

under Ibrahim Bey, were compelled to retreat into Syria. A party of three hundred French cavalry ventured to attack them at Salahich, but were severely handled by Ibrahim Bey and his followers, who, having cut many of them to pieces, pursued their retreat without farther interruption. Lower Egypt was now completely in the hands of the French, and thus far the expedition of Buonaparte had been perfectly successful. But the sequel will show that even the most fortunate of men cannot always escape reverses, and a severe one now awaited Napoleon.

The order of events has thus brought us to notice one of the most brilliant actions of the English navy,—a conquest achieved by the admiral whose exploits so indisputably asserted the right of Britain to the dominion of the ocean:—a tale at which the hearts of Britons will long continue to glow with honest pride.

When Buonaparte and his army were safely landed in Egypt, policy seemed to demand that the naval squadron by which they had been escorted should have been sent back to France as soon as possible; but why this plan was not adopted has never been satisfactorily explained. Napoleon himself asserted that he positively commanded admiral Brueyes either to carry his squadron into the harbour of Alexandria, or, that being found impracticable, instantly to sail for Corfu. The harbour, according to the reports of the Turkish pilots, was much too shallow to admit without danger vessels of such a depth of water; and it can scarcely be questioned that the admiral would have embraced the alternative of proceeding to Corfu, had such a step been in reality permitted by his orders. But vice-admiral Gantheume, who was himself in the battle of Aboukir, and who with difficulty escaped from the slaughter, and was intrusted by Buonaparte with drawing up the account of the disaster, which he transmitted to the minister of war, gives a different statement; for thus his despatch runs: "Perhaps it may be said that it would have been advisable to have quitted the coast as soon as the disembarkation had taken place. But *considering the orders of the commander-in-chief*, and the incalculable force afforded to the land-army by the presence of the squadron, the admiral thought it his duty not to quit these seas." Unable, therefore, to enter the harbour of Alexandria, the French admiral believed his squadron safely moored in the celebrated bay of Aboukir. There they formed a compact line of battle, of a semicircular form, anchored so close to the shoal water and surf, that it was thought impossible to get between them and the land; and they consequently concluded that they could be brought to action on the starboard side only.

On the 1st of August the British fleet appeared; and Nelson had no sooner reconnoitred the French position than he resolved to force it at every risk. Where the French ships could ride, he argued with instantaneous decision, there must be room for English vessels to anchor between them and the shore. Accordingly, he made signal for the attack. As the vessels approached the French anchorage, they received a heavy and raking fire, to which they could make no return; but they kept their bows to the enemy, and continued to near their line. The squadrons were nearly of the same numerical strength; the French had thirteen ships of the line and four frigates—the English, thirteen ships of the line and one fifty-gun ship. But the French had three eighty-gun ships, besides the L'Orient, a superb vessel of one hundred and twenty guns—all the British were seventy-fours. The van of the English fleet, six in number, rounded successively the French line, and dropping anchor between them and the shore, opened a tremendous fire. Nelson himself, and his other vessels ranged along the same French ships on the outer side, thus placing them between two fires, while the rest of the French line remained for a time unable to take a share in the combat. The battle commenced with the utmost fury, and lasted till the sun having set and the night fallen, there was no light by which the combat could be continued, except the flashes which issued from the continuous broadsides. Already, however, some of the French ships were captured, and the British, advancing onwards, assailed those which had not yet been engaged. In the mean time,

a broad and dreadful light was thrown on the scene of action, by the breaking out of a conflagration on board the L'Orient, the French admiral's flagship. Brueyes himself had by this time fallen by a cannon-shot. The flames soon mastered the immense vessel, when the carnage was so terrible as to prevent every attempt at extinguishing them; and the L'Orient remained blazing like a volcano in the middle of the combat, rendering, for a time, the dreadful spectacle visible. At length, and while the battle continued as furious as ever, the burning vessel blew up with an explosion so tremendous, that for a while it silenced the fire on both sides, and made an awful pause in the midst of what had been but lately so horrible a tumult. The cannonade was at first slowly and partially resumed; but ere midnight it raged with all its original fury. In the morning the only two French ships who had their colours flying cut their cables and put to sea, accompanied by two frigates; being all that remained undestroyed and uncaptured of the gallant navy that so lately escorted Buonaparte and his fortunes in triumph across the Mediterranean.

Such was the victory of Aboukir: the advantages of the day, great as they were, might have been pushed much farther if Nelson had been possessed of frigates and small craft. The storeships and transports in the harbour of Alexandria would then have been infallibly destroyed. As it was, the results were of the utmost importance, and the destinies of the French army became proportionally altered. They had no longer any means of communicating with the mother-country, but became the inhabitants of an insulated province, compelled to rely exclusively on the resources which they had brought with them, joined to those which Egypt might afford. Buonaparte, however surprised at this reverse, is said to have exhibited great composure of mind. Three thousand French seamen, the remainder of nearly six thousand engaged in that dreadful battle, were sent ashore by cartel, and formed a valuable addition to Napoleon's forces. Nelson, more grieved if possible at being frustrated of his complete purpose, than rejoiced at his victory, left the coast after establishing a blockade on the port of Alexandria.

Buonaparte now set himself in good earnest to augment his means of defence, or conquest, and in acquiring the information necessary to protect what he had gained and extend his dominions. He undertook a journey to the isthmus of Suez, the well-known interval which connects Asia with Africa—and visited the celebrated fountains of Moses, where, misled by a guide, he had nearly been drowned in the advancing tides of the Red Sea. This, he observed, would have furnished a text to all the preachers in Europe! While engaged in this expedition, or speedily after his return, he learned that two Turkish armies had assembled, one at Rhodes, and the other in Syria, with the view of recovering Egypt. The daring genius which had always desired to anticipate the attempts of the enemy, determined him to march with a strong force for the occupation of Syria, and thus at once to alarm the Turks by the progress which he expected to make in that province, as well as to avoid being attacked in Egypt by two Turkish armies at the same time. His commencement was as successful as his enterprise was daring. A body of Mamelukes was dispersed by a night attack. The fort of El-Arish, considered as one of the keys of Egypt, fell easily into his hands; and ultimately, at the head of about ten thousand men, he traversed the desert which separates Africa from Asia, and entered Palestine without much loss. While his soldiers looked with fear on the "waste-howling wilderness" which they saw around, there was something in the extent and lowliness of the scene that corresponded with the swelling soul of Napoleon, and accommodated itself to his ideas of immense and boundless space.

When he entered the holy land, Buonaparte was again called to attack a body of Mamelukes whom he defeated, and his army occupied without resistance Gaza, anciently a city of the Philistines, in which they found supplies of provisions. Jaffa, a celebrated city during the crusades, was the next object of attack: it was bravely assaulted and fiercely defended. The French valour and discipline, however, surmounted all obstacles, the place was car-

united themselves to a corps of brave Turks, who defended the breach rather with heavy stones than with other weapons. The heap of ruins which divided the contending parties served as a breastwork to both. The muzzles of the muskets touched each other, and the spearheads of the standards were locked together. At this moment, one of the Turkish regiments of Hassan's army, which had by this time landed, made a sortie upon the French; and though they were driven back, yet the diversion occasioned the besiegers to be forced from their lodgement. Abandoning the ill-omened tower, which had cost the besiegers so many men, Buonaparte now turned his efforts towards a considerable breach that had been effected in the curtain, and which promised a more easy entrance. It proved, indeed, to them but too easy; for Djeddar pacha opposed to the assault on this occasion a new mode of tactics. Confiding in his superior numbers, he suffered the French, who were commanded by the intrepid general Lannes, to surmount the breach without opposition, by which they penetrated into the body of the place. They had no sooner entered, however, than a numerous body of Turks mingled among them with loud shouts, and ere they had time or room to avail themselves of their discipline, brought them into that state of close fighting, where strength and agility are superior to every other acquirement. The Turks, wielding the sabre in one hand and the poniard in the other, cut to pieces almost all the Frenchmen who had entered. General Rambaud lay a headless corpse in the breach. Lannes was with difficulty brought off severely wounded. The Turks gave no quarter; and instantly cutting off the heads of those whom they slew, they carried them to Djeddar, who sat in public distributing money to those who brought him the bloody trophies which now lay piled in heaps around him. This was the sixth assault upon these tottering and blood-stained ramparts. "Victory," said Napoleon, "is to the most persevering;" and, contrary to the advice of Kleber, he resolved upon another and yet more desperate attack.

This last and final effort was made on the 21st of May, 1799. The attack in the morning failed, and colonel Veneux renewed it at midday. "Be assured," said he to Buonaparte, "Acre shall be yours to night, or Veneux will die on the breach." He kept his word, but it was at the expense of his life! Bon was also slain, whose division had been the executioners of the garrison of Jaffa. The French now retreated, dispirited, and despairing of success. The contest had been carried on at half a musket-shot distance; the bodies of the dead lying around, putrefied under the burning sun, and spreading disease among the survivors. An attempt was made to establish a suspension of arms, for removing this horrible annoyance. Miot says, that the pacha returned no answer to the proposal of the French; but sir Sidney Smith stated in his official report, that the armistice for this humane purpose was actually agreed upon, but broken off by the French firing upon those who were engaged in the melancholy office, and then rushing on to make their last unsuccessful charge upon the breach.

The siege of Acre had now continued sixty days from the time of the opening of the trenches. The besiegers had marched no less than eight times to the assault, while eleven desperate sallies were evidence of the obstinacy of the defence. Several of the best French generals were killed; among the rest Caffarelli, an officer for whom Napoleon had a particular esteem; and the army was greatly reduced by the sword and pestilence which raged at once among their devoted bands. Retreat, therefore, became inevitable; yet Buonaparte endeavoured to gloss it over so as to make the measure seem on his part voluntary. At one time he would announce that his object in going to Acre was sufficiently accomplished when he had battered down the palace of the pacha; at other times he affirmed, that he had left the whole town a heap of ruins; and finally, he informed the directory that he could easily have taken the place, but that the plague raging within its walls, and it being impossible to prevent the troops from seizing on infected clothes for the sake of booty, he had declined the capture of Acre, rather than run the risk of introducing this horrid malady among his soldiers! What his

real feelings must have been, while covering his chagrin with such flimsy pretexts, may be conjectured from the following frank avowal to his attendants at Saint Helena. Speaking of the dependence of the most important affairs on the most trivial incidents, he remarked, that the mistake of a captain of a frigate, who bore away instead of forcing his passage to the place of his destination, had prevented the face of the world from being totally changed. "Acre," he said, "would otherwise have been taken; the French army would have flown to Damascus and Aleppo; in the twinkling of an eye they would have been on the Euphrates; the Syrian Christians would have joined us—the Druses, the Arminians, would have united with us." Some one replied, "We might have been reinforced to the number of a hundred thousand men."—"Say six hundred thousand," said Napoleon; "who can calculate the amount? I would have reached Constantinople and the Indies—I would have changed the face of the world."

The siege of Acre being raised, the French army retreated to Jaffa, where their military hospitals had been established during the siege. On the 27th of May, leaving Jaffa, Buonaparte was under the necessity of continuing his retreat, and in the mean time such of the patients as were convalescent were sent forward on the road to Egypt, under the necessary precautions for their safety. There remained about twenty or thirty whose condition was desperate; their disease was the plague, and to carry them onward seemed to threaten the army with infection; while to leave them behind was abandoning them to the cruelty of the Turks, by whom all stragglers and prisoners were cruelly murdered, often with protracted torture. It was on this occasion that Buonaparte submitted to Desgenettes, chief of the medical staff, the propriety of ending the misery of these poor fellows by a dose of opium! The physician answered, with the heroism belonging to his profession, that "his art taught him how to cure men, not to kill them." The report, however, was current in the French army, that this tragical experiment had been carried into effect upon several hundred men—but there are good grounds for discrediting it *in toto*, however consonant to Napoleon's creed.

Buonaparte continued his retreat from Syria, annoyed by the natives, who harassed his march, and on whom he retaliated the injuries he received, by plundering and burning the villages which lay in the course of his march. On the 14th of June he re-entered Cairo, with a reputation not so much increased by the victory at Mount Tabor, as diminished and sullied for the time by the retreat from Acre. However, it now became a subject of momentous inquiry to him, what course he should pursue for the future. All his splendid visions of eastern glory and universal dominion had vanished before Acre; the victory of the Nile had cut off the possibility of the return of his army to Europe, except as prisoners of war: and though he himself might fortunately escape the English cruisers, there were obvious objections to the attempt being made under existing circumstances. It would not do to return to France under the humiliating recollection of the defeat which he had met with at Acre; at any rate, it became desirable by some grand military movement to efface, as far as possible, the strength of these impressions. He therefore continued in Egypt from the middle of June to the middle of August, no doubt deeply pondering on his fate. During the period of his expedition into Syria, Egypt had remained generally tranquil, and seemed entirely at the command of the French. Dessaix, whom Napoleon had left in charge of the conquered country, had been engaged in several skirmishes, with detached parties of the Mamelukes, and particularly with Murad Bey, one of their ablest chiefs; but he had been uniformly successful, and had ultimately compelled them, with their allies the Arabs, to take shelter in the desert. But in the course of three or four weeks after Buonaparte's return from Syria this flattering state of tranquillity seemed on the point of being disturbed. Murad Bey, re-entering Upper Egypt with his Mamelukes and allies, descended the Nile in two bodies, one occupying each bank of the river. Ibrahim Bey, formerly his partner in the government, made a corresponding movement towards the frontiers of Syria, as if to communicate with the right-hand

division of Murad's army. La Grange was despatched against those who under the bey himself, were descending the Nile. The French amused themselves with the idea of the two Murats, as they termed them from the similarity of their names, meeting and encountering each other; but the Mameluke Murad retreated before *le beau sabreur*, the handsome swordsman of the French army.

The cause of this incursion was now sufficiently developed by the appearance of a Turkish fleet off Alexandria, from which eighteen thousand men were disembarked at Aboukir. This Turkish army possessed themselves of the fort, and proceeded to fortify themselves, expecting the arrival of the Mamelukes, according to a plan which had been previously concerted for expelling the French from Egypt. This news reached Buonaparte while near the pyramids, to which he had advanced, in order to ensure the destruction of Murad Bey. The arrival of the Turks instantly recalled him to Alexandria, whence he marched to Aboukir to repel the invaders. He joined his army, which had assembled from all points, within a short distance of the Turkish camp, and was employed late in the night making preparations for the battle on the following morning. Murat was alone with Buonaparte, when the latter suddenly made the oracular declaration,—“Go how it will, this battle will decide the fate of the world.”—“The fate of this army, at least,” replied Murat, who seems not to have taken in the full import of Napoleon's secret meaning.—Murat added, “But the Turks are without horse, and if ever infantry was charged to the teeth by cavalry, they shall be so charged to-morrow by mine.” Buonaparte's meaning, however, referred not to Egypt only, but to Europe, whither, in all probability, he now meditated an unexpected return, which must have been prevented had he not succeeded in obtaining a most decisive victory over the Turks.

On the morning of the 25th of July, Buonaparte commenced an attack on the advanced posts of the enemy, and succeeded in driving them in upon the main body, which was commanded by Seid Mustapha Pacha. In their first attack the French were eminently successful, and pursued the fugitive Turks to their intrenchments, doing great execution. But when the batteries opened upon them from the trenches, while they were exposed at the same time to the fire from the gun-boats in the bay, their impetuosity was checked, and the Turks, sallying out upon them with their muskets slung at their backs, made such havoc among the French with their sabres, poniards, and pistols, as compelled them to retreat in their turn. The advantage, however, was lost by the eagerness of the Turks to possess themselves of the heads of their fallen enemies, for which they received a certain reward. To obtain these bloody testimonials, they threw themselves confusedly out of the intrenchments and were in considerable disorder, of which the French troops availed themselves, suddenly rallied, charged them with great fury, drove them back into the works, and scaled the ramparts along with them. Murat had made good his promise of the preceding evening, and had been constantly in the front of the battle. When the French had surmounted the intrenchments, he formed a column which reversed the position of the Turks, and pressing them with the bayonet, threw them into utter and inextricable confusion. Fired upon and attacked on every point, they became, instead of an army, a confused rabble, who, in the impetuosity of terror, threw themselves by hundreds and thousands into the sea, which at once seemed covered with turbans. It was no longer a battle but a massacre; and it was only when wearied with slaughter that quarter was given to about six thousand men—the remainder of the Turkish army, originally consisting of eighteen thousand; all the rest perished on the field or in the waves. Buonaparte returned in triumph to Cairo, on the 9th of August, having previously set on foot a negotiation for the liberation of the Turkish prisoners. This splendid and most decisive victory concluded Napoleon's career in the East. It was imperiously necessary, ere he could have ventured to quit the command of the army, with the hope of preserving his credit with the public; and it enabled him to plead that he left Egypt for the time in perfect security.

While these events were transacting in Africa, a sad reverse of fortune was taking place in regard to French affairs, on the continent of Europe. A file of English newspapers, sent him by sir Sidney Smith, in the way of taunt, is said to have been the means of apprizing Napoleon of the confusions which distracted the French councils at home, and of the successes of the Russians in Italy, under the command of marshal Suwarrow; and he lost no time in acting upon it. Despairing of being able to realize in the East the visions of glory which haunted his imagination, he turned his attention towards Europe, as now offering a more promising field for his own ambitious views, and the advancement of his interests; and he at once determined to try his fortune at Paris. With all the secrecy which such a step required, he ordered admiral Gantheaume, who had been with the army ever since the destruction of the fleet, to make ready for sea with all possible expedition, two frigates, then lying in the harbour of Alexandria; and selecting, of military chiefs, Berthier, Murat, Lannes, Marmont, Dessaix, Andreossy, and Bessieres, the best and most attached of his staff officers, to accompany him, he committed the command of the army to Kleber and Menou. As soon as he heard the frigates were ready for sea, he left Cairo, making a visit to the Delta the pretext of his tour, and on the 23d of August he embarked from an unfrequented part of the beach, leaving behind him a proclamation, apprizing the army that news of importance from France had recalled him to Europe, but promising that they should soon hear tidings of him. After a perilous and tedious voyage, during which he was repeatedly in danger of being captured by the English cruisers, on the 9th of October he was safely landed at St. Rapheau, near Frejus. He had departed from Europe at the head of a powerful fleet and a victorious army, on an expedition designed to alter the destinies of the most ancient nations of the world. The result had been far from commensurate to the means employed or the expectations formed. The fleet had perished—the army was blockaded in a distant province, at a time when their arms were more necessary at home; and the conqueror of Italy returned from his eastern expedition clandestinely and almost alone. Yet Providence designed that in this apparently deserted condition he should be the instrument of more extensive and more astonishing changes than the efforts of the greatest conquerors had ever before been able to effect upon the civilized world.

I shall close the present letter with a rapid sketch of the affairs of our own country at this fearful juncture.

The British ministry, now fully aware of the designs of France upon the sister kingdom, which were obviously that of promoting a separation between England and Ireland, determined to frustrate it; and with that view a plan was submitted to parliament, for uniting the two islands into one kingdom, under the name of “The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.” During the month of January, 1799, Mr. Pitt, in his place, brought forward the subject, and it was speedily carried into effect. The particular enactments of the union were, that the succession to the crown should be limited and settled as heretofore—that the United Kingdom should be represented by one common parliament, in which a number of lords and commons, should have a seat on the part of Ireland—that the churches of England and Ireland be preserved as then by law established—that the king's subjects of Ireland be entitled to the same privileges, in point of trade and navigation, with those of Great Britain—that the charge for the payment of the interest of the debt of each kingdom incurred previous to the union, should continue to be a distinct concern and defrayed by each country separately; but that the future ordinary expenses of the United Kingdom should be defrayed by them jointly, according to proportions, to be established by the parliament of each kingdom, as agreed upon previous to the union—that all laws in force at the time of the union, and all the courts civil and ecclesiastical in each kingdom, should remain as heretofore, subject only to such alterations as from circumstances may seem requisite to the united parliament. Such was the basis of the union then carried into effect between the two countries.

The military affairs of the continent of Europe during this year, 1792, were

thought sufficiently interesting to encourage an effort on the part of England for recovering Holland from the grasp of French fraternization. A plan was accordingly concerted between the courts of Great Britain and St. Petersburg for a joint expedition to the Dutch coast, in the hope that they would be received by the people as their deliverers from a galling servitude. A body of troops was collected, early in August, on the coast of Kent, and on the 13th of that month, sir Ralph Abercrombie, who was intrusted with the command, set sail with admiral Mitchell, and joined the fleet of lord Duncan in the north seas. After encountering some very unfavourable weather, they came to anchor off the Helder, a point which commands the entrance to the Zuyder Zee, where on the 27th the troops were disembarked. The fort of the Helder being abandoned by its garrison, was taken possession of and strengthened, and the island of the Texel was occupied by the fleet. On the 30th admiral Mitchell summoned the Dutch fleet to surrender, and to hoist the Orange flag, which was complied with without a shot being fired. The number of ships were eight of the line, three of fifty-four guns, eight of forty-four, seven of inferior rates, and four Indiamen. The French and Batavian troops under general Bruno, amounting to twenty-five thousand men, occupied a position between the Helder and Alkmaar, and on the 10th of September they made an attack on the British forces, but were repulsed with considerable loss.

His royal highness the duke of York landed in Holland on the 13th of September to take the chief command of the army, which when joined by all its reinforcements now consisted of about thirty-five thousand men, of whom seventeen thousand were Russians. On the 19th, a general attack being determined on, the army advanced in four columns through a tract of country intersected with ditches, and forced their way with great gallantry; but the Russian column being, through their own impetuosity, thrown into disorder, they were repulsed with great loss, and their generals d'Herman and Tchotchokoff were made prisoners, the latter being dangerously wounded. The English lost in this action near two thousand men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and the Russians between three and four thousand; but the loss of the French and Dutch was still more considerable; upwards of three thousand of them, with sixty officers, being made prisoners. The British army also destroyed sixteen pieces of cannon and large supplies of ammunition, which the peculiar state of the country prevented them from carrying away.

Reinforcements having arrived from England, the army renewed its attack on the 2d of October, and after a warm action of a whole day, the French were again defeated with great loss, and the duke of York took possession of Alkmaar, obliging the French army to take up a new position near Berwyck, almost at the extremity of North Holland. An attempt made on the 6th to force this position proved unsuccessful; and the French having received a reinforcement of six thousand men, and occupying a strongly fortified post, which it was necessary to dislodge them from before the army could advance; the state of the weather, the season of the year, the badness of the roads, and the consequent want of necessary supplies, presented insurmountable obstacles to the farther success of the expedition, and it was resolved to persist no longer in fruitless efforts. The consequence was, that a suspension of arms was agreed upon by the respective commanders, the conditions of which were, that all prisoners should be given up on either side; and that, as the price of permitting the British to embark without molestation, eight thousand seamen, Dutch or French prisoners in England, should be liberated. The army was to evacuate Holland before the close of November, which in fact was done without delay. The Russians were landed and quartered in the islands of Guernsey and Jersey; and thus terminated an expedition prepared at a vast expense, and of which the most sanguine expectations had been formed; but which cost the English and Russian armies little short of thirteen thousand men. The principal advantage that resulted from it to Great Britain was the capture of the Dutch fleet, an event which nearly annihilated the naval power of Holland.

In the month of August, 1800, a British fleet under the command of sir John Borlase Warren sailed on a secret expedition, having on board a land force under the command of sir James Pulteney. Having looked into Belleisle, which was found to be defended by works the strength of which discouraged any attempt upon it, the armament proceeded to the coast of Spain, and on the 25th of the month arrived before the fort of Ferrol. The troops landed without opposition, and marched to the heights overlooking the harbour, where they had a successful skirmish with the Spaniards. But a survey of the place from that eminence, and the report of the prisoners whom they had made, convinced the commander that an attempt to carry it would be attended with more hazard than hope of success: he therefore re-embarked his troops, and returned home. Thus terminated an expedition which afforded little satisfaction to the public.

The different nations now began to sigh for peace; and during some of the autumnal months of the year 1800, it was notified to the French government by the Austrian ambassador, that the British minister resident at Vienna had expressed the wish of his court to be included in a negotiation for peace which was then carrying on between the emperor and the French republic. In consequence of this communication, M. Otto, the French commissioner for prisoners in England, was authorized to demand an explanation of the proposals of the British cabinet, and to request that a truce might be concluded between the forces of the two countries by sea and land. The English ministry declared their readiness to send a plenipotentiary to any place that might be appointed, but objected to an armistice respecting naval operations. This topic became a subject of much discussion between M. Otto and lord Grenville, and various schemes were brought forward by each party, which were as constantly objected to by the other. At length, in the month of October, it was signified by M. Otto, that events having occurred which entirely changed the ground of the proposed truce, the negotiation was at an end; but that the first consul was ready to receive any overtures for a separate peace with Great Britain. This, however, was decidedly objected to by the English ministry.

Peace being now restored on the continent of Europe, the most important point that remained to be settled in its political state related to the maritime confederacy of the northern powers, the direct object of which was to annul the marine code maintained by England, and by which she arrogated a kind of naval dominion. This confederacy, openly declared at the close of the last year, now occupied the fixed attention of the British ministry; and on the 14th of January, 1801, an embargo was laid on all the ships in the British ports, belonging to any of the confederate powers, Prussia excepted, and letters-of-marque were issued for the seizure of their vessels at sea. A note was at the same time delivered to the Danish and Swedish ambassadors, explaining the reason of this procedure, and endeavouring to bring back these courts to their former amicable relations. In the answer returned to these official notes, the courts of Denmark and Sweden expressed a resolution to persevere in their determination to liberate neutral commerce, and they retaliated by an embargo on all English shipping in their ports.

With Prussia, a negotiation was carried on for some time by the British ministry, in the hope of prevailing on her to abandon the coalition, an adherence to which it was foreseen would endanger the king's German dominions; but it proved unsuccessful. On the 30th of March, the king of Prussia notified to the electoral college of Hanover, his intention not only to shut the mouths of the Elbe, the Weser, and the Ems, but also to take possession of the states belonging to the king of England in Germany, at the same time demanding the disarming of the Hanoverian troops—a requisition with which the regency of Hanover found it expedient to comply. The Prussian troops then entered the Hanoverian territory, and an embargo was laid on the English shipping, but those that were laden with corn were allowed to put to sea. About the same time a body of Danish troops took possession of Ham-
burgh, for the alleged purpose of stopping the British trade of that port.

This bold measure on the part of Prussia brought the matter in dispute to

ried by storm; three thousand Turks were put to the sword, and the town was abandoned to the license of the soldiery, which, Buonaparte himself admitted, never assumed a shape more frightful! It was not, however, to the ordinary horrors attending the storming of a town that the charge against Napoleon is on this occasion limited. He is accused of having been guilty of an action of great injustice and horrid barbarity; and, what is still worse, he admitted the fact and justified the charge. The case, when stripped of colouring and exaggeration, stands as follows.

After the breach had been stormed, a large part of the garrison of Jaffa, estimated by Buonaparte himself at twelve hundred men, remained on the defensive, and held out in the mosques, and a sort of citadel to which they had retreated, till at length, despairing of succour, they surrendered their arms, and were apparently admitted to quarter. Of this body, such as were Egyptians were carefully separated from the Turks, Maugrabians, and Arnauts; and while the first were restored to liberty, and sent back to their country, these last were placed under a strong guard. Provisions were distributed to them, and they were permitted to go by detachments in quest of water. This happened on the 7th of March, when, according to all appearance, they were treated as prisoners of war. Two days afterward, this body of prisoners were marched out of Jaffa in the centre of a large square battalion, commanded by general Bon. Miot, who wrote the history of the expedition to Egypt, assures us that he himself mounted his horse, accompanied the melancholy column, and witnessed the event. The Turks foresaw their fate, but used neither entreaties nor complaints to avert it; they marched on silent and composed. Having been escorted to the sand-hills on the south-east of Jaffa, they were divided into small bodies and shot. The execution lasted a considerable time, and the wounded were despatched with the bayonet. Their bodies were heaped together, and formed a pyramid which is said to be still visible; but the mangled corpses are now converted into a heap of human bones.

Determined to prosecute the conquest of Syria, Buonaparte now resolved to advance to Saint Jean d'Acre, so renowned in the wars of Palestine. The Turkish pacha, or governor of Syria, at this time, was Achmet, who, by his unrelenting cruelties and executions, had procured for himself the terrible distinction of Djezzar, or the Butcher. Buonaparte addressed this formidable chief in two letters, offering his alliance, and threatening vengeance should his proffer be rejected; but to neither did the pacha return any answer; in the second instance he put the messenger to death. The French general advanced against Acre, vowing revenge; but there were obstacles to the success of his enterprise on which he had not calculated. The pacha had communicated information of the approach of Napoleon to sir Sidney Smith, to whom had been committed the charge of assisting the Turks, and who for that purpose was cruising in the Levant. He hastened to sail for Acre with the *Tigre* and *Theseus*, two ships of the line; and arriving there two days before the French made their appearance, contributed greatly to place the town in a respectable state of defence.

Sir Sidney Smith, who so highly distinguished himself on this occasion, had been long celebrated for his enterprising spirit and intrepid courage. Scarcely had he arrived at Acre, when the *Theseus*, which had been detached to intercept any French vessels that might be attending on Buonaparte's march, descried a small flotilla stealing along under Mount Carmel, and he had the good fortune to capture seven out of nine of them. They proved to be a convoy from Damietta, bound for Acre, having on board heavy cannon, platforms, ammunition, and other necessary articles. These cannon and military stores, designed to form the siege of Acre, now became eminently useful in its defence, and the result of their capture was eventually decisive of the struggle. General Philippeaux, a French royalist, an officer of engineers, immediately applied himself to place the cannon thus acquired, amounting to between thirty and forty pieces, upon the walls which they had been intended to destroy. On the 17th of March, the French came in sight of

Acre, and immediately commenced their operations. They proceeded to open trenches, although the guns which they had to place on them were only twelve-pounders. The point of attack was a large tower, which predominated over the rest of the fortifications.

On the 28th of March, a breach was effected, and a mine that had been run under the extreme defences, was sprung, and on that day the French proceeded to the assault. They advanced at the charging step, under a murderous fire from the walls, but had the mortification to find a deep ditch between them and the tower. They nevertheless crossed it by means of the scaling ladders which they carried with them, and forced their way as far as the tower, from which, it is said, the defenders, terrified by the fate of Jaffa, were beginning to fly. But they were checked by the interference of Djezzar himself, who fired his own pistols at the French, and upbraided the moslems who were retreating from the walls. The defences were again manned; the French, unable to support the renewed fire, were checked and forced back, and the Turks falling upon them in their retreat, with sabre in hand, put to death a number of their best men, among whom was Mailly, the commander of the detachment. Sorties were made from the place to destroy the French works. While the contest was thus fiercely maintained on both sides, the besiegers were threatened with other dangers. An army of moslems of various nations, all actuated by the same religious zeal, had formed themselves in the mountains of Samaria, and uniting with them the warlike inhabitants of the country, now called Naplous, determined on the plan of attacking the French army lying before Acre on one side, while Djezzar and his allies should assail them on the other. Kleber, with his division, was despatched by Buonaparte to disperse this assemblage. But though he obtained considerable advantages over detached parties of the Syrian army, their strength was so disproportioned, that in a little time, while maintaining a position near Mount Tabor, with two or three thousand men, he was surrounded by ten times his own number. Buonaparte was therefore compelled to hasten to his assistance; and leaving two divisions to keep the trenches before Acre, he penetrated into the country in three columns. The attack, made on various points was every where successful: the camp of the Syrian army was taken; and their defeat, almost their dispersion, was accomplished, while their scattered remains fled to Damascus. Buonaparte now returned, crowned with laurels, to the siege of Acre.

The arrival of thirty pieces of cannon from Jaffa, now seemed to promise that success to the French which hitherto had been denied them. It was about this time that, walking on the mount which still retains the name of Richard Cœur de Lion, Napoleon thus addressed himself to Murat, as he pointed to Saint Jean d'Acre: "The fate of the East depends upon yonder petty town. Its conquest will ensure the main object of my expedition, and Damascus will be the first-fruit of it." Repeated and desperate assaults, indeed, proved that the consequence which he attached to the taking of Acre was as great as his words expressed. The assailants suffered severely on these occasions, for they were exposed to the fire of two ravelins, or external fortifications, constructed under Philippeaux's directions, and at the same time enfiladed by the fire of the British shipping. At length, employing all the power of their heavy artillery, Buonaparte, in spite of a bloody and obstinate opposition, forced his way to the disputed tower, and made a lodgement on the second story. It however afforded no access to the town; and the troops remained there as in a *cul-de-sac*, the lodgement being covered from the English and Turkish fire by a screen constructed partly of packs of cotton, partly of the dead bodies of the slain, built up along with them.

At this critical moment, a fleet, bearing reinforcements long hoped-for and much needed, appeared in view of the garrison. It consisted of Turkish troops under the command of Hassan Bey. Yet near as they were, the danger was imminent that Acre might be taken ere they could land. To prevent such a misfortune, sir Sidney Smith in person proceeded to the disputed tower, at the head of a body of British seamen armed with pikes. They