY—CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS—THE SIEGE COMMENCED—ATTACK OF COPENHAGEN—SIR DAVID BAIRD TWICE WOUNDED—FLAG OF TRUCE—CAPITULATION—LORD CATHCART'S DESPATCH—RETURN OF THE EXPEDITION TO ENGLAND—SIR DAVID BAIRD APPOINTED TO THE COMMAND OF THE CAMP OF INSTRUCTION IN IRELAND—PROCEEDS TO DUBLIN.

UPON the arrival of Sir David Baird in England, he found that the brief existence of the Whig ministry, ironically designated "All the Talents," had terminated; but however fortunate for the country the change might have been, it arrived too late to stop the blow which *had* fallen upon Sir David, whose abrupt removal from the command of the colony he had himself obtained for his country, was perhaps one of the most outrageous exhibitions of party spirit that ever was made.

Sir David, when he reached London, found that however deeply his feelings might have been wound-

ed by so much of the proceedings of the Government as he before knew of, more indignities yet had been offered him, and more ill treatment inflicted upon him, in letters from the office of the Secretary for War and Colonies, which had crossed him on his way home; the validity of decisions which he had made for the advantage of all parties concerned, was disputed, and orders he had made, and judgments he had given, were unceremoniously revoked and annulled. In short, it appeared as if it were not sufficient to persecute him for the crime of taking one of the most valuable colonies the enemy possessed, but that it was necessary to add insult to injury, by overturning every arrangement and rescinding every regulation which he had judiciously made for the quiet government of our new acquisition.

When Sir David returned, his late Royal Highness the Duke of York, the friend of the soldier and the country, received him with his usual warmth and kindness, and expressed, through Colonel Gordon, his entire approbation of every part of Sir David's military conduct at the Cape.

Sir David, under these circumstances, wrote the following letter to Lord Castlereagh, who had been restored to his office of Secretary for War and Colonies, between the date of Mr. Windham's letters and the arrival of Sir David Baird in England.

London, April 15th, 1807.

MY LORD,

Upon reporting to the Commander-in-chief my arrival from the Cape of Good Hope, his Royal Highness was

pleased to cause it to be intimated to me that he entirely approved of the whole of my military conduct during the period of my late command in that colony, and in recalling me, had only acted in conformity with directions to that effect from his Majesty's ministers.

In consequence of this communication my feelings prompted me to address your Lordship on the subject of that recall.

During a series of many years' service it has always, my Lord, been my anxious wish and endeavour to discharge my duty to my Sovereign and my country with the strictest rectitude, zeal, and fidelity, and I have ever deemed it incumbent on me to respect to the best of my ability the existing administration of the country, without adverting to the individuals who might compose it.

These principles have invariably governed my conduct in every act of my public life, but in no one to a greater degree than in the measure to which I have to attribute my recall.

My Lord, that measure was not adopted by me but on very mature deliberation, nor until Sir Home Popham, with whom it originated, had convinced me (by adducing a variety of arguments and documents) of the strong probability, or rather entire certainty of its success, and of the many advantages which in all likelihood would result from it.

Under this conviction, I considered it my duty to meet his wishes and solicitations, by uniting with his squadron a small detachment from the troops under my command (the absence of which from the Cape could not endanger the security of that colony), and placing them under the orders of Brigadier-General Beresford, an officer in whose abilities, gallantry, and discretion I had the most implicit reliance.

For this act, my Lord, which at most can be considered an error in judgment, I have not only been dismissed from the charge of a colony, the conquest of which was achieved by an army under my personal command, but dismissed in a way that has mortified my feelings in the keenest manner, and must have disgraced me in the eyes of the army and of the nation at large, by apparently imputing to me a degree of criminality of conduct of which I am proudly unconscious.

Until the actual arrival of the Honourable Lieutenant-General Grey at the Cape, who had been appointed to succeed me, I had received no intimation whatever of my supersession, or of any disapprobation on the part of his Majesty's ministers of my conduct. That officer was sent out in the Sampson man-of-war, arrived on the 15th, and landed at Cape Town on the 16th of last January. I made immediate arrangements for resigning my command to him, and accordingly did so on the 17th.

It was my desire to proceed to England in the Sampson, but on expressing my wish to that effect to Captain Cummings, the commander, I was informed, that he would be most happy to accommodate me, but that he had received positive orders from Rear-Admiral Stirling to remain at the Cape only twenty-four hours.

I urged Captain Cummings to continue until the 18th, on which day I would be ready to accompany him; but he produced me his orders, which were peremptory. I had therefore no alternative but to embark in a common transport, much to the astonishment of the army and inhabitants at Cape Town, who attended me to the beach, and had the risk of missing the East India convoy, and falling into the hands of the enemy.

From this statement your Lordship must be sensible how deeply and cruelly my feelings have been wounded,

as well by the act itself as by the manner of my dismissal from my late command, as such dismissal must have cast a slur in the public opinion, on the character and reputation of an old and faithful servant of the Crown, who presumes to flatter himself that his services to the state have been neither unimportant nor inglorious.

I confidently trust that his Majesty's present ministers will consider that I have not deserved the harsh and mortifying treatment I have experienced, but that, as my degradation has been as public as unmerited, so ought it to be as publicly done away.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

With perfect esteem,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

D. BAIRD, *Lt.-Gen.*

The Right Hon. Viscount Castlereagh,

Downing Street.

To this letter we are not prepared to state what reply was made by Lord Castlereagh; but this inability on our part proceeds from the accidental loss of his Lordship's answer. Such an appeal could not have remained unnoticed; and certainly upon looking through all the main incidents of Sir David's life, from the reward he met, for his conduct early in his military career at Tanjore, to the return from General Harris for his triumphant exertions at Seringapatam, to the subsequent neglect of his claims in India, and to crown all, his recall from the Cape of Good Hope, it does appear as if he had been fated to meet reproach where others reaped the praise, and to incur displeasure for con-

duct which in all other cases of a similar nature had been rewarded by honours, titles, and decorations.*

* Although perhaps rendering ourselves liable to a charge of anachronism, we cannot avoid here mentioning, what appears to be a most striking and extraordinary sequel to this series of *rewards*.

In the spring of 1813, when Sir David Baird was in London, an officer, who had just returned from the Cape of Good Hope, informed him that Sir John Cradock (since created Lord Howden,) who was at that time Governor of the Cape, had determined to come home. The officer mentioned this to Sir David, thinking that it would be desirable to him, who was so well acquainted with the colony, and had quitted it under circumstances which he appeared deeply to feel, to be appointed to that Government, more especially as from the severity and nature of Sir David's wound he had been disabled from more active service.

In consequence of this information Sir David wrote to the Commander-in-chief, expressing a hope, that should Sir John Cradock be relieved, he might be permitted to succeed him. To this application Sir David received the following answer:

Horse Guards, 24th June, 1813.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, and to acquaint you, that I have heard nothing of the desire of Sir John Cradock to be relieved at the Cape of Good Hope; but, upon such an event, I shall be glad to pay every attention in my power to the wishes which you have expressed upon the subject.

I am, Sir, yours,

FREDERICK,
Commander-in-chief.

This reply appeared so favourable to Sir David, that he went into Scotland to wait the event, and prepare privately for his

Although we have not before us any written document to prove the effect which Sir David's letter, and the aggravated injustice he had received at the hands of the Whig ministers, produced, the reader will find, that Government sought the earliest opportunity of again employing him upon active and important service.

It will be recollected, that just about the period of which we are now treating, the memorable interview between the Emperor of Russia and Buonaparte, at that time called Emperor of the French, on a raft at Tilsit, created a very general alarm amongst the European Powers not immediately connected with the league then formed; and, one of the subjects considered to be most importantly connected with the apprehension so generally felt, as to the consequences of this extraordinary coalition, was the preparation of a Danish fleet of sixteen sail-of-the-line, which were actually ready for sea.

Circumstances more than suspicious induced our ministers to secure this dangerous addition to the forces of our allied enemies; and somewhat expedi-

departure. But these preparations were fruitless, for, upon the resignation of Lord Howden, Lord Charles Somerset was appointed to the government.

This arrangement, it appears, was more ministerial than military; but however strong, and particularly strong under some peculiar circumstances, the political claims of the illustrious house of Beaufort were at that period, the nomination of another, and a junior officer, to the Cape, did certainly seem to set the seal to the injustice under which Sir David had suffered, as far as that valuable and important colony was concerned.

tiously, it must be admitted, and without waiting to ascertain whether the Emperor of Russia had really any serious intentions of pressing that force into his service, it was resolved in Downing Street, to take the unprecedented precaution of seizing upon the neutral ships of our allies the Danes.

In order to carry this great measure into effect, a special minister was despatched to Copenhagen, in order to represent to the Danish Government the imminent danger in which it would be placed in case the French and Russian Governments should demand the aid and co-operation of the fleet then ready for sea, demanding at the same time its surrender to England, under a guarantee that it should be returned to the Danes whenever England should be at peace with France.

In order to render this negotiation perfectly efficient, a military force, of no less importance than twenty thousand men, and a fleet of twenty-seven sail-of-the-line, were ordered to proceed to the Sound, to be at hand, ready to act, as might be rendered necessary by the answer of the Danish Government to our minister.

It was to this force, commanded in chief by Lord Cathcart, that Sir David Baird was attached. To Lord Gambier the naval command of the expedition was confided; the supposed destination of the combined services was Flushing, and eventually Antwerp. On the 13th of August Lord Cathcart joined the expedition off Elsineur, all attempts at negotiation upon our terms having been rejected by the Danes.

On the 14th of August, the fleet being between Elsinour and Helsingberg, notwithstanding the prevalence of calms and contrary winds, the transports assembled by brigades, each under the charge of one of his Majesty's ships. On the 15th the fleet worked up to Vedbeck; the reserve anchoring nearest the shore, covered by the *Surveillante* and several gun-brigs.

Major-General Spencer's brigade, under convoy of Admiral Essington, with a division of the fleet, anchored higher up the Sound, to make a diversion; the coast was during the day well reconnoitred, and dispositions made for landing next morning.

On the morning of the 16th, at five o'clock, the reserve landed with the ordnance of another light brigade; a squadron of the 1st Light Dragoons, and the horses for the two brigades of artillery, and for the staff, were also disembarked.

Shortly after this movement a proclamation, of which the following is a copy, was issued in the joint names of Lord Cathcart and Admiral Gambier.

Whereas the present treaties of peace, and the changes of government and territory, acceded to by so many Powers, have so far increased the influence of France on the Continent of Europe as to render it impossible for Denmark, although it desires to be neutral, to preserve its neutrality, and absolutely necessary for those who continue to resist the French aggression, to take measures to prevent the arms of neutral powers from being turned against them: In this view the King cannot regard the present position of Denmark with indifference, and his Majesty has sent nego-

tiators, with ample powers, to his Danish Majesty, to request, in the most amicable manner, such explanations as the times require, and a concurrence in such measures as can alone give security against the farther mischiefs which the French meditate through the acquisition of the Danish navy.

The King our royal and most gracious Master, has therefore judged it expedient to desire the temporary deposit of the Danish ships of the line in one of his Majesty's ports. This deposit seems so just, and to be so indispensably necessary, under the relative circumstances of the neutral and belligerent Powers, that his Majesty has farther deemed it a duty to himself and his people to support this demand by a powerful fleet, and by an army amply supplied with every preparation necessary for the most active and determined enterprize.

We come, therefore, to your shores, inhabitants of Zealand! not as enemies, but in self-defence, to prevent those who have so long disturbed the peace of Europe from compelling the force of your navy to be turned against us. We ask deposit. We have not looked to capture. So far from it, the most solemn pledge has been offered to your Government, and is hereby renewed, in the name and at the express command of the King our Master, that if our demand is amicably acceded to, every ship belonging to Denmark shall, at the conclusion of a general peace, be restored to her in the same condition and state of equipment as when received under the protection of the British flag.

It is in the power of your government by a word to sheath our swords, most reluctantly drawn against you! But if on the other hand the machinations of France render you deaf to the voice of reason and the call of friendship, the innocent blood that will be spilt, and the horrors of a besieged and bombarded capital, must fall on your own

heads, and on those of your cruel advisers. His Majesty's seamen and soldiers when on shore, will treat Zealand, as long as your conduct to them permits it, on the footing of a province of the most friendly power in alliance with Great Britain, whose territory has the misfortune to be the theatre of war. The persons of all those who remain at home, and who do not take a hostile part, will be held sacred.

Property will be respected and preserved, and the most severe discipline will be enforced. Every article of supply furnished or brought to market will be paid for at a fair and settled price; but as immediate and constant supplies, especially of provisions, forage, fuel, and transports are necessary to all armies, it is well known that requisitions are unavoidable, and must be enforced. Much convenience will arise to the inhabitants, and much confusion and loss to them will be prevented, if persons in authority are found in the several districts to whom requisitions may be addressed, and through whom claims for payment may be settled and liquidated. If such persons are appointed, and discharge their duty without meddling in matters which do not concern them, they shall be respected, and all requisitions shall be addressed to them through the proper channels and departments of the navy and army; but as forbearance on the part of the inhabitants is essential to the principle of these arrangements, it is necessary that all manner of civil persons should remain at their respective habitations; and any peasants or other persons found in arms singly, or in small troops, or who may be guilty of any acts of violence, must expect to be treated with rigour.

The government of his Danish Majesty having hitherto refused to treat this matter in an amicable way, part of the army has been disembarked, and the whole force has

assumed a warlike attitude ; but it is as yet not too late for the voice of reason and moderation to be heard.

Given in the Sound, under our hands and seals, this 16th day of August, 1807.

CATHCART, *Lieutenant-General*,
J. GAMBIER, *Admiral*.

This appeal to the people produced as little effect as the previous negociation with the government, and accordingly the preparations for attack went on.

“ The whole of the force having been landed, the army marched in the evening of the 16th by their left to Lyngbyl, the centre to Jagersborg, and the left to Charlottenburg, where they lay upon their arms. The next morning at daybreak, the army marched by its right in three columns to invest the town ; the left column established a post at Bagernes Mill, and extended from Freborg to Emdrup, that from Jagersborg by Gladsacks and Vanloes to Fredericksburg, extending towards the sea on the right, and towards Falconergard on their left.

“ The reserve from Lyngbyl now marched by Bangede and Emdrup, and occupied the space between the two other divisions. Two brigades of the King’s German Legion remaining at Charlottenfurd, to cover the disembarkation of the artillery and cavalry.

“ While these operations were in progress, Major-General Spencer and his brigade landed at Shoreshard, and marched to their post on the left of the line. Head quarters were now established at Hel-

lerup, and the disembarkation of the cavalry began at Shoreshard.

“ About noon our picquets on the left near the town were attacked by the enemy, whose gun boats about the same time rowed out of the harbour, and began cannonading the left of the English line with round and grape shot. The picquets being ably supported by the line, drove back the enemy, and resumed their post, while the English gun brigs having been towed into the harbour as far as possible, opened such a fire upon the enemy’s boats, as induced them to retire ; the next morning, however, they renewed their attack upon the brigs, trusting to their superior weight of guns ; but the English brigs having, during the night, substituted long eighteen pounders for the carronades, repulsed them severally for a time, but they returned to the attack greatly increased in numbers ; a brigade of nine-pounders were then brought to play upon them, which taking them in flank, induced them to turn their fire upon the lines, and after cannonading for some time, they were again repulsed.

“ Preparations were now made for the construction of approaches, and on the 18th, 600 men (relieved every four hours) were set to work upon them ; considerable progress was made at the mill, and the cavalry moving to the quarters at Vanloes, Charlottenburg, and Jagersborg, supported by the 1st battalion of the German Legion, under Brigadier-General Decker, a chain of posts was established. Towards the evening of the 19th, a howitzer battery

was finished in the rear of the mill with traverses, and a course for the men, and the frigates and gun brigs began throwing shells into the town.

“ This afternoon General Decker surprised and captured the post of Frederickswork, commanded by a Major, who was aide-de-camp to the Crown Prince, who capitulated with 850 men and officers, together with a depôt of powder, and a foundry for cannon.

“ On the 20th, more troops and artillery were landed, and several parties of prisoners were sent in ; the following day, Lord Rosslyn’s division landed in the back part of Koega bay, with two batteries of artillery, sending round the rest of the transports to Shoreshard.

“ At this period, the King and his household, and the princesses, and lastly Prince Ferdinand of Denmark and his tutor, were permitted by passports to quit the town, but notice was given that no more passports would be granted, and at the same time a recommendation was sent to the General commanding, to consider the dreadful consequences of making the capital city stand a siege and bombardment like an ordinary fortress.

“ This day the pipes which conduct the water from Emdrup to Copenhagen were cut off, a trench was formed, and a battery, three hundred yards in advance, was pushed forward. Brigadier-General Macfarlane’s brigade landed at Shoreshard. The battering train and stores were rapidly bringing on shore, and the only delay now occasioned was in

completing a battery on the right, which was intended to take the enemy's line of advanced posts in reverse, and secure the advance of the British army to a new position."

The further progress of the siege and its final results will be gathered from the following despatch :

Citadel of Copenhagen, September 8, 1807.

MY LORD,

It has fallen to my lot to have the great satisfaction of forwarding to your Lordship the ratified capitulation of the town and citadel of Copenhagen, including the surrender of the Dutch fleet and arsenal in this port, which are placed at His Majesty's disposal.

The object of securing this fleet having been attained, every other provision of a tendency to wound the feelings or irritate the nation has been avoided ; and although the bombardment and cannonade have made considerable havoc and destruction in the town, not one shot was fired into it until after it was summoned with the offer of the most advantageous terms, nor a single shot after the first indication of a disposition to capitulate ; on the contrary, the firing, which lasted three nights, from His Majesty's batteries, was considerably abated on the 2nd, and was only renewed to its full vigour on the 3rd, on our supposing from the quantity of shells thrown from the place, that there was a determination to hold out.

On the evening of the 5th a letter was sent by the Danish General, to propose an armistice of twenty-four hours for preparing an agreement, on which articles of capitulation might be founded. The armistice was declined, as tending to unnecessary delay, and the works were continued ; but the firing was countermanded, and Lieutenant-Colonel Murray was sent to explain that no proposal of capitulation could be listened to, *unless accompanied by the surrender of the fleet.*

This basis having been admitted by a subsequent letter on the 6th, Major-General Wellesley, whom I had sent for this purpose from his command in the country, where he had distinguished himself in a manner so honourable to himself and so advantageous to the public, was appointed, with Sir Home Popham and Lieutenant-Colonel Murray, to prepare and sign articles of capitulation.*

These officers having insisted on proceeding immediately to business, the capitulation was drawn up in the night between the 6th and 7th, the ratification was exchanged in the course of the morning, and at four in the afternoon of the same day, Lieutenant-General Burrard proceeded to take possession. The British grenadiers present, with detachments from all the other corps of cavalry and infantry, under the command of Colonel Cameron, of the 97th, with two brigades of artillery, marched into the citadel, while Major-General Spencer having embarked his brigade at the Kalk Brandiere, landed in the dock yard, and *took possession of each of the line of battle ships*, and the arsenal: his Danish Majesty's guards withdrawing when those of His Majesty were ready to replace them, and proper officers attending to deliver stores as far as inventories could be made up.†

* It is remarkable that Sir David Baird and Sir Home Popham should have again met on service so shortly after the removal of one from his government, and the trial of the other by a court martial; but it is more remarkable, that after having been brought in contact with General Wellesley upon several occasions in India, he should here again have been joined with him in his first campaign in Europe.

† General Spencer entered the service in 1778, and having served in the West Indies, was taken prisoner at St. Kitts. He obtained the rank of Major in 1791. In 1794, 95, and 97, he was actively employed in the West Indies, and was entrusted with the evacuation of San Domingo by General Mait-

The town being in a state of the greatest ferment and disorder, I most willingly acceded to the request, that our troops should not be quartered in it, and that neither our officers nor soldiers should enter in it for some days; and having the command of possession from the citadel, whenever it might be necessary to use it, I had no objection to leaving the other gates in the hands of the troops of his Danish Majesty, together with the police of the place.

We have consented to the re-establishment of the post, but all arrivals and departures are to be at and from the citadel. This work is in good condition, very strong, and well stored with ordnance and ammunition. The amount of the garrison of the town is not easily ascertained. The regular troops were not numerous; but the number of batteries which fired at the same time, together with the floating defences, prove that there must have been a very great number of militia and burghers, with other irregular forces, and their ordnance was well served.

[In the high eulogium which his Lordship passes on his officers, he particularly mentions *all the Generals*, the staff, Colonel D'Arcy, chief engineer, and Lieutenant-Colonel Smith of the 82nd. His Lordship then says:—]*

land; in 1798 he became Colonel and Aide-de-camp to the King, commanded the 40th regiment in the expedition to the Helder in 1799, and in 1801 headed a brigade under Sir Ralph Abercromby: he distinguished himself in the brilliant actions in Egypt, and in the affair of Alexandria, defeated a French force thrice the numerical strength of his own. In 1805 he became a major-general. After the siege of Copenhagen, he proceeded to the glorious fields of the Peninsula, where he again distinguished himself as second in command at Roleia, Vimiera, Busaco, and Fuentes d'Onor. In 1809 he was made a Knight of the Bath. He became a Lieutenant-General in 1810, and returned to England when General Graham (Lord Lynedoch) joined the army. He died June 1829.

* This passage is thus *printed* in the despatch as it appears

By the naval blockade, the force opposed to us has been limited to the resources of this and the adjacent islands, separated only by narrow ferries; and almost every work of assistance has been anticipated, and every requisition of boats, guns, and stores has been most amply and effectually provided for with the greatest despatch, and the most perfect cordiality; and every possible attention has been paid, and every accommodation given by every officer in the service, from Admiral Gambier downwards.

A battalion of seamen and marines, with three divisions of carpenters, were landed on the 5th, under Captain Walmer, of His Majesty's ship *Inflexible*; and had the effort been made which would have been resorted to in a few days, if the place had not capitulated, their services in the passage of the ditch would have been distinguished.

I send this despatch by Lieutenant Cathcart, who has been for some time my first aide-de-camp, who has seen

in the London Gazette of September 16, 1807. It seems, we confess, rather strange, that the commendatory paragraph of Lord Cathcart's letter, so gratifying to the high feelings and honourable ambition of officers worthy to be named, should have been given to the public in this manner. To *us*, perhaps, it appears more curious than to many persons who have read it; for upon this very service Sir David Baird was *wounded twice*, but neither his name, nor even the circumstance (except in the common return of casualties), is mentioned.

We ought to add, that Sir David himself always spoke of his wounds at Copenhagen as slight. One finger of his left hand was broken by a musket shot, and he was hit by another musket ball on the collar-bone. His favourite nephew and aide-de-camp, Captain Gordon, was riding with him at the moment. Sir David put his hand into his bosom and pulled out the ball, which had struck the bone and fallen downwards, flattened on the side which had come in contact with it. Captain Gordon took the ball from him, and kept it ever after.

everything that has occurred here and at Stralsund, and will be able to give any further details that may be required.

CATHGART.

The attainment of the objects desired by the British Government of course terminated the active service of the army upon this occasion; the ships having been delivered up, and the treaty completely fulfilled, the troops returned to England.

In the course of the siege of Copenhagen, it appears that the number of lives actually lost did not exceed 700. The cathedral and the college were burned, and about 250 houses were destroyed.

The measures adopted by the English ministry might be considered somewhat harsh and peremptory, had it not transpired, from the admission of the Danes themselves, that the fact of their intended co-operation with France, which it was supposed our government only suspected, was in fact unequivocal.

The evacuation of Zealand by the English was completed by the 20th of October, and in a few days the troops and vessels employed upon the expedition returned to England.*

* The Danish ships delivered up to the British forces were as follows: —

	Guns.		Guns.
Christian VII.	96	Oden	74
Neptune	84	Crown Princess	74
Princess Sophia	74	Danemark	74
Justice	74	Norway	74

Shortly after Sir David Baird's arrival in London, it was judged expedient to form a "drill camp," or as it was officially termed, a camp of instruction, on the Curragh of Kildare, in which a body of upwards of thirteen thousand men was to be collected. The well-known professional abilities, and soldier-like qualities of Sir David, so pre-eminently calculated to accelerate the formation, and ensure the discipline of this newly-organized force, attracted the attention and notice of the government, and he was appointed to command it. He accordingly proceeded to Dublin to commence his arduous duty, and when it is recollected how many of the brave fellows who have since that period contributed to exalt the fame, and secure the happiness of our country, went forth to battle from that school, it is impossible to doubt for a moment the wisdom and judgment which selected Sir David for its head.

	Guns.		Guns.
Princess Caroline	74	Triton	28
Dalmarksene	64	Fredrigstern	28
Conqueror	64	Little Belt	24
Maso	64	St. Thomas	22
Pearl	44	Fylla	24
Housewife	44	Elbe	20
Liberty	44	Egderen	20
Venus	44	Gluckstad	20
Nyade	36	6 brigs and 25 gun-boats.	

CHAPTER VII.

SIR DAVID BAIRD REMOVED FROM DUBLIN—ORDERED TO TAKE THE
COMMAND OF AN EXPEDITION TO SPAIN—PROCEEDS TO CORK—SAILS
WITH THE ARMY TO CORUÑA—ARRIVAL THERE—DISAPPOINTMENTS
—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN SIR DAVID BAIRD AND SIR JOHN MOORE
—SIR DAVID BAIRD REACHES ASTORGA.

WE now come to another highly interesting epoch of our narrative, when its hero was again called into active service, and again gave his country proofs of his zeal and activity.

After the conclusion of the well-known convention of Cintra, Sir Hugh Dalrymple was recalled to England under circumstances strongly indicative of the dissatisfaction which the country felt at the state of affairs in the Peninsula. Sir Arthur Wellesley, and many other officers of high rank, quitted the army, and Sir Harry Burrard became Commander-in-chief. This post, however, he did not long occupy—his health would not permit him to encounter its difficulties and privations, and he shortly followed the example of those who had obtained leave of absence, and returned to England, leaving the British forces under the command of Sir John Moore.

On the 6th of October Sir John received from England the official announcement of his appoint-

ment to the chief command of an army to consist of 40,000 men, which was to co-operate with the Spanish troops in the expulsion of the French forces from the Peninsula.

In the mean while, Sir David Baird had been removed from the command of the camp of instruction, with his appointment to which our last chapter concluded, on the Curragh of Kildare, and directed to take under his orders the force destined to be added to that already under Sir John Moore in the Peninsula, and which was collecting at Cork and Falmouth.

The Marquess de la Romana, who had escaped with part of his division from the shores of the Baltic, had then recently arrived in England, and had been consulted by our ministers as to the best mode of employing a considerable body of English troops in aid of the Spanish nation. He recommended the northern provinces of Spain as the most advantageous field for their operations, inasmuch as an auxiliary force in that quarter would immediately come to the aid and support of the native armies then moving on the Ebro, who had been represented to the English in the most glowing colours, as powerfully efficient in their military character, and perfectly enthusiastic in their natural disposition.

In consequence of the adoption of this opinion, it was resolved that the 9000 men brought by Romana from the Baltic, after being properly refitted in England, should be sent direct to Gyon or Santan-