

dition against Denmark was, it served as an ostensible pretext to Russia for commencing hostilities against England. On the 31st of October, the emperor Alexander issued a declaration, in which he accused the British government of rejecting his mediation for peace; of not co-operating with the allies against France during the war; of sending troops against Buenos Ayres and Alexandria, instead of making a diversion in Italy, or some other part of the European continent; and particularly inveighed against the conduct of England in attacking Denmark, and troubling the commerce of Russia. In consequence of these causes of complaint, his imperial majesty declared that all friendly intercourse was broken off between Russia and Great Britain, and an imperial ukase was immediately published, ordering the detention of all British ships and property. The first care of the court of St. Petersburg was to put the fort of Cronstadt in the most formidable state of defence; but the war between Russia and England proceeded little farther than to an interruption of commercial intercourse.

The system adopted by the belligerent powers was indeed particularly harassing to the mercantile interest in every quarter. In a former letter, I mentioned to you the decree which the French emperor issued from Berlin, declaring the British islands in a state of blockade. He shut the ports of the countries subject to his tyrannical influence against all vessels that had cleared out from British ports, and subjected to confiscation all neutral vessels that had cargoes of British produce or manufacture. In support of this regulation he decreed that neutral vessels coming into any port of his dominions should bring with them a certificate of origin, under the signature of the French consul at the port where they cleared out, attesting that no part of their cargo consisted of British manufacture or produce, and that all vessels met at sea without such a certificate should be liable to seizure. In January, 1807, the British government opposed to the commercial restrictions of France, a measure which interdicted the coasting trade of the enemy to neutrals, by issuing an order subjecting to seizure all vessels of whatever nation, trading from one hostile port to another with hostile property. This, however, was not deemed an adequate retaliation; and in the month of November, the famous orders in council were issued, declaring France in a state of blockade, with all the countries under her immediate power and influence; and subjecting to seizure all vessels whatever that should attempt to trade between neutral and hostile ports, or that should have on board any such certificate as was required by the Berlin decree. By these orders, neutral vessels destined for a hostile port were directed first to touch at some port of Great Britain, from whence, after the payment of certain duties, they might be allowed to proceed; and when clearing out with a cargo from any hostile port they were required to come to Great Britain. These restrictive regulations instituted by France and England, proved extremely incommo- dious to the Americans, who were now become the general carriers of Europe, especially of colonial produce.⁽¹⁾ The congress of the United States retaliated by an embargo in all their ports; and notwithstanding the consequent annihilation of their commerce, they persisted in this measure. The British government sent out Mr. Rose for the purpose of restoring the relations of amity between the two countries; but he returned without effecting the object of his mission. The embargo was continued by the Americans throughout the whole of the year 1808, though not without great dissatisfaction, especially in the northern states. At the meeting of congress in November, the president, in a message, acquainted them with the failure of his negotiations with the French and English courts to obtain a revocation of their measures, which were so injurious to neutral commerce. With respect to England, he said that an offer was made to take off the embargo, as far as concerned the trade of Great Britain, on condition of the repeal of the orders in council, but that the offer was not accepted.⁽²⁾

(1) There were two other causes of complaint against Great Britain, which have been overlooked—namely her claim to "the right of search," and her denial of the right of *expatriation*.—AM. ED.
(2) London Gazette. Annual Register, 1806—1808. Aikin's Annals of the Reign of George III.

LETTER VI.

History of the Affairs of Spain and Portugal, 1807—1809—Departure of the Braganza Family for the Brazils—Invasion of Spain and Portugal by the Armies of France—Perturbed State of Madrid—Perfidious Conduct of Napoleon—Charles IV. abdicates the Throne—Resistance of the Spanish Patriots—Joseph Buonaparte takes Possession of the Crown of Spain—Peninsular War, first Campaign—Battle of Vimeira—Convention of Cintra—Retreat of the British Army in Spain, under Sir John Moore—Battle of Corunna—Death of Sir John Moore, 16th of January, 1809.

IN prosecuting the narrative of this extraordinary period of the affairs of Europe, I must now, my dear Philip, direct your attention for some considerable time to a part of the continent which has hitherto occupied, comparatively, but a slight portion of your regard. I mean the European peninsula, comprising the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, which were destined to become, during the space of several years, the theatre of war and bloodshed, until liberated from the hostile troops of France, by the superior skill and bravery of the armies of Britain.

The peace of Tilsit having freed the French emperor from all apprehensions in the north, he was left at leisure to pursue his schemes of rapacity and aggrandizement in the south; and the autumn of the year 1807 presented a new and interesting spectacle in modern history—the voluntary migration of a European court into the southern hemisphere. Portugal had long been the faithful ally of Great Britain, and both countries found their interest in the connexion. The former received political support and protection; the latter enjoyed a lucrative commerce. England was the basis on which the independence of Portugal rested; and Lisbon and Oporto were sources whence London derived no inconsiderable portion of its opulence. But the disastrous circumstances of Europe interrupted this enjoyment of reciprocal advantages. The hatred and jealousy of the emperor of France prompted him to threaten the invasion of Portugal with his troops of marauders, and intimidated the court of Lisbon into a compliance with his requisitions, to shut the ports of that kingdom against the ships and commerce of Great Britain, to which effect a decree was issued at Lisbon, on the 22d of October, 1807.

In consequence of this measure being adopted, his Britannic majesty though he had generously resolved not to resent those acts of unwilling hostility to which the consent of the prince-regent of Portugal had been extorted, nevertheless deemed it expedient to send a squadron to the mouth of the Tagus, to act as future circumstances might render necessary. But the exclusion of British commerce from the Portuguese ports did not satisfy the tyrant of the continent; and the appearance of a French army on the frontier of Portugal induced the prince-regent to sign an order for the detention of all British subjects and the sequestration of all British property. This decree bears date November the 8th, 1807, but the event had been anticipated, and most of the British merchants resident in the country had previously removed their effects. These measures, however, though the consequences of compulsion, placed England and Portugal virtually in a state of hostility; and lord Strangford, the British ambassador, demanded his passports, presented a final remonstrance against the conduct of the court of Lisbon, and proceeding on board one of the English ships in the Tagus, a rigorous blockade was established at the mouth of the harbour.

The full compliance of the court of Lisbon with the requirements of the French emperor could not, however, preserve its dominions from his rapacity. He had marked out Portugal for his prey; and no principle of generosity or justice could induce him to deviate from his plans of aggrandizement. It is difficult to conceive of a more critical situation than that in which the prince-regent of Portugal was now placed, being in a state of hostility with England, whose alliance he had been compelled to renounce, and

view of the proceedings of the French, from the month of November 1807, when their armies first began to enter Spain; and their forces were continually augmenting, till the last act of the treacherous drama. Of their numbers it is difficult to make a correct estimate; but from comparing together the various accounts on record, it would seem that the sum total of the French armies in Spain prior to the date of Joseph Buonaparte's accession, could not amount to less than one hundred thousand men, while general Junot had at least twenty thousand in Portugal.

Such was the state of affairs in Spain when the spirit of patriotism burst forth like a blaze in that kingdom. The news of the renunciations of the crown, compulsively made by their princes in favour of the emperor Napoleon, was the signal for a general insurrection. The patriotic flame burst forth in Asturia. The brave inhabitants of that province, at the time of the Arabian invasion, a crisis not less perilous than that now under consideration, saved by their valour the remains of the Spanish monarchy; and their intrepid spirit had been transmitted to their descendants through the long succession of eleven hundred years. From the province of Asturia the insurrection spread into Galicia, and into several districts of Leon. An assembly, convened at Oviedo, published a formal declaration of war against the French government; and having appointed the marquis of Santa Cruz generalissimo of the patriotic army, sent deputies to request the assistance of England. This request was immediately acceded to; and on the 4th of July, his majesty issued a proclamation, declaring that Great Britain was at peace with the Spanish nation.

The patriotic flame now spread rapidly in Spain, and in every quarter the inhabitants lost no time in taking up arms. The council of Seville, one of the chief provincial jurisdictions in the kingdom, rejecting the authority of the supreme council of Madrid, on the ground of its being under foreign control, assumed an independent authority in the name of Ferdinand VII.; and having published an appeal to the Spanish nation for support, issued a formal declaration of war against the French emperor on the 6th of June. Provincial assemblies were formed in most of the principal towns, and depots established in the most suitable situations. Orders were every where issued for raising volunteers, and every effort was made for organizing the armies. In Andalusia alone above fifteen thousand regular troops were collected; arms were put into the hands of sixty thousand peasants; and general Castanos was appointed commander-in-chief.

The insurrection being completely organized under the direction of the different juntas, especially that of Seville, the hostile armies commenced their operations. The grand-duke of Berg began to fortify himself in the Retiero, and to send out detachments from Madrid into the different provinces. General Dupont, with about twenty thousand men, was sent to secure a position at Cordova, from whence he might readily move upon Seville, Carthagena, or Cadiz. General Moncey, with upwards of twelve thousand men, was detached to the provinces of Valencia and Mercia. General Le Febvre, with about eighteen thousand, was stationed in Arragon, for the purpose of obtaining possession of Saragossa, and keeping open the communication with Barcelona. The French army in the north-western parts consisted of between forty and fifty thousand men, commanded by marshal Bessieres, who had his principal station at Burgos, about one hundred and twenty miles to the north of Madrid, in order to maintain a communication between the capital and Bayonne.

The great commercial city of Cadiz was among the first to show its zeal for the patriotic cause. The French squadron, consisting of five ships of the line, and one frigate, lying in the harbour, was obliged to surrender, on the 14th of June, to the Spanish arms, after having sustained a cannonade and bombardment from the batteries, while the British fleet stationed off the port prevented its escape. This affair was followed by the defeat and almost total destruction of the French army near Almanza. General Moncey, having assaulted the city of Valencia on the 28th of June, from two in the afternoon till eight, was repulsed with an almost incredible slaughter.

It is not easy to find in the history of any age or country, an instance of more determined valour and patriotism than was displayed by the Valencians on this memorable occasion. The place being destitute of regular troops, its defence rested solely on the inhabitants; and while the monks and clergy acted the part of soldiers, the women were employed in preparing cartridges, and affording every assistance of which they were capable.

General Moncey being thus repulsed, he immediately began his retreat; but on the following day he was overtaken by the patriotic forces under generals Cerbillon and Caro. A desperate engagement took place about thirty miles from Valencia, in which, according to the Spanish accounts, the whole of the French army was destroyed, except two or three hundred of the cavalry, who made their escape. Saragossa vied with Valencia in patriotic enthusiasm. On the 1st of July, about midnight, the French made a vigorous attack on Saragossa, but the courageous conduct of the brave general Palafox, who commanded in that place, with the valour of the troops and armed inhabitants, completely baffled their efforts. Several succeeding attempts were equally ineffectual; and on the 14th of July, the French once more made a desperate assault on that important place, but were again repulsed with prodigious loss. The carnage indeed must have been dreadful; for the enemy is said to have lost no fewer than twelve thousand men in their attacks on Saragossa. In some of the Spanish accounts it is asserted, that the gates of the city being thrown open, the French entered without opposition, and were immediately exterminated with grape-shot in the streets and musketry from the houses; but it is not easy to credit the report of their entering so incautiously, without suspecting some stratagem.

In another quarter, however, the Spaniards were less successful. On the very day on which the French were repulsed in their grand attack on Saragossa, the patriotic general Cuesta, with an army of fourteen thousand men, aided by a body of peasantry, and having twenty-six pieces of cannon, was defeated, near Benevento, by general La Solles, whose force consisted of ten thousand infantry and two thousand cavalry. The patriots, though on the whole superior in number to the French, had only eight hundred horse; and the battle being fought in a champaign country, their defeat may be attributed to this deficiency.

But the most important transaction took place in the province of Andalusia. The French general Dupont, finding that Seville, Carthagena, and Cadiz, the three principal places which he was sent to cover and protect, had declared for the patriots, abandoned Cordova, and took a strong position on the heights of Andujar, near the banks of the Guadalquivir. General Castanos, at the head of the Andalusian army, immediately advanced upon this position; and having received intelligence that a detachment of eight thousand French, from the head-quarters at Madrid, was already on its march to Andujar, resolved to attack Dupont before he could receive this reinforcement. An obstinate and bloody action ensued; but the patriots at length prevailed, and their victory was decisive. The French general, in order to save the remains of his army from total destruction, on the 20th of July surrendered himself and his troops prisoners of war. The detachment that was on the way to join him was included in this capitulation, but with this difference, that they should not be considered as prisoners, but be conveyed by sea to France.

This victory was of incalculable importance to the patriotic cause. At the commencement of the action general Dupont's army amounted to more than twelve thousand effective men; so that in one day, not less than twenty thousand of the French were either killed, made prisoners, or expelled from Spain. Had Dupont gained the victory, Seville and Cadiz would have lain at his mercy; and the French would have intersected Spain with their garrisons in a line from Navarre, through Castile, to Andalusia. By his defeat, and that of general Moncey in Valencia, all the southern provinces were completely cleared of the enemy.

While these important events were transpiring in the provinces, Joseph Buonaparte, the newly created sovereign, was preparing to take possession

of his kingdom. On his arrival at Vittoria he issued a proclamation, announcing to the Spaniards the inestimable blessings which they were about to derive from his beneficent reign! From Vittoria he proceeded to Burgos, and from thence to Madrid. By a very singular coincidence, king Joseph made his public entrance into his capital on the 20th of July, the identical day that was signalized by the defeat and surrender of general Dupont and his army. His accession was solemnized with illuminations, and other external demonstrations of joy, such as power may always extort, but which would not have given the new monarch much pleasure, had he been apprized at the moment of what was passing in the vicinity of Andujar. The splendid illusion, however, was not of long duration. Successive accounts of the disasters of the French armies in Spain, and of the approach of the patriots towards Madrid, indicated that his crown was likely to prove a crown of thorns, and warned him of the propriety of a timely flight. After a short stay of seven days, on the 27th of July he began his retreat from Madrid, carrying off with him the crown jewels, and all that was most valuable, from the palace of the ancient sovereigns, and retired precipitately towards France, while the patriots advanced and took possession of the capital.

Finding themselves defeated in every part of Spain, the French now began to retreat from the different provinces towards Vittoria; and having left a garrison in Burgos, and seized on Bilboa, they concentrated the remainder of their forces on the banks of the Ebro. Their numbers, as well as the strength of the Spanish patriots, it has always been difficult to ascertain. Collecting their different losses in Valencia, before Saragossa, with the destruction of their army in Andalusia, and those that fell in a variety of less important actions, it has been thought that fifty thousand may be regarded as a fair estimate. The successes of the Spaniards during the months of June and July were certainly important and brilliant; while the losses of the French were greater than they had ever been in so short a period of time since the accession of Napoleon to the throne of France.

About the middle of August an event took place which brought to the patriotic cause a considerable accession of strength. Several bodies of Spanish troops had been furnished by the court of Madrid as auxiliaries to the French emperor: of these, eight thousand were stationed in the Danish island of Funen, and two thousand in that of Langeland. A negotiation being entered into between their commander, the marquis del Romana, and admiral Keats, then commanding a British squadron in the North Seas, in order to effect their liberation, the Spaniards in Funen seized the vessels and small craft, the Danish troops in that island being inadequate to oppose them, and conveyed themselves to Langeland, where their countrymen had seized the battery at the mouth of the harbour. By this excellent manœuvre ten thousand Spanish troops were rescued from the power of Buonaparte, and conveyed by the British ships to Spain, where they joined their brethren in arms in maintaining the cause of their country.

The patriotic spirit by which Spain was so gloriously animated, was now communicated to Portugal. A general insurrection took place in the provinces of *Tras los Montes* and *Entre Doura e Minho*, which rapidly spread throughout the whole kingdom. After some severe contests, the French under general Loison were driven out of Oporto, and nearly cut off in their retreat towards Lisbon. The clergy, and particularly the monks of Oporto, distinguished themselves by their courage and patriotism; and, partly by their exhortations, and partly by their example, encouraged the people to take up arms against their invaders, the plunderers of their churches, and the oppressors of their country. The result was, that the French were expelled from Coimbra and several other places, and general Junot was obliged to concentrate his troops in and about Lisbon.

The British government had resolved to render every possible assistance to the Spanish and Portuguese patriots; and its intentions met with the entire approbation and applause of the public. Seldom, indeed, has the British nation appeared more interested in any cause, or more unanimous in approving

the measures of government than on this occasion. A large quantity of arms had early been shipped off for the use of the patriots of Spain: and the ministry made no delay in preparing to furnish them with more effectual succours. The most sanguine hopes were consequently now entertained, that a successful stand would be made in the peninsula against the domineering conduct of France. But these bright and animating prospects were soon beclouded; for a system of mismanagement was introduced which proved highly detrimental to the common cause. The different provincial juntas of Spain, acting independently of each other, without any supreme authority or centre of union, resembled so many different states confederated for the common interest, rather than one united nation; and this precarious and intricate state of things prevented any effectual plan from being concerted between the patriots and the British government. Besides this difficulty, it appears that the Spaniards, elated with their important and brilliant successes, considered themselves to be fully adequate to the task of expelling the enemy from their country, which a little time convinced them was a fatal delusion.

Had the patriots concerted with the British government a bold and commanding plan, and as the result of that a large British force had been poured into Spain, as near as possible to the seat of war and the source of danger, the French might, in all probability, have been completely expelled, or forced to surrender. The passes of the Pyrenees might have been secured, and the entrance of fresh armies from France might have been, at least for some time, effectually opposed. The Spaniards would have gained leisure to establish their government, and organize their military system; and the national spirit being kept buoyant by national union, the martial bands of a patriotic people would have composed a formidable phalanx. But it was unfortunate for Spain that things were quite differently managed. The patriots seemed to decline the assistance of the British forces in the North, and recommended in preference an expedition to Portugal, while a French army still occupied the banks of the Ebro, and the road from Bayonne to Madrid was left entirely open.

In compliance with the representations of the juntas, Great Britain adopted the plans which they had suggested. About the end of July, a force of fourteen thousand men, under the command of sir Arthur Wellesley, was despatched to Portugal, the expulsion of the French from that country being the primary object of the expedition. Having effected a landing, only a few days elapsed before they commenced military operations. The French general Laborde was strongly posted on the heights near Roleia; and as there was reason to apprehend he might be joined by general Loison, who was then at Rio Major, the British general resolved to attack his position before the junction could take place. The army advanced from Caldas in three columns, the right being composed of the Portuguese, and the two others of British troops, led on by major-generals Ferguson and Hill, and brigadier-generals Nightingale, Crauford, and Fane. The enemy's positions were formidable, and defended with great bravery and skill; but the attack made by the British columns proved irresistible. After an obstinate engagement, the French were compelled to retire with the loss of a considerable number of men, and three pieces of cannon. The loss of the English was four hundred and seventy-nine killed, wounded, and missing. Lieutenant-colonel Lake fell gallantly in the heat of the action. In the course of the succeeding night, the French generals Loison and Laborde effected a junction at Torres Vedras, and both began their march towards Lisbon. The British army was also reinforced by a body of troops commanded by brigadier-general Anstruther, being part of a force sent from England under brigadier-general Ackland.

The moment was now approaching which was to decide the fate of the French army in Portugal, and of the Russian fleet in the Tagus. General Junot, on whom the emperor of France had conferred the title of duc d'Abrantes, having collected all his detachments, attacked the British army, on the 21st of August, in its strong position at the village of Vimeira. The attack was made by the French in several columns, and with great impetuosity, till they were driven back by the bayonet; and being at the same time annoyed

with the French emperor, who had declared that "the house of Braganza should cease to reign." The French army had entered Portugal, and was advancing towards the capital, while the British fleet blockaded the mouth of the Tagus. At this important crisis of the Portuguese monarchy, lord Strangford, in consequence of fresh instructions received from his court, returned to Lisbon, on the 27th of November, to renew the negotiations. His lordship had immediately the most interesting communications with the court, and found that the prince-regent wisely directed his apprehensions to the French army, and his hopes to the British fleet. Having received the most positive assurances of the protection of the British navy, his royal highness instantly came to the determination of removing the royal family and the seat of government to Brazil. Little time was left indeed for either deliberation or delay, as the French army under general Junot had already advanced to Abrantes, within about three days' march of the capital.

Thus circumstanced, the embarkation was so expeditiously performed, that on the morning of the 29th, the Portuguese fleet sailed out of the Tagus, having on board the prince of Brazil, with the whole of the royal family of Braganza, and a number of persons attached to its fortunes. The French army had already arrived in the neighbourhood of Lisbon, and from the hills had a view of the fleet as it dropped down the river. This fleet, which conveyed to a distant quarter of the globe the hopes and fortunes of the Portuguese monarchy, consisted of eight ships of the line—one of eighty-four, four of seventy-four, and three of sixty-four guns, besides four frigates, three brigs, and a schooner. Four ships of the line and five frigates were left in the Tagus; but the former were all unseaworthy, except the *Vasco di Gama*, of seventy-four guns, which was repairing and almost ready for sea; of the frigates, two were wholly unseaworthy, and the other three stood in need of a thorough repair.

The court was no sooner departed than the French army entered Lisbon without opposition. Sir Sidney Smith, with a British squadron, accompanied the royal emigrants to Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil, where they arrived on the 19th of January, 1808, after a prosperous voyage. A commercial arrangement was entered into, and a direct intercourse established between Great Britain and the Portuguese empire in South America, an event which forms an epoch in the history of the commercial relations between the two nations. Brazil and Britain were mutually benefited at the expense of Lisbon, which was formerly the medium of that intercourse. But before we proceed farther with the affairs of Portugal it will be proper to take a survey of the state of the sister kingdom at this tremendous crisis.

The imbecile court of Spain was at this time fast hastening to that condition of internal dissension and degradation, which in a little time occasioned the deposition of the royal family. On the 30th of October, 1807, a singular manifesto was issued by the king of Spain, Charles IV. that his life and crown had been endangered by a conspiracy, of which his own son was the author, whom, in consequence, he had caused to be arrested. The foundation of this atrocious charge was a clandestine correspondence carried on by the prince of Asturias with the emperor Napoleon, on the subject of a projected marriage between the former and a princess of the Buonaparte family. Through the interposition of Godoy, the prince of Peace, a reconciliation was effected; the prince of Asturias having been induced to write penitential letters to his father and mother; in which, however, there was no confession of any heinous or atrocious design. A treaty was soon afterward concluded between the sovereigns of France and Spain, the object of which was a partition of the kingdom of Portugal; but in return for the portion which was to devolve on the king of Etruria, his kingdom of Tuscany was to be ceded to Napoleon in quality of king of Italy. By a secret convention, French troops were to be admitted into Spain, and others were to be assembled at Bayonne, to assist in the conquest of Portugal. Thus a handle was given for placing Spain at the disposal of the emperor of France; and these were the circumstances which led the court of Lisbon to emigrate to the western hemisphere.

The attention of all Europe was at this time turned towards the peninsula; and the designs of the emperor of France upon that quarter began daily more and more to develop themselves. Spain, once the most potent and flourishing of the European monarchies, had during two centuries been in a state of decline. A wretched system of government had almost extinguished the ancient Castilian spirit; and the Spanish armies, which had been acknowledged superior to those of all other nations, had lost their reputation for courage and discipline. In this state of national degradation, Spain was one of the first countries of the continent which fell under the control of revolutionary France; and it appeared to be one of those that was least calculated for throwing off her yoke. Yet under these unfavourable circumstances, the national spirit burst forth like a meteor, and astonished the view of all Europe.

While the efforts of faction agitated the court of Madrid, and perplexed its councils, the cabinet of St. Cloud was preparing for the execution of a deep-laid and most unprincipled design. Under the pretext of invading Portugal and attacking Gibraltar, the armies of France, in the ostensible character of friends and allies, were marching into Spain, securing the strong places, and taking the most commanding positions. In the mean while, an apparent reconciliation took place between the Spanish monarch and his son, as already mentioned, an event which diffused great joy throughout the whole kingdom. A perfect harmony seemed also to reign between the French and Spanish cabinets; and the popular reports of the approaching annexation of Portugal and Gibraltar to Spain were well calculated to allay the suspicions which the entrance of the French armies must naturally have tended to excite among the people.

In this manner, the revolutionary volcano by which the Spanish monarchy was about to be convulsed, had secretly and silently collected its powers, and in the month of March, 1808, the explosion took place. It appears that his Catholic majesty had formed the design of removing the seat of government to Mexico, and that the measure was approved of by the queen and the prince of Peace, but reprobated by the prince of Asturias and his brothers, with the majority of the grandees of the court. The motives which led to this extraordinary project are enveloped in mystery; as are indeed all the affairs of the court of Madrid, from the period of the alleged conspiracy of the prince of Asturias, till the journey of the royal family to Bayonne. It seems, however, that the design of emigrating beyond the Atlantic had originated with the prince of Peace, whose views in this affair are not fully ascertained. It is certainly not to be doubted that this minister, whose influence had long been paramount in Spain, perceived the approach of his downfall, and inspired his royal master with apprehensions for the safety of his person and government if he remained at Madrid.

No sooner had the intended emigration of the royal family transpired, than the Spanish capital presented a scene of confusion and turbulence. On the 17th of March, a report was in circulation that the guards had received orders to march to Aranjuez, where the court then resided; and the inhabitants of Madrid rushed in crowds to the road to prevent their departure. At the same time, several of the ministers and grandees who disapproved of the emigration, circulated hand-bills in the surrounding country, stating the designs of the court 'and the danger to which the kingdom was exposed. The night was a scene of tumult, and on the following day, immense crowds of people hurried to Aranjuez. The palace of the prince of Peace, though defended by his guards, was forcibly opened, and the furniture destroyed. The princess of Peace was conducted to the royal palace with all the respect due to her rank; but the prince had disappeared, and his brother Don Diego Godoy, commandant of the life-guards, was arrested by the soldiers of his own corps.

A proclamation was immediately issued by the king, announcing the dismissal of the prince of Peace from all his employments. But this did not calm the fury of the populace. The same scenes were renewed at Madrid, where, as soon as intelligence was received of what had passed at Aranjuez, the people rushed in crowds to the palace of the prince of Peace, and to the

houses of several other ministers. In all these the windows were demolished, and the furniture and ornaments destroyed, while the Swiss regiments cantoned in Madrid remained in their quarters, without daring to oppose these disorders. In the midst of this popular effervescence, the king resolved to withdraw from so tumultuous a scene; and on the 19th of March, issued a royal decree, by which he abdicated the throne in favour of his son, the prince of Asturias; one of the first acts of whose sovereignty was the confiscation of the estates and property of Don Emanuel Godoy, prince of Peace, who had been discovered and made prisoner in the place of his concealment. These events, however, were soon succeeded by a counter-revolution, more extraordinary in its nature, and in the circumstances by which it was accompanied, than any of the former changes which stamped a peculiar character on these unstable times. The duke of Berg, with the French army, had entered Madrid, and was in full possession of that capital. All the arrangements being made, the important drama was at length opened.

The two kings of Spain, Charles IV. and Ferdinand VII., formerly prince of Asturias, with the whole of the royal family, and some of the principal grandees, were allured by deceitful pretexts to Bayonne, the station which the French emperor had fixed upon for the more convenient accomplishment of his designs. This extraordinary journey may be regarded as the most mysterious part of the Spanish revolution. Without the supposition of force, or deep-laid fraud, it is difficult to conceive what motives could induce either Charles or Ferdinand to put themselves in the power of the emperor of the French. Ferdinand indeed declared, that the circumstances in which he assumed the reins of government dictated the propriety of the measure. "Many provinces of the kingdom," according to his own representation, "and all the frontier garrisons, occupied by great numbers of French troops, and more than sixty thousand of them stationed in the metropolis, with a variety of other data which no other person could possess—all conspired to persuade him and his royal brothers, that, being surrounded by rocks and quicksands, they had no other remedy but to choose, among many evils, the one that would be the least productive of calamity; and, as such, they fixed on a journey to Bayonne."

Unfortunately, however, this proved eventually the most imprudent step they could have taken; and Spain was left to witness whether it were the least productive of calamity. Had Ferdinand thrown himself into the arms of his faithful subjects, instead of those of a foreign despot, their subsequent conduct demonstrates, that he would have formed around his person and family an impenetrable bulwark. The rash and indiscreet step which he had taken was followed by terrible commotions throughout the country, and in Madrid, in particular, the most dreadful disorders prevailed. The French were insulted daily; numerous assemblies were held by the populace; and every thing indicated a dreadful explosion. At length, on the 2d of May, a general insurrection took place. The grand-duke of Berg, commander-in-chief of the French armies in Spain, in coming from the palace, was surrounded by the populace, and, after defending himself for some time, was on the point of falling, when he was rescued by his grenadiers. The street of Alcala, and the great square, were crowded with insurgents. The grand-duke flew to his post, and a battalion of the French, with some cannon, repaired to the palace. Volleys of grape-shot and charges of cavalry cleared the streets and the square; but the insurgents continuing to fire from the houses, generals Daubrin and Guillot, with their divisions, broke open the doors, and all who were found in arms were put to the sword. A body of the insurgents, in the mean while, pushed forward to the arsenal, and had already broken in, when general Lafræn just arrived in time to save the arms and ammunition. The loss sustained on each side was so variously represented in the different accounts given at the time, that no credit can be attached to any of the estimates given to the public; but there can be no doubt of its having been very considerable. In consequence of these disorders, the grand-duke of Berg was constituted lieutenant-general of the kingdom.

The crisis was now arrived when the emperor Napoleon, judging it no longer necessary to dissemble, began to unmask his designs. At first he pretended a wish to restore Charles IV. to the throne; but perceiving Madrid to be in a ferment, and having the two kings in his power, he obliged them both to sign a formal abdication, and the infants Don Carlos and Don Antonio renounced all claim to the succession. The queen was also said to have been solicited to declare the prince of Asturias illegitimate; an expedient doubtless devised with the intent of invalidating in the eyes of Spaniards his right to the crown; and the least effect which it might have been expected to produce would be that of dividing the public sentiment between him and his brother Don Carlos, and infusing a party spirit, from which the French might derive advantage. The abdication signed by the king, and the renunciations made by the different branches of the royal family, were represented as voluntary acts; but Spain and all Europe regarded them in a very different light.

On the 25th of May, however, an imperial decree was issued, declaring the throne of Spain vacant by the abdication of the reigning family, and ordering an assembly of notables, consisting of the prelates, grandees, &c., to be held at Bayonne, for the purpose of fixing the basis of a new government. This order was communicated to the council of Castile, by the duke of Berg; and a commission was established for secularizing the lands of the church. A spirit of discontent had long pervaded the kingdom; but now the public exasperation was indescribable. Except the partisans of France, few Spaniards attended the junta at Bayonne. The proceedings in that assembly might be easily supposed to correspond with the purpose for which it was convened. And the consummation of the whole plan, which had been so long carrying into effect by every engine of intrigue, was, that the French emperor, on the 6th of June, conferred the crown of Spain on his brother, Joseph Buonaparte, who abdicated his kingdom of Naples in favour of the grand-duke of Berg, otherwise Joachim Murat, who had married the sister of Napoleon.

This consummation developed the whole system of perfidious policy which had, for more than eight months, kept Europe in anxious expectation. It was now no longer doubted, that the pretended conspiracy of the prince of Asturias was a scheme laid for his destruction; and all the subsequent intrigues at the court of Madrid were, with too great appearance of probability, considered as the effect of French influence and agency. The measures which Napoleon had taken for ensuring the success of his plans place the whole matter beyond suspicion or conjecture. They may be considered as the necessary preliminaries of the atrocious act which he meditated. The entrance of his armies into Spain has already been mentioned, and it may not be amiss to add, that their disposal was skilfully adapted to a design of seizing the kingdom. His primary object was, to secure the entrances into Spain by the passes of the Pyrenees, that vast barrier of mountains which nature has placed between that kingdom and France. The two principal of these are the entrance from Bayonne into Biscay and Navarre, and that from Perpignan into Catalonia, by Bellegarde, La Jonquiera Rosas, and the famous pass of Figueras. Of this road, an extent of above fifty miles lies through the gorges of the Pyrenees, in some parts of which a few armed peasants might arrest the progress of an army. To these may be added the entrance from Bayonne into Navarre, a dangerous and difficult road through continuous defiles amid prodigious mountains.

Being masters of these important passes, the French immediately garrisoned Barcelona and Pampeluna, stations of great strength, which enabled them in some measure to command the northern parts of the kingdom, while the grand-duke of Berg, with the main body of the army, advanced forward to Madrid, the central point from which he might detach his legions to every part of the kingdom. In the mean time, the French emperor was proceeding to Bayonne, to be ready to act as circumstances might require. At that place also a strong force was collected, from which detachments were occasionally sent into Biscay, Navarre, Old Castile, and Arragon. This is a retrospective