

they owed solely to the disastrous councils which employed that valour *upon a frantic and impracticable object.*" His lordship subsequently denounced the expedition as "visionary and frantic," and concluded an eloquent speech, replete with praises of the army and its commanders, with this prophetic sentence: "Disasters might have been expected, but success was *impracticable.* The fault was in the system, in the *advisers of this notable plan for opposing the overwhelming power of France,* and not in the brave men who were charged with the desperate task of executing it. Of a country so governed, and so content to be governed, *no sanguine expectations could be entertained.*"

Lord Grenville and Lord Moira were replied to, by Lord Westmoreland, who observed, that it was rather strange that the latter noble earl, who had expressed such deep and unfeigned concern for the failure of the expedition to Spain, had none of those poignant feelings for the *little* military disasters that took place under the administration of which he formed a part, — for the brilliant enterprise at Alexandria, the no less noble achievement at Constantinople, or the triumphs of Buenos Ayres.

"It was strange," continued the noble Earl, "that the noble baron (Grenville,) also never gave vent to his sorrow in that house when the subject of the return through Holland, much more calamitous than this to Coruña, was under discussion, or when the troops were brought away from the Helder. Their Lordships heard nothing upon

those occasions from the two noble lords, of useless sacrifices of British blood and valour. He lamented that they did not then display a portion of that exquisite feeling with which they appeared to overflow at present.”

The motion of thanks was carried unanimously.

Lord Castlereagh, in the House of Commons, moved the thanks of the House to General Sir David Baird, and all the other Generals and Officers engaged in the battle of Coruña, and of high approbation of the conduct of the non-commissioned officers and privates of the army, for the valour displayed by them on that day. This motion was carried unanimously.

On Monday, January 31st, the Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that he had received a letter from Sir David Baird, expressing his gratitude for the honour conferred upon him by their vote of thanks for his conduct in the battle of Coruña.

On the following day, in the House of Commons, the Speaker acquainted the House that he had received a letter from Sir David Baird, in answer to the communication he had made to that gallant officer, of the vote of thanks passed on Wednesday last to him, and to the army under his command.

The Speaker then read Sir David's letter, which shortly expressed his thanks to the House for the honour thus conferred on him, and the army under his command, and a high sense of the approbation of Parliament. It concluded by requesting the Speaker to make these sentiments known to the House, and

particularly thanking him for the very polite and flattering manner in which he had conveyed the sense of Parliament.

After receiving these testimonies of national gratitude, and having been honoured with the red ribbon, Sir David suffering extremely, not only from the amputation, or rather, extraction of his arm from the socket, but from a wound, simultaneously inflicted by the same shot, in his side, sought the advantages of repose after his long and arduous course of service; and accordingly purchased a small estate in Hertfordshire, called Yardleybury, at which place he constantly resided, with the exception of occasional visits to London, until the spring of 1810.

On the 13th of April 1809, he was created a baronet, with remainder, in default of male issue, to his brother, Mr. Baird, of Newbyth; a distinction, however, which he considered so inadequate to his services, that it was with reluctance he accepted it at the persuasion of his friends.\*

On the 4th of August 1810, Sir David Baird married Miss Campbell Preston, niece of Sir Robert Preston, of Valleyfield, Bart.†

\* A baronetcy of Scotland has been in the family of Baird ever since the year 1695. On the demise of Sir David, he was succeeded in the new baronetcy of 1809 by his nephew, now Sir David Baird, who married August 10th, 1821, his cousin, the Right Honourable Lady Anne Kennedy, eldest daughter of the Marquis of Ailsa.

† The family of Preston is of great antiquity; their original seat was Craig Millar Castle, near Edinburgh, the magnificent

After his marriage, he generally resided on an estate in Perthshire, which Lady Baird inherited from her maternal grandmother. He enlarged the house, embellished the grounds, and lived in a style of splendid hospitality, beloved, honoured, and respected, by all ranks in the neighbourhood. His active mind soon found occupation and amusement in superintending his farms and plantations, and the various improvements in progress on his estate; and, although the severity of his wound, and the loss of his arm, disabled him in a degree from enjoying some of his favourite sports, still he was enabled to pursue others, and was on horseback for several hours every day; and *shot*, as he himself said, as well as ever he did in his life.

Happy in domestic life, he here appeared to forget the mortifications and disappointments which it had been his fortune to encounter, during his long and brilliant military career. Nor did his generous heart harbour one jealous feeling towards his more favoured companions in arms. He took an anxious interest in the progress of the Peninsular war, sincerely and cordially rejoicing in the success of the Duke of Wellington. Every fresh victory was

ruins of which attest the wealth and importance of its owner. A younger son of Sir Simon Preston of Craig Millar, was a great favourite at the court of James the Sixth, then frequently resident at Dumfarlane, and he obtained a grant of the estate of Valleyfield in that neighbourhood, and was afterwards, in the year 1637, created a baronet of Nova Scotia. From him the present worthy and venerable baronet is directly descended.

hailed by him with unaffected delight ; and at no board was the health of that illustrious commander drunk with more ardent enthusiasm, than at that of Sir David Baird.

In 1814, when Sir David was in London, at the time the Emperors and the King of Prussia were on a visit to England, a creation of military Peers took place, and Lords Lynedoch, Hill, Beresford, Niddry, and Combermere, as forming the Duke of Wellington's "staff," had titles and pensions of £2000 a-year each, conferred upon them. Sir David was urged by his friends to state his claims to a similar reward. He did so, in a plain unvarnished memorandum of his services, to Lord Liverpool ; but this, like all his other applications, remained unnoticed and unattended to.

It would sound, perhaps, illiberal to attribute the continuous neglect of Sir David's claims to an interest exerted against him in influential quarters ; but certain it is, that the annals of military history do not record a similar instance of inattention or coldness, exhibited towards a soldier first amongst the bravest and best, who never hesitated to put himself in the front of the battle, and who never, where he commanded, quitted the field but triumphantly.

At a subsequent period, upon the removal of Lord Cathcart from the command in Scotland, a request from Sir David to succeed his Lordship there, met with as little success as any of those which had preceded it. The cause, (at least the

ostensible cause,) of this failure, however, was the decision of Government to reduce the command to that of a major-general.

In the year 1820 another application from Sir David for the command of the forces in Ireland, was more successful, and accordingly we find the following acknowledgement of the appointment, dated Brighton, 27th February, in that year, addressed to his Royal Highness Field Marshal the Duke of York, Commander-in-chief.

SIR,

I have had the honour of receiving your Royal Highness's letter of the 26th instant, informing me that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint me to the command of the forces in Ireland, and that it is essential I should relieve Sir George Beckwith at my earliest convenience after the 24th proximo. And at the same time your Royal Highness is pleased to express your satisfaction at my appointment, for which I beg leave to offer you my best acknowledgments.

Be assured, Sir, I am highly sensible of the honour done me by intrusting to me so important a command, and it shall be my earnest endeavour to merit a continuance of His Majesty's and your Royal Highness's confidence and approbation.

In obedience to the commands contained in your Royal Highness's letter, I shall be in Dublin about the 24th of March, in order to carry them into effect.

I have the honour to remain,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your Royal Highness's most obedient and faithful servant,

D. BAIRD, *Gen.*

At the period of Sir David's appointment to the command in Ireland, that country was happily placed under the government of Earl Talbot, a nobleman of sound constitutional principles, a rigid adherence to which, could alone have saved it from the state of ruin and rebellion into which it has fallen by the mistaken adoption of a system of concession, which, in the teeth of long-recorded evidence, the English Government unfortunately adopted, in the belief, or perhaps we should rather say, the hope, that what was called Religious Emancipation, would produce Political tranquillity.

The opinions of Sir David Baird were strongly opposed to this principle; he felt—how truly and justly subsequent events have completely shown—that to yield one point was only to encourage a further demand. He was convinced that the boasted panacea would *not* tranquillize Ireland, while it must inevitably lead to the overthrow of the established Church; and he proceeded to assume the command firmly convinced in his own mind that things were gradually getting worse in that country, and that the sooner the Government took its stand the better. Better, indeed, and more humane, we are sure would it have been, had such a course been pursued.

Sir David Baird was extremely happy in the command in Ireland. It afforded him sufficient occupation to amuse and employ his mind. The duty was not more than he could perform with ease to himself and advantage to his country, while his

return to active life, and the military habits of earlier days, evidently improved his health and spirits. In Dublin he was respected, honoured, and caressed, and the firmness of character which he invariably exhibited in matters of duty, did not prevent his being one of the most popular generals that ever held the appointment.

At this period he was sworn of His Majesty's most honourable Privy Council in Ireland.

In 1821 his late lamented Majesty, King George the Fourth, visited Dublin, and evinced the highest personal consideration towards Sir David Baird; and as the coronation had already been marked by the creation of some new Peers, and it was considered extremely probable that one or two more might be added to the number, the friends of Sir David judged that to be a favourable opportunity, (now that the Peninsular heroes had been rewarded,) again to urge his claim; and it was at this period that he transmitted to Lord Sidmouth the original letter of Lord Wellesley, with regard to the offer of the red ribband or the pension, to which we have before referred, in order to prove to his lordship, that although Sir David received the Order of the Bath after the battle of Coruña, in which he lost a limb, he had, in the opinion of the Governor-General of India, earned it ten years before.

To these claims he received no favourable answer, although perhaps we ought not to omit to notice the

general opinion, that a peerage was actually destined for him about the time of his lamented death: this, although but a report, we mention from a desire to be impartial; supposing it to have been well-founded, the delay gave an ungracious character to the intention, and as results unfortunately proved, rendered it altogether nugatory. We should add, however, that Sir David himself had no reason whatever for believing the rumour.

It was during his Majesty's stay in Dublin that a partial reduction of the troops on the Irish Establishment took place, contrary to the earnest remonstrances of Sir David Baird; remonstrances founded on a thorough knowledge of the *real* state of the country. Two companies of each regiment, and the 19th regiment of dragoons, were at once disbanded; and the carrying this reduction into effect was left as a duty for Sir David himself to perform, in direct opposition to his own feelings and judgment.

About the same period it was intimated to Sir David, that in all probability the Irish command itself would, after the example of Scotland, be reduced. It is most likely that the disturbed state of the country, which began to manifest itself shortly after the departure of the King, delayed this arrangement.

To any person who reads, and certainly to the person who writes this memoir, nothing can appear more curious as a coincidence than the frequent col-

lisions on service between Lord Wellesley and Sir David Baird. At the period of which we are now treating, a change of public affairs brought Lord Wellesley to Ireland as the successor of Earl Talbot in the high office of Lord Lieutenant.

His Excellency arrived in Dublin about the 30th of December, 1801, and Sir David Baird continued Commander of the forces until the following June, when the anticipated reduction of the importance of the command was carried into effect upon a principle of economy. The commander of the forces was removed, and his place supplied by a Lieutenant-General commanding. The latter functionary, however, was to have an allowance for table-money, thus making this economical arrangement, which disqualified Sir David from holding the appointment, turn out as we believe, to be no economy at all.

Under the new system, Sir Samuel Auchmuty, whose name has frequently appeared in the course of this memoir, who was on Sir David's staff in the memorable passage across the Desert, and who had at the period of which we are now treating attained the rank of Lieutenant-General, was appointed to the modified command.\*

\* Sir Samuel enjoyed this appointment but a very short time ; he was riding in the Phoenix Park on Sunday the 11th of August following his arrival, accompanied by Colonel Thornton the Deputy-Adjutant-General, when he fell from his horse in a fit of apoplexy, and expired. He was carried into the mili-

We find the following letter from Sir David, addressed to Sir Herbert Taylor, at present the private secretary of His Majesty King William the Fourth, and who, in 1822, held the responsible situation of secretary to the Commander-in-chief.

*Royal Hospital, Dublin, 24th June, 1822.*

SIR,

Having in obedience to His Majesty's orders delivered over the command of the army, in Ireland, to Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, I feel anxious to submit to his Royal Highness a few brief observations on the state of the country at the moment of my departure from Dublin.

Considering the agitation and alarm which prevailed generally towards the close of the last, and in the early part of the present year, and the character of open insurrection which the disorders had assumed in the south, it cannot but be a source of gratification to contemplate the tranquil state of the country at the present moment.

No act of outrage worth recording has occurred since my military secretary addressed to you the usual confidential report at the commencement of June, and I trust the severe check and consequent lesson the disaffected have received, may serve to show them the danger of acting upon

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tary hospital, but no sign of life remained. At the time of this melancholy event, he was a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, and Colonel of the 78th regiment of foot.

In consequence of this distressing circumstance, the Lord Lieutenant postponed the celebration of His Majesty's birthday, and the anniversary of his landing in Ireland. Sir Samuel was a most distinguished officer, and universally beloved and respected in private life. His remains were embarked for England under military honours, and attended by a large concourse of persons of all classes.

the distresses and prejudices of the peasantry, and of misleading them into schemes subversive of the Government and public peace.

In expressing this hope, I must however accompany it by my humble opinion, (founded on all the observation I have been able to make since my arrival in Ireland,) that the number of disaffected is very considerable, although they may be deficient in leaders of rank or influence; that they entertain designs hostile to the Government, and the present order of things; and that they act under the obligation of an oath which binds them to secrecy and mutual support.

The small number of arms which have been surrendered by the peasantry, will unfortunately justify a belief that there is no general disposition towards a final relinquishment of their designs.

The distress for food arising principally from the want of means to purchase it, continues to prevail in various districts; and the late accounts from the south and west are of the most afflicting character. Colonel Patrickson, whose regiment (the 43rd) has lately relieved the 57th in Galway, reports the scenes which that town presents to be truly distressing. Hundreds of half-famished wretches arrive almost daily from a distance of fifty or sixty miles; many of them so exhausted by want of food, that the means taken to restore them fail of effect from the weakness of the digestive organs, occasioned by long fasting.

Every effort is making by the Government to alleviate this distress, and the liberality of individuals has been very praiseworthy;—in the work of benevolence the military have borne their share.

Although I have repeatedly had occasion to report favourably of the conduct of this army, yet I feel it to be a duty incumbent on me in quitting it, again to assure his Royal Highness, that its conduct whilst under my

command, has been most exemplary and excellent. I have had reason to be fully satisfied with every department and branch of the service.

The general officers, the heads of departments, and the staff, have supported me with zeal and intelligence; and the officers and troops in general by their discipline, their temper, and their orderly conduct, have merited the esteem of the people amongst whom they are serving, and my best and warmest commendation. They have had harassing and painful duties to perform in the south, and the nature of the service generally in Ireland exposes the military to many privations and much fatigue, and to a dispersion which in a worse constituted army would prove fatal to its discipline and character.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

D. BAIRD.

*Sir Herbert Taylor,*  
&c. &c. &c.

In reply to this letter, Sir David Baird received the following from his Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief.

*Horse Guards, June 29, 1822.*

DEAR SIR,

Sir Herbert Taylor having communicated to me your letter of the 24th instant, written upon the occasion of your having delivered over the command of the army in Ireland to Lieutenant-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty, I directed him to convey it to Mr. Peel, and I have now the satisfaction of sending you the copy of a letter from him, expressing his sense of your services, in the command which you have quitted.

I cannot do so without assuring you how cordially I concur in the sentiments which Mr. Peel's letter conveys,

and how persuaded I am that there is not a member of His Majesty's Government who is not equally disposed to acknowledge the value of your meritorious and zealous services, under circumstances often very trying, and always requiring assiduous and laborious attention.

I am more particularly called upon to thank you for your steady and unwearied exertions to preserve the discipline and efficiency of the troops; and I feel great satisfaction in assuring you, that in this respect, as in every other, you have discharged the important duties confided to you in a manner which has secured to you His Majesty's entire and unqualified approbation, and has fully confirmed the opinion of your character which your previous long, faithful, and gallant services in various climes had established.

Believe me, dear Sir, yours very sincerely,

FREDERICK,  
*Commander-in-chief.*

*The Right Hon. General Sir David Baird,*  
G.C.B. &c. &c. &c.

This handsome and gratifying letter enclosed the following from Mr. Peel, at that time Secretary of State for the Home Department.

*Whitehall, 27th June, 1822.*

SIR,

I have the honour to return your Royal Highness the enclosed letter, which Sir Herbert Taylor, by your Royal Highness's commands, placed in my hands.

I trust you will allow me to avail myself of this opportunity of expressing my sense of the services of Sir David Baird in the command of the army in Ireland, and my regret at the loss of them.

I well know the difficulties of the situation in which he has been placed, and the conflicting feelings that constantly

arise from a desire on the one hand to aid the Civil Government in the maintenance of peace ; and on the other to preserve the efficiency and discipline of the military ; and I cannot but express my warm approbation of the manner in which Sir David Baird has overcome those difficulties, and reconciled those feelings.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Royal Highness's obedient humble servant,

ROBERT PEEL.

*His Royal Highness the Duke of York.*

A word need not be said upon such testimonials as these with which Sir David quitted Ireland, and returned again to England, to the enjoyment of the charms of private life, which he so conspicuously adorned ; again, were all those amiable qualities which had before distinguished his domestic career brought into play, and he continued for nearly seven years the friend of the friendless, and the comforter of the needy and distressed.

In the autumn of 1823 an accident befell Sir David, the effects of which were extremely severe. As he was returning in the evening from a ride, his favourite horse fell with him. He was severely hurt, but he contrived to remount, and reached home not without much difficulty. He himself made light of the accident, and apparently recovered from the shock ; in the winter he proceeded with Lady Baird to England.

During his residence in London he was seized with a giddiness, which was followed by a long and violent illness ; and from that period he was never

completely re-established. However, by a rigid attention to diet, and the directions of his friend and medical adviser, Sir James M'Grigor, he continued to enjoy a tolerable state of health, and never experienced any similar attack.

No person unacquainted with the constant care which the nature of his complaint rendered absolutely necessary, could have guessed, from the cheerfulness of his manner, his uniform good spirits, his even temper, and the interest he took in all passing events, that he himself considered his life as extremely precarious: even when accession of illness brought the subject more immediately into notice, he would endeavour to lead the minds of those he loved, to contemplate with composure and resignation an event, which he thought might probably take place at a moment when they were least prepared to expect it.

In the spring of 1829 Sir David appeared considerably better, and proceeded to London, in order to be present at the King's levee on the 23rd of April, to kiss hands upon his appointment to the government of Fort George. From London he went to Leamington, and there he first began to complain of violent pains in his head; and having returned to London, he left that city for Edinburgh in June, still suffering excruciating pain in his temples.

By the time he reached Edinburgh he became so much worse that it was determined he should stay there to avail himself of the best professional assistance; very shortly after he was attacked by

fever, from which he only sufficiently recovered to be removed, on the 20th of July, with great fatigue, and difficulty, to Fern Tower.

Here, in his favourite home, he began apparently to revive; but even while these fallacious symptoms of improvement threw a gleam of hope upon those to whom he was so justly dear, he himself felt that the case was hopeless. With that calmness and composure, which forsook him neither in the day of danger nor in the hour of death, he arranged all his worldly affairs as if he had been merely preparing for an ordinary journey, and amidst the accumulating pains and increasing debility which he suffered, he endeavoured, when he saw they were observed, to cheer those around him with hopes which he did not himself entertain. This he did in tenderness to the affections of others, for he was a true Christian, and his hopes were beyond this world. On the 16th of August he suffered a severe relapse—on the 18th he breathed his last.

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Thus quitted this transitory world, one of the best and bravest of men.—Not upon the evidence of facts alone, nor upon the proofs afforded us of his high qualities by the deeds which have immortalized his name, do we pronounce this unqualified praise of

his merits and his virtues ; but, in combination with all those recorded testimonials to his fame and honour, from the concurrent declared opinions of every individual who had the honour and happiness of knowing him ; opinions not expressed alone by men of his own country, or his own profession.

The native Princes of India, the chiefs of Arabia, the Beys of Egypt, the inhabitants of Southern Africa, the people of Spain, all have in turn expressed their admiration of his valour and intrepidity as a soldier, and their reliance upon his honour and consideration as a negotiator. The frequently repeated "general orders" of his superior officers in the earlier part of his career, establish the prudence and perseverance which he displayed in the maintenance of discipline, and the earnestness and readiness of the soldiers to follow him as their leader to conquest and to glory, are of themselves incontrovertible proofs that the rigour of command was wisely and justly tempered by care of their comforts, and consideration for their advantage.

From the letters and notes of military men of all nations, we have collected the highest possible praises of these qualities ; and to the letter of the late illustrious Commander-in-chief, upon Sir David's removal from Ireland, we may proudly refer as the crowning testimony to their extent and value.

"He was," says one who knew him well, "a perfect warrior, without fear and without reproach.—He was absolutely free from guile. It is possible that his generous and confiding nature may have

been over-reached by treachery and deceit in others ; but no man in existence durst avow an evil intention in his presence."

There is in these striking words an evidence of the nobleness, integrity, and generosity of his principles and conduct, which it is impossible to regard without something like veneration ; and assuredly it is only necessary to look back on this memoir to perceive the truth and force of what might otherwise seem the language of overcharged panegyric. The compiler of this narrative feels entitled to claim for the subject of it, the full amount of such evidence. That engrossing feeling of interest in the hero of his tale, which renders every writer more or less liable to the charge of partiality, he has no reason to disavow ; because he has been only called upon to record facts which speak for themselves, and which of themselves are the best commentaries on the exemplary life of Sir David Baird.

There is, however, another testimony to the worth and excellence of that distinguished man, which as little requires the colouring of friendship or the skill of authorship ; namely, the unmingled feeling of respect and esteem entertained towards him by the numerous circle in which he moved, in the comparative retirement of the latter years of his eventful and chequered career.

It was in private life that the glories and virtues of his public conduct were traced to their true source ; and thus have they been even more richly embalmed in the recollection of many a stranger as well as

friend; for the same uprightness of purpose and intention which had inspired him with utter fearlessness in the discharge of his duty, whether in the Desert, the council, or the camp, still marked his conduct there. *There* he was ever seen to seek but for "the TRUTH," and to seek it only that he might be directed by it, to that which with him was synonymous, DUTY—or in the words of one who had many opportunities of observing the workings of his noble mind,—“He seemed in every case, whether personally interested or not, to be anxious to discover what was *right to be done, only that he might do it.* Anything like selfish considerations he never would suffer to interfere with this his favourite object; and by a look, “more in pity than in anger,” would he sometimes show what he felt, when he thought he observed the conduct or meaning of others less influenced by this high principle than himself.

Of the benevolence and kindness of his disposition, no one who knew him in private life could even doubt. It was manifest in his look and manner, no less than in the daily—we might almost say hourly—proofs he afforded of his desire to relieve, assist, and comfort. He had indeed “joy and delight,” in such deeds of beneficence and mercy; and the tenderness with which he listened to, and sought to minister to the relief of, any case of suffering, or bereavement, or distress which happened to be reported to him, or which he was called to witness, will long be remembered by the many who were

either the objects of his bounty, or who recollect the encouragement they received, when, telling him how and where he could lessen the pressure of suffering or want, they beheld the complacency, and gratitude, and thankfulness of the look with which he sought to repay them for thus affording him the luxury of doing good.

Many, indeed, had been the scenes in which the stern calls of duty required him to suppress the workings of such feelings for a time, when, amidst the shouts and defiance of opposing hosts, it was his DUTY to lead his troops to battle, to bloodshed, and to death ; but those scenes had passed away, and he who was remembered as the lion in the field, was now seen in the privacies of domestic retirement, seeking his favourite occupation in the kindest contrivances, and the tenderest endeavours to relieve, to comfort, and make happy all who came within the sphere of his benign influence.

While he thus sought to fulfil the second great commandment, he was seen to be under a deep-grounded conviction of the still higher and more important obligations of the first. Amidst the din of war, the great realities of that religion which he professed were never absent from his mind ; and no sooner did he quit those scenes in which he had experienced so many wonderful deliverances, than he showed, like every good and great man, how perfectly he knew and felt to whom he was indebted for a life preserved amidst such fearful hazards, and to

whose service he was especially bound by so many ties, to dedicate what yet remained of it.

Accordingly, his respect for religion and its sacred ordinances, was marked and sincere. He was a devout man ; and there might have been observable in him an even anxious earnestness to become more and more acquainted with that scheme of divine mercy on which he felt that his highest hopes must depend ; for if simplicity and pious sincerity of purpose have any virtue, or merit any praise, they seem to have been his, who in religion, no less than in conduct, appeared to desire to know the truth, in order, as we have already said, to follow it.

The comfort and support which he received from cherishing and acting upon such principles, were happily manifest in his last sufferings. No murmur —no complaint escaped his lips ; he spoke not of his own distress ; he only sought to soothe the spirits of those whose affection called them to witness it. He saw his end approaching without distraction —without fear—and with all the calmness and dignity which settled hope inspired ; and with a full confidence in the merits of his Redeemer, he waited the somewhat tardy advances of his last enemy, till the appointed hour came, which released the spirit from its shattered mansion—and even then the hand of death left untouched the fine traces of the calm and manly bearing of him whose soul had fled.

The respect and esteem in which this admirable man was held in his own neighbourhood, may best be understood by a perusal of the subjoined inscription on a tablet, raised to his memory in the parish church of Crieff, by those amongst whom he lived so happily and cordially.

To the memory of  
Gen. the Right Hon. SIR DAVID BAIRD, BART.  
G.C.B. K.C. &c.

This Tablet is gratefully inscribed,  
by

The Inhabitants of the Parish of Crieff and  
its Neighbourhood,

Not to commemorate his martial achievements, for these  
are recorded in the annals of his country ;

But as their humble testimony to those excellences in his character, which they desire to see handed down to posterity, that they may be held in remembrance " while there is any virtue, or any praise, in things that are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report."

In him the sterner virtues of uprightness and unbending integrity were blended with all the charities of the kindest and most generous nature. " He was a father to the poor, and the cause which he knew not he searched out."

Nor was the disinterestedness of his benevolence more sincere than was his respect for religion and its ordinances. And to his unceasing exertions are this congregation chiefly indebted for the comforts and accommodations which they enjoy, of having now a fit temple in which to worship the God of their fathers.

It would be useless to enumerate the proofs which have been placed upon record, of the general sentiment towards Sir David Baird; there is, however, yet a duty permitted us to perform, which we cannot fulfil without sincerely—we might almost venture to say devoutly—feeling its importance.

Lady Baird, the widow of this great and good man, when she was bereft of him who to her was ALL,—resolved to raise in the country where he first drew his breath, and where he at last resigned it, a monument, which, though perhaps he needed it not as a hero, she felt, in the devotion of her attachment, and in the tenderness of her regards, was her dear but melancholy duty to consecrate to his memory.

The Nation might have been proud to do as much, but it was reserved for *her*, who mingled with the highest veneration for his public qualities the sincerest affection for his private virtues, to rear a column which might serve for “ever and aye” to record the deeds of one whose name will never die; and which, while it exhibits a splendid testimony of domestic attachment, will present to future generations a powerful excitement to conduct, such as it has been our pride and happiness to record.

The obelisk of which we speak is founded on a most romantic and beautiful hill on Lady Baird's estates, and is exactly of the dimensions of Cleopatra's Needle.

The following account of the ceremony of laying the first stone of this magnificent testimonial, will

be read with deep interest; nor can we suffer the beautiful prayer of the clergyman who officiated upon the occasion, to pass, without that tribute of unqualified praise which it so richly deserves.

The first stone of the obelisk (a view of which, as it now appears, is submitted to the reader at the conclusion of this memoir,) was laid upon the 4th of May 1832.

Upon the peculiar circumstances connected with that memorable day, enough has been said in this memoir to render any further observations here unnecessary. The 4th of May was selected for the foundation of this column, because on *that* day General Baird TOOK SERINGAPATAM BY STORM.

We here subjoin a detail of the ceremony:—

“ CRIEFF.—It is no easy task to give a description of the imposing and interesting ceremony which took place in this neighbourhood on Friday last, when the foundation stone of the monument to be erected to the memory of the late General Sir David Baird was laid with masonic ceremonies and honours by the Provincial Grand Master of the western district of Perthshire, the Earl of Ormelie. It was not the wish of those most nearly concerned to draw together an unnecessary crowd on that occasion, and only a limited deputation from each of the nearest Lodges was requested to meet at the cottage at the entrance to that beautiful road which has lately been formed, and which leads to the summit of *Tom-a-Chastel*. They met at twelve o'clock; and there they

found Lord Ormelie, with a number of gentlemen who composed the deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in their appropriate costume, with their insignia of office, jewels, &c. (which had been sent from Edinburgh with the proper officer for the occasion,) and the Rev. Mr. Touch, minister of Kinnoul, who officiated as chaplain. The procession was then formed, preceded by the tenants of Lady Baird's estates, a most respectable body, above fifty in number, dressed in black. They were followed by the masonic body in regular order, with their bands of music, and slowly ascended the hill. The interest excited in this neighbourhood, where the gallant General had spent the evening of his eventful life, beloved and honoured by all who knew him, had attracted multitudes to pay their last tribute of respect; and by this time, no less than three thousand respectable and well dressed people were on the spot, but so quiet and orderly, that not the least confusion ensued, and the procession reached the place where the obelisk is to be erected, without the least interruption.

The Grand Master took his place with the members of the Grand Lodge, and opposite to him, standing on the magnificent block of granite selected for the foundation-stone, was the chaplain, in his gown, who offered up one of the most beautiful and appropriate prayers we ever heard, to him who has said the memory of the righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

The scene at this moment was imposing in the highest degree; the day was fine, the sun shone with unusual brightness. The romantic beauty of the situation, and the splendid view from Tom-a-Chastel, cannot be surpassed; and none, we believe, who have witnessed it can ever forget it. When the prayer was ended, (during which the assembled multitude listened with the most respectful silence,) the business of the laying the foundation-stone began. A bottle containing, as usual, coins, &c. was deposited in an excavation made for the purpose, on which was placed a brass plate, with a simple but appropriate inscription.

From the admirable arrangements made by Mr. Stirling, the architect, and Mr. Gordon, the superintendant of the works, the magnificent stone, not less than five tons in weight, was raised, moved forward, and laid on its bed, with the most perfect ease.

The usual masonic ceremonies having been performed, the Grand Master, in a most feeling and animated address, noticed before the multitude, the occasion on which they had assembled, the high renown and military achievements of the hero, and the domestic and Christian virtues of the man, energetically appealing to the attentive auditory whether amongst the many recorded proofs of his gallant conduct, this day did not recall one of the most striking, and whether they were not ready to rejoice with him in the recollections with which the

experience of many could this day furnish them, of the benevolence and generosity of his conduct and manners during the many years he had dwelt amongst them.

When his Lordship concluded, the band struck up the plaintive and beautiful air, "Rest warrior, rest;" the effect produced had in it something solemn and affecting in the highest degree, and many an eye was moistened with a tear.

The following is part of the eloquent minister's prayer upon the occasion, than which we think no conclusion to this memoir can be more appropriate.

"We bless Thee, that we live in a land of light and liberty—Over all that is dear to us, Thou hast long created a defence, still permitting us to sit under our vine, and our fig-tree, with none to hurt us, or make us afraid. The battle hath been kept from our gates; long hast Thou maintained peace in our borders.

"From time to time hast Thou raised up brave and honest men, who have counted nothing too dear by which our rights and liberties might be preserved and defended. We bless thee for that undaunted boldness—that fearlessness even unto death, by which Thou hast made them the instruments of securing to us what we this day enjoy—of such Thou permittest us to cherish the remembrance.

"Behold us then, O our GOD! as we are now assembled before Thee—refuse not thy countenance to the purpose of our meeting. Thou hast thyself

declared the memory of the just to be blessed — we only seek to perpetuate it. Look then, we beseech Thee, down upon us with an eye of benignity and favour; for while we are this day called to minister to those feelings of respect and esteem, and conjugal affection, which seek to express themselves by an enduring remembrance, we too would rejoice in the work of founding a pillar of memorial to one whom we have so long been accustomed to hold in estimation.

“ Lord! prosper the undertaking. Extend, Almighty Architect of the Universe, Thy countenance and protecting care to those of our brethren who shall be engaged in this work. Cause them to go on successfully, that at last they may ‘bring forth the head-stone with shoutings,’—and thus may a goodly monument be reared, on which the eye of pious affection may delight to rest, and which may teach our children, and our children’s children, to think of things that are just, and true, and honest, and lovely, and of good report.

“ When they behold it from afar, may they be reminded that he, who had been one of his country’s bravest defenders, amid those scenes of havoc and of death in which he was often called to take so fearfully dangerous a part, was no less distinguished as the friend of his country by those gentler virtues which he cherished in the stiller scenes of private life, and by the exercise of which he sought to minister to the relief, the happiness, and the comfort of all around him. For we this day rejoice to

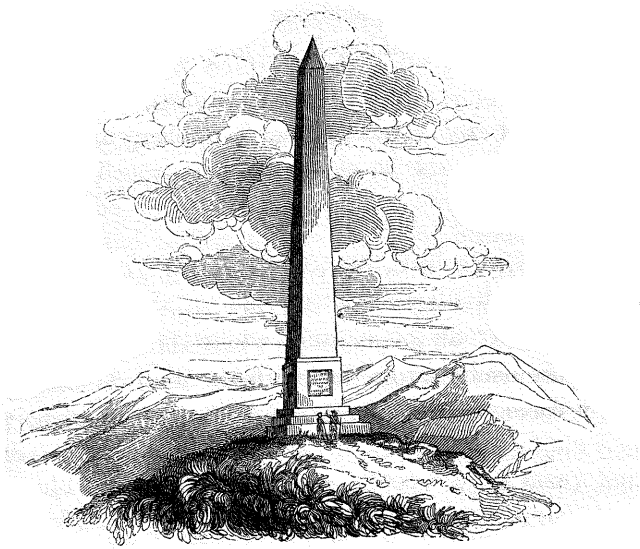
remember, that after he had long toiled, and often had suffered and bled in his country's cause, Thou didst at length permit him to rest upon his shield, and after laying down the weapons of his warfare, to spend the evening of his days in the land of his fathers, far from those fields of conflict and of blood, where his dauntless bearing had been marked and recorded ;—and, that neither the triumphs he had achieved, nor the trophies which he won, nor the honours with which a grateful country had invested him, could lead him to forget that GOD who had been his protector and strong tower, and the rock of his defence, in whom he had ever trusted.

“ We bless Thee, that while he continued to the last, to testify his veneration and gratitude to Thee the Lord of Hosts, he had joy, as the steward of thy bounty, in doing good to those who had none to help them ; and, that while we saw in him the lover of truth and uprightness, and unbending integrity, the patron and supporter of things that are excellent, we beheld those virtues blending themselves in him with all the charities of the kindest and most generous nature. We would this day remember the many proofs of its workings,—that the only reward he desired, he received, in the blessings of many who were ready to perish, whose cause he had searched out, and whom he had delighted to deliver. And, that, in the faith of the Gospel, with humble confidence in its promises, and with an earnest desire to be made meet for the inheritance which it reveals, Thou didst prepare him to meet

the last enemy with whom he had yet to combat, with composure, and hope, and peace in believing; and that he was thus enabled to achieve the greatest of his victories through the Lord JESUS CHRIST. Blessed, O God, is the man whose heart is stayed upon Thee!

“ We too, desire to put our trust in Thee, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, that through faith and patience we may be the followers of those who are now inheriting the promises. To Thee would we now commit ourselves, and all our interests,—as a nation, as a community, and as individuals. Let thy choicest blessings, and thy continued protection, rest upon our King, our country, and our laws; and let the spirit of that pure and undefiled religion, which alone exalteth nations and individuals, be more and more cherished amongst us,—that through its hallowed influences it may still be well with us, and with our children after us; so that, when at last this goodly scene which we now inhabit, with all its varied objects, shall have been swept from existence, and when the “ everlasting hills” themselves, together with the fond memorials of our respect, and gratitude, and affection, which they had long sustained, shall have passed away, as if they never had been, we may have a building of GOD, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; and be permitted to enter into those mansions of light, and purity, and bliss, where men shall learn the art of war no more, where all strife and contention shall cease; where there shall be no enemy to

encounter, no danger to alarm, no fear of change to disturb us; but where peace, and love, and joy, for ever reign; where sorrow and separation can no longer be felt, and where death-divided friends shall meet to part no more, and Thou, O GOD! thyself, shalt wipe away every tear from our eyes!"





## APPENDIX.

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The following is the despatch of General Janssens announcing to the Dutch Government the capture of the Cape of Good Hope; which is thought sufficiently curious to interest the reader.

*South Africa, Cape of Good Hope, January 27, 1806.*

**J. W. JANSSENS**, Commander of the Batavian troops, who constituted the late garrison of the colony, to his Excellency the Right Honourable **S. J. SCHIMMELPENINCK**, Pensionary of the Republic.

**RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR,**

I have to perform a most grievous duty in informing your Excellency, that the whole of this colony has been obliged to be surrendered to an enormous superior force.

The capital capitulated on the 10th instant, and was compelled so to do; and I myself, with the remnant of a small defeated army, was also under the same necessity in the Hottentot's Holland's mountain, on the 18th following.

Copies of these capitulations are hereunto subjoined. My conscience tells me I have nothing to reproach myself with.

Could the colony have been defended by as many hundreds of brave men as the enemy had thousands, she would have been preserved.\*

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\* The accuracy of this supposition will be best ascertained by a comparison of the numbers actually employed on each side.

My grief is extreme ; not at my own misfortune, but at the calamities which oppress so uncommonly our unfortunate country.

I beg leave hereunto to subjoin a relation of the whole of the occurrence, which is not, perhaps, fit to be published as it is ; but in this, as well as in every other matter, I have thought it incumbent on me to inform the Government of my country as accurately as possible.

A part only excepted, the troops and all the Burghers behaved so as to deserve a better fate than that of being vanquished.

For the rest I beg leave to refer myself to the relation, and have the honour to subscribe myself, with unalterable attachment to my unfortunate country, as well as with the profoundest veneration of your Excellency,

The most obedient very humble servant,

(Signed) J. W. JANSSENS.

Sundry intelligence was brought, about sixteen months ago, of the probability of an enemy's expedition against this settlement. We were as much prepared to receive them as our means of defence allowed. Zeal and faithfulness of the armed burghers, rendered it possible for the Governor then to take the field with a corps, composed of men of various classes and colour, well disposed, and tolerably well provided with necessaries ; at present, the means of defence were less, with regard both to men and necessaries. Cloth had lately been imported for the poorly clothed troops, but had not been able to be made up. A year's scarcity of bread was now followed by the new crop, which was to begin to be reaped ; the last provisions, collected for the troops at several quarters, were consumed, and Government felt happy when a sufficient quantity of bread was secured for the next day in Cape Town. All the tents were worn out ; mortality, sickness, and crimes, had con-

siderably diminished the number of troops, and the harvest required the absence of a part of the burgher cavalry; nevertheless, the very small and singularly composed army was always kept on a ready and moveable footing.\*

In this situation of things, verbal intelligence, and European newspapers, were brought on the 26th of December, which rendered it somewhat probable that, within a few days, we might be attacked by a most formidable force; not one moment was lost to complete all the arrangements already made against such a circumstance, and to be prepared for any event that might ensue.

On the 4th of January, at eight A.M., signal was made from the West of the Cape for a large fleet, and at nine o'clock from the Lion's head also. Reinforcements were then sent to Simonsbay, Muizenburg, Steinbergen, and other posts; the burgher cavalry were called from their cantonments to Cape Town; the alarm guns, for the interior districts, were fired. The commanding officers of the several corps were called to receive the necessary instructions, and the command of the castle and town was, on the former footing, conferred on the Lieutenant-Colonel von Prophalow.

The corps of armed burghers and auxiliaries mounted guard, and the army were ready to march. Military dispositions were making, and the light troops, with the Java light artillery, were marched to Blauweberg, to observe the enemy.

At five o'clock P.M. a large part of the fleet were already seen; namely, fifty-nine sail, between the Blauweberg and Robben Island.

In the morning of the 5th, at three o'clock, the army

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\* Nothing can more strongly illustrate the advantages of the subsequent arrangements of Sir David Baird with respect to the supply of grain to Cape Town, than this particular passage.

were assembled on their several places of alarm; the enemy were this day hoisting out many boats; and a company of burgher cavalry, commanded by the meritorious Captain Linde, were detached to Rietwalley and Blauweberg. A division of burgher cavalry of Stellenbosch were placed at the foot of the Tiger Hills, to wait for further orders.

On the 6th of January, intelligence being received of the enemy making some movements to land, the army marched at two o'clock P.M. to the Rietwalley, and took with them from the sea-lines a part of the crew of the stranded French frigate *L'Atalante*, who were armed. At six o'clock the army halted at Rietwalley. At seven o'clock we were joined by the light troops, who with the Java artillery, consisting of six one-pounders, and a part of the cavalry of Captain Linde, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Le Sueur, had observed the enemy at Blauweberg, and who had orders to retreat to Rietwalley, in case of their meeting with a superior force. This corps had, at their first engagement, two killed, three wounded, and three missing. Captain Linde and Lieutenant Albertus of the riflemen, remained behind to reconnoitre. They returned at nine o'clock to head-quarters, and made their report to the General. A council of war was then held with the commanding officers of the several corps and staff, respecting both the enemy's and our own position, and the necessary orders were given accordingly.

The 7th the army advanced at six o'clock A.M. to the enemy: the left wing in the downs, consisting of—two companies Hottentot light infantry, the two other companies being detached to Muizenburg and Simonsbay; the 9th battalion rifleman; a detachment of the burgher cavalry of Wium; a party of the light dragoons.

The centre at the right side of the downs in the plain;

consisting of — the 22nd battalion infantry ; the 5th battalion of Waldeck ; the French sailors ; the artillery.

The right wing, further in the plain ; consisting of — the squadron of light dragoons ; the horse artillery ; the riflemen of Waldeck ; the burgher cavalry of Human.

The company of Linde having been sent before to reconnoitre the enemy.

At nine o'clock the army halted ; the General himself, with a part of the staff, went to reconnoitre the enemy at a very short distance. He found several regiments in the downs between Blauweberg and the sea, covered by their ships ;—he estimated the number to be about 6000 men. Lieutenant Klapp reported from Saldanha bay, that an enemy's fleet had also entered that bay, and preparations were making for landing. Orders were sent to him, in case of necessity, to retreat as far as Stellenbosch, but previously to observe the enemy as long as possible, with his detachment, consisting of fifteen men.

At three o'clock P.M. the army advanced to Blauweberg's Valley's Plain, where they took a position, and the necessary precautions.

The General had by himself irrevocably resolved to attack the enemy, whatever their force might be. In the position in which they were, the attack was not easily practicable, as the troops must then, in their march through the downs between the sea and Blauweberg, be exposed to the fire from the ships before they could come up with the enemy, who were then still masters to refuse the battle, and to leave us exposed to the fire from the shipping. It was not much easier, but did not, however, seem impossible, to attack the enemy through a wide flat passage, having Blauweberg on the left, and a lower hill on the right side, although the fire from the ships could not be avoided, and the enemy, declining to accept the battle, and

moving to the left, could frustrate the intention, and turn the consequences against the undertakers themselves; but, as upwards of 1000 men were landed in Saldanha bay, and as similar landings might take place in other parts also, hesitating could only be attended with dishonourable consequences.

The General was convinced in his own mind that victory was impossible; but the honour of his country obliged him to combat, whatever might be the result. This he determined to effect next morning, and in the mean while consulted with the commanding officers of the several corps respecting the movements to be made, concealing from every person, two only excepted, (one of whom was the French Colonel Gaudin Beauchêne, late Commandant of the frigate L'Atalante,) his opinion of the hopeless state of things; endeavouring on the contrary to inspire all with confidence, without which no success in battle can be expected.

At night, between eight and ten o'clock, the enemy's ships cannonaded heavily against our waggons at Rietwalley; but the Burgher Captain, Van Reenen, caused them to be removed, so that the cannonading could not materially damage them. The intelligence received from some of the military and burghers, who were at the fore posts, made the General rest assured that he would be timely and correctly informed of any of the enemy's movements, so that he could allow to the principal army a short repose, and which was not disturbed by a heavy fire of musketry at midnight in the downs, which created a false alarm of the enemy's approach. The General being already convinced of the prudence and skill of the second captain, Linde, and lieutenant of the riflemen, Albertus, sent them to reconnoitre, who, not without danger, restored order, the confusion being occasioned by drunkenness of an European Ser-

geant, stationed with a party of Hottentot soldiers at the out-post on the beach.

On the 8th of January, being the day appointed for the battle, the troops were at three o'clock A.M. under arms.

The European troops consisted of men of all nations of Europe; the others were taken from the meanest, as well as from the most respectable families, even Java and Mosambick slaves were among the number.

The General assembled the commanding officers of the several corps, ordering them to proceed with the French Colonel G. Beauchêne, if practicable without danger, to the place where, the preceding day, he had been able very distinctly to reconnoitre the enemy, in order to render themselves acquainted with their position, and with the situation of the ground, while the said French Colonel would judge what the enemy's ships might be able to execute; in the mean time the different corps of this little army were to be commanded by the officers second in command, who would place them in the position in which they were to attack the enemy, and then to be rejoined by their commanding officers.

But before this plan could be executed, reports were received from the Burgher Captain, Linde, that the enemy were approaching, which however did not occasion any other alteration in our plan, than our marching to meet the enemy, without the projected reconnoitring having taken place.

At four o'clock we perceived the enemy in front of our right wing, beginning to form their order of battle; whatever might be their intention on that side, we could be assured of their not quitting the protection of, and the communication with their ships, but of their occupying the whole interval to the beach. To appear as if covering the whole of the enemy's front, we were obliged to change ours

by an eighth of a circle, which was effected in the best order, and our order of battle became as follows:—The greatest part of the squadron of light dragoons, with the horse artillery, formed the right wing, in order to be able to fall into the enemy's left flank. The 9th battalion riflemen, two howitzers, and three six-pounders; the 22nd battalion infantry, les marins François; the 5th battalion of Waldeck; the two companies of the battalion of Hottentot light infantry; three six-pounders, and six pieces Java artillery one-pounders; the riflemen of Waldeck; further the burgher cavalry Van Linde and Human, and the division of that of Wium. The guns were occasionally taken from the line, and placed where they were required.

From the beach through the downs to the hills, no more than fifty men, viz. twenty riflemen and thirty Hottentots, could be stationed, who formed only a line of sentinels at great intervals.

The Captains Linde and Human had dismounted with a small party of brave burghers, and posted themselves on the heights.

Had we formed our order of battle properly and closely, we should then have made only a point before an extensive line. The cavalry were therefore ranged to the right as well as left in a single row, leaving between each other a roomy interval: the infantry in two files, with some space, not only between the men, but, because of the before-mentioned reasons and of the enemy's having but few cavalry, with large intervals between the different small corps.

At five o'clock the enemy attacked the left wing, in order to pass through and along the downs towards the hills. They had more horses than we could have expected—these had been taken on board at St. Salvadore. They brought six field pieces against us, and at first their howitzers were principally directed to our centre, where the General

stood a few paces before the line with his staff. A French Captain, by name Ricard, who came here from the Isle of France, was at his request joined to the staff; the first howitzer struck the said Captain Ricard's horse, and the General had the satisfaction to perceive that neither he nor any of the other officers near him were in the least confused at this or at any other of the following throws. Colonel Henry was almost always at his side, and the Adjutant-General Rancke also, unless called elsewhere by his duty. Colonel G. Beauchêne; the commander of the artillery, Steffens; the aide-de-camp, Verkouteren; the late Captain Engineer under the former Government, Thibault; the Lieutenant of the Navy, Pfeil; the Adjutant of the Commandant, Ayffmorth; the Burgher Adjutants, Breda, Munnik, Van Reenen John's Son, Van Reenen Jacob's Son, together with the cadet of the artillery, acting as under Adjutant, J. R. Dibbetz, preserved a coolness and cheerfulness, which I believe cannot be exceeded by any other troops. All of them received the orders as on parade, and communicated the same speedily and correctly; and that they might not appear to wish to avoid the danger, they would not even separate from the General, though he observed to them that their standing so closely was detrimental to the service they had to perform, and only augmenting their danger unnecessarily.

One of the first howitzers struck the right wing of Waldeck, which created more confusion than the General could have supposed. More howitzers fell into that corps, and the soldiers did not appear to answer the opinion which might be expected of them, from their general known conduct, and particularly in the campaign of 1794.

Before the fire commenced, but when the enemy were in sight, the General rode along the line, and addressed each troop in such a manner as he thought would produce the

best effect ; *all* of them then exclaimed with enthusiasm—Huzza—the privates of Waldeck, it appeared, more coldly. The General, however, entertained great expectations of the troops in general, and many of them answered it, for they did not show the least apprehension at the immense superiority of force before them, which now proved much stronger than it was supposed the day before, when it could not be properly estimated, from the whole of the enemy not being visible.

Besides a considerable corps of cavalry, although not mounted, and the artillery, it consisted of the 24th, 38th, 59th, 71st, 72nd, 93rd, regiments of foot ; one of which, however, was not on the field, but at Saldanha bay.

Those troops are the flower of the British army, and many of the regiments more than complete ; to these were added some hundreds of marines, and upwards of a thousand sailors armed with pikes, part of whom were employed in drawing the guns.

Returning to the narration of the beginning of the action, it must now be added, that the fire of the artillery becoming general, our artillery, burghers, and riflemen, considerably annoyed the enemy, and even caused different movements in some of their corps.

A fine and numerous Scotch corps advanced in front of our small number of infantry, and discharged a full round, but it being at too great a distance, few or none of them were wounded. This was a fortunate circumstance, according to the plan the General had formed from the beginning, which was to wait till the enemy had approached within a few paces, and then to fire a tremendous round from our side ; but the Waldeck battalion retreated in confusion. He rode up to them, conjuring them by their former glory—by the honour of Germany and Waldeck—by their beloved prince, and by every thing he could say, to stand, and show that they were brave soldiers ; but

neither this nor the request of their officers had any effect ; they did not retreat, but most shamefully fled.

As any longer stay with them would have drawn him back to too great a distance, he left the cowards, and returned to the more brave French troops, who still kept their position. He then observed, to his still greater distress, that the left of the 22nd battalion were retreating ; these, however, attended to his orders, and showed themselves willing to obey, but the confusion became too general to reform the line. The French, abandoned both to the right and left, were necessitated to retreat with great loss. Colonel G. Beauchêne, an officer of the name of Du Bellor, a cousin of the Archbishop of Paris, remained to the last, and the latter was severely wounded. Riding along the line, he found the grenadiers and riflemen also retreating, but not flying. The dragoons had formed together, and upon his order, marched off. He then first sent the Adjutant-General Rancke, and afterwards Colonel Henry, to Rietwalley, to make the retreating troops stand, and form a new position, while he with all the officers about him, and joined by the director in chief of the hospitals, R. de Klerk Dibbetz, kept the rear of the flying troops. The brave and steady tranquillity of those belonging to the staff was the same as at the beginning of the action ;—his aide-de-camp, the meritorious Verkouteren, captain of the cavalry, received a musket ball in his side, as also the commanding officer of the artillery, Steffens, though with less consequence. The French Captain, Ricard, had two horses shot under him ; a ball struck the General, but rebounded on something he had in his waistcoat pocket, by which means he was not wounded. The officers of the staff then requested him not to expose himself further unnecessarily, as they were of opinion that his presence might promote the restoration of order among the troops.

The artillery behaved exceedingly brave : only one piece

of those under the command of Lieutenant D. J. Dibbetz was lost ; but not till six of the horses, some artillery-men and cannon drivers, had been killed and wounded ; but the piece was spiked before it was abandoned.

A very heavy cannonade was still continually heard ; the General having ascended a height, with all the satisfaction he could enjoy at that period, perceived the red feathers of our horse artillery, who alone on the field of battle, continued a heavy and regular cannonade. Having come up to them, he found them acting with regularity, deliberation, and activity ; he expressed his satisfaction, and represented to the commanding officer, Lieutenant Pelegrini, that as they would in future be of further use, they ought not unnecessarily to expose themselves to the risk of being lost without having a prospect of an equivalent advantage, and that therefore they ought to retreat with the other troops ; this they considered as an advice, not as an order, and therefore continued to fire a number of well-directed shots, till the General gave positive orders to the officer to leave the field, and cover the retreat as much as possible, appointing him at the same time, in the name of Government, Captain of dragoons.

The General, on his way to Rietwalley, was constantly considering what was to be done under these unfortunate circumstances : the small useful remainder of his army could but be very trifling ; the town had almost no other defenders but its own inhabitants ; there was scarcely bread sufficient for two days, and it was impossible to have provided better ; there were also several other wants, and many more might ensue ;—by retreating into the town, all kind of communication with the country would be immediately cut off ;—the enemy might without firing a single shot, have compelled it by hunger, in a few days, to sue for a capitulation, the terms of which, from their enormous

superior force, they might not think proper to accept of; and the capital, protected by miserable works only, would have been attacked, and in the end destroyed, without any use whatever to us, particularly from the sea side; and the General, had he retreated into it, could not have proposed a capitulation without dishonour to himself. It is particularly to be remarked, that the English, neither on their landing, nor on approaching the town, sent any summons to surrender. The proofs of fidelity, vigilance, and attachment, shown by the brave burghers, did not deserve that their property should be unnecessarily destroyed, particularly as the surrender could not be delayed for any length of time; he therefore resolved to retreat towards the hills, in preference to marching into town.

In this situation, Simon's Bay, Muizenberg, and Steenberg (where two companies of Hottentots, and some artillery were detached,) were now no longer of any use to him. He therefore ordered Lieutenant Pfeil to proceed thither with all possible expedition, and to desire Major Horn, who commanded first, to cause the Government ship *Bato* to be burned; the ammunition to be spoiled, and thrown into the sea; the guns to be spiked, and the carriages destroyed; and then to march with the troops under his command to Hottentot's Holland's Kloof, the defence of which pass he would take upon himself: all of which was executed in the most expeditious and satisfactory manner.

At Rietwalley the troops were very judiciously posted by their commanding officers, far from the sea, in order to be without the reach of the fire of the shipping. There the General with great pain saw the remains of the Waldeck regiment, of whom he formerly had so good an opinion, at the same time firmly persuaded that what had happened was without the fault of, and with an inexpressible sorrow

to, Colonel Muller and some of his officers. He however conceived, that in such circumstances he ought not to show any weakness, and therefore ordered that corps, with an indignation denoting what had happened, to march to town immediately, and that the other troops should share the fate of their General.

The riflemen of that battalion, who had been posted at another place, behaved well; the General, therefore, gave every one of them his choice, either to join their battalion, or to stay with him, all of whom begged to stay, and the officers turned out but one man whom they deemed not worthy of that favour.

The position we were now in, could lead to nothing but being surrounded; orders were therefore given to march to Tiger Mountain, to the place called Rooseboom, there to refresh the troops, and procure them some rest.

At eleven o'clock at night, they marched from thence to the Erste river; and in the morning of the 9th of January, at nine o'clock, we formed a position there.

Having examined into the state of the troops, the loss sustained was found as appeared by the annexed lists.

The enemy's loss was considerable; but as this cannot be precisely ascertained, and as we do not wish to state anything in this report without being certain of its accuracy, we prefer being silent on this head.

The French marines (for several reasons wisely alleged by Colonel Gaudin Beauchêne,) could not with any apparent advantage follow the remainder of the army; they were therefore, towards evening, sent to Cape Town, in such a way that they might, by marching round the hills, still be able to get into town, so that in case of necessity they could be employed on the batteries, where they would be of much more service than by carrying muskets.

In the evening, the burghers from the neighbourhood of the town reported that the red flag from the castle (de-

noting martial law) had been struck, and a white one hoisted in its place.

Although the truth of this report could not be ascertained, it however rendered the retreat to the Hottentot's Holland's mountains necessary, and in consequence thereof the baggage was sent on.

It being impossible in the mountains to take care of the wounded, some of them were sent to Stellenbosch, fully relying on the good intentions of the inhabitants, and in full confidence that they had nothing to fear, even if the enemy were to take possession of that village.

In the morning of the 10th, at half past three o'clock, the troops moved on to the foot of Hottentot's Holland's Kloof, where they found Major Horn with the two companies of Hottentots and artillery that had formed the garrison at Simon's Town and Muizenburg; they immediately proceeded to transport through the Kloof every thing that was to go to the other side of the mountains.

The next night, at one o'clock, the report came that the Cape Town had surrendered by capitulation.

On the 11th we remained in the same position, and continued transporting the guns, provisions, and other baggage over the mountains.

On the 12th the following temporary organization of the divisions and companies of the different corps was effected, in consequence of the weakness of their numbers.

Grenadiers; riflemen of the 9th battalion; Waldeck riflemen; Musqueteers of the 22nd battalion; Hottentots; horse artillery; dragoons; artillery.

The quarter-masters were ordered under the commissary of war, and the surgeons and physicians under the director of the hospitals, to be employed as circumstances might require; the auxiliary artillery, and the Java light artillery having their dwellings, wives, children, and other property in Cape Town, were honourably discharged.

In the morning of the 13th, at one o'clock, a detachment for Zwellendam was sent on, under the command of Major Horn, and the men unfit for service were sent to Stellenbosch.

In the course of that day a report came in, that the enemy were marching forwards, and had approached near Stellenbosch; also, a Proclamation from the British Commander; whereupon the General issued a counter proclamation, copies of which were forwarded to the Landdrosts and Heemraaden. The burgher cavalry, commanded by the Captains Wium, Morkel, and Van Reenen, whose dwellings were in those districts already occupied by the enemy, were honourably discharged, and sent back to their homes, together with the under adjutants of the burghers. Their parting was affecting. The burghers shed tears when they took leave of their unfortunate Governor. The guns and baggage being carried over, the small corps d'armée followed at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. At four o'clock in the afternoon a British major, with a flag of truce, arrived at the advanced posts, and delivered to the General, who had proceeded thither accompanied by the director of the hospitals, R. de Klerk Dibbetz, two letters, one from the Commander-in-chief, General Baird, and the other from Brigadier-General Beresford, who commanded a large detachment, and was charged with the execution of the farther operations against us.

The said major was also charged verbally to invite the General to what the said letters contained. The General, without binding himself in any manner, observed, "that he had not been officially informed of any thing that had happened in Cape Town, and that he wished to see one of those who composed the late civil government. The major said, that there would be no difficulty in complying, and asked whom he wished for? The Governor replied, the Colonial Secretary; and it was promised he should be sent

to him. The General had always a correct account of the British force, and the British were equally correctly informed of his situation. The major knew, and mentioned our force, and asked for what length of time the General required suspension of arms; in reply to which was said, no more than would be necessary for him to pass the Kloof, as the English could easily conceive that about five hundred soldiers would not move from out of the mountains, and march through or by Stellenbosch, there to attack a considerable army; an armistice could therefore only be for our benefit, and as such, we did not desire that favour.

On the 14th nothing particular took place, except that Lieutenant La Ruelle, of the 22nd battalion, having got drunk on the advanced post, was dismissed, our circumstances not permitting any judicial form to take place.

The present position of the troops now sufficiently insured them from any attack on that day; the General therefore gave the necessary orders to the officers of the several detachments, for reconnoitring the ground, and taking every circumstance into consideration, to point out the best measures to be adopted for the interest of our unfortunate but beloved republic; and he himself, accompanied by a young officer, ascended the highest mountain, which afforded him the most interesting and extensive view.

Although the General was very well acquainted with the situation of the ground which he occupied, this view presented everything more distinctly to his mind; one thing, however, was certain, that among the enemy's officers some were just as well acquainted with everything as himself.

Desertion, which had already taken place, and everything denoting it, would increase; he made a calculation of what number of troops he could muster, exclusive of the Zwellendam detachment, when he found the number of Europeans (who still diminished every day) to be very