

expired. Thus fell the hero of the Nile, of Copenhagen, and of Trafalgar, after a victory which utterly blasted the hopes of Napoleon for the subjugation and ruin of England. His contemporaries mourn his loss; posterity will revere his talents and courage; the pages of history will record his fame and immortalize his name, while his example will long be held up to the imitation of future commanders. The mortal remains of the British admiral were conveyed to England, and interred with the highest public honours. Having left no son, the title of earl Nelson, with a permanent revenue annexed, was, by an act of national and enthusiastic gratitude, conferred upon his brother, a private clergyman, all parties on this occasion vying in their expressions of grief and admiration.

In consequence of the death of lord Nelson, admiral Collingwood succeeded to the command of the fleet, and completed the victory. In clearing the ships of prisoners, however, he found such a number of wounded, that, in order to alleviate as much as possible this scene of human misery, he transmitted to the marquis de Solana, governor-general of Andalusia, a proposal, offering to commit the wounded to the care of their country; the officers to be liberated on their parole, and the privates on receipts being given that they should not serve by sea or land till regularly exchanged. This proposal was embraced with avidity, not only by the governor, but by the whole country, which resounded with expressions of applause and gratitude. The Spanish governor, in return for this trait of British generosity, delivered up the English who had been wrecked on board several of the ships, and made an offer of the hospitals to the wounded on board the fleet, pledging the honour of the Spanish nation for their good treatment.

On the news of this important victory, one general sentiment seemed to pervade the whole nation. The munificence of the country was lavished on the family; and his companions in arms, the partners of his dangers and his triumphs, shared also the tokens of national gratitude. Admiral Collingwood was raised to the peerage with a pension of two thousand pounds per annum. The earl of Northesk was honoured with the order of the Bath, and a pension. A liberal subscription was set on foot for the relief of those who suffered in the cause of their country; and hundreds of thousands of pounds were readily and cheerfully raised for the relief of the officers, seamen, and marines who were wounded, and the widows, orphans, and relatives of such as were killed in this memorable action.

Since the return of Mr. Pitt to office, scarcely any thing had occurred, the great victory of Trafalgar excepted, but disaster and disappointment. The total failure of the continental coalition greatly augmented the gloom and disquietude which had begun to prevail in England, in consequence of the alarming illness of Mr. Pitt. At the close of the former session of parliament, this distinguished statesman had been compelled, by the decline of a constitution originally delicate, to relinquish all active share in public business, and retire to Bath; from whence he returned in the commencement of the year, in a state of debility and exhaustion, no doubt augmented by anxiety and disappointment. It has been supposed, that the fatal intelligence of the battle of Austerlitz produced an agitation of spirits which powerfully increased his disorder; for on return to his villa at Putney, near London, he breathed his last on the 23d of January, 1806, in the 47th year of his age, having directed the affairs of his country for a longer period than any other minister.

Under his auspices the maritime supremacy of England was confirmed by a series of most splendid victories; her colonial acquisitions were greatly extended; but her public burdens were also enormously augmented. He laboured successfully to preserve his country from the contagion of the revolutionary principles that desolated France; and exerted himself with equal zeal, but with less success, in resisting the military despotism by which that power threatened to subjugate the continent. As a financier, he displayed great ability in the accumulation of public resources; but it may be fairly questioned, whether he displayed equal political wisdom in the distribution of them. In forming continental alliances, he relied too implicitly on the

influence of money for ensuring to Great Britain that ascendancy in foreign courts, to which, by her generous aid, she was entitled. His character has been portrayed in very different colours, and exhibited in very different points of view, by those who condemn and those who approve the principles on which he acted.

Those who considered the revolutionary war as unnecessary, regarded him as one of the principal authors of the tremendous evils which that contest brought upon Europe. While others, reflecting on the extensive spread, and dangerous tendency of the principles of the French revolution, and on the extreme hazard to which Great Britain was exposed, by standing an indifferent spectator till France had subdued the continent, and increased her marine in proportion to her military strength, regard him as the saviour of his country. Every impartial person, indeed, must confess, that Mr. Pitt stood in a situation wholly unprecedented, and difficult beyond example—a situation in which he could derive no information from the measures of preceding ministers, or the policy of former times. The grand question which presented itself to his consideration was of a nature entirely new. History furnished no facts that could serve as a guide to his conduct: in an unexplored path he seems to have taken the surest direction. By the measures adopted, his country was saved; by pursuing a different course, the result might have been otherwise. The consequences of these measures are visible in all their extent: those arising from an opposite system of politics, however brilliant the colours in which imagination may paint them, are wholly theoretic, and not having been verified by experiment, they are merely speculative.

The unprejudiced historian will not deny to Mr. Pitt the praise of being a man of firm purpose, of honourable pride, and of disinterested principle. Ambition is universally allowed to have been a prominent trait in his character; but it was the ambition of a great mind. His political views were grand and extensive: but it must be confessed that his most favourite plans proved unsuccessful; and his most promising scheme, the last continental coalition, contributed only to the gigantic power and prodigious aggrandizement of France. The failure, however, is not to be ascribed to the plan, but to the mistakes in the execution, which it was not in his power either to prevent or to rectify. Subsequent events have afforded proof, that he had made a just estimate of the effects which the union of all the powers of Europe, acting in perfect concert, might be able to produce. But he was not permitted to witness the justness of his calculations, and the fulfilment of his wishes.

Disinterestedness in regard to pecuniary matters was one of his distinguishing characteristics. In this respect to his memory might be justly applied the motto, "*non sibi sed patrie vixit.*" After an administration of two-and-twenty years, he was so far from having enriched himself, that he left behind him very considerable debts, which he was unable to liquidate.—Whatever errors his opponents might discover, or fancy they discovered, in his political views, he was certainly a great man. On the public theatre of the world he long acted a very conspicuous part. As a statesman, his name will be celebrated in the annals of Europe, and his conduct will long be the theme of both censure and applause. As an orator, he stands almost unrivalled: he was the Tully of Britain, and the glory of her senate. His country showed its respect for his memory by taking on itself the payment of his debts: and an address to the king was presented by parliament, praying his majesty to direct that the remains of the minister should be interred at the public expense, and that a monument should be erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey.