

battle, a single reverse united the world against him, and he fell, exhibiting a striking proof of the instability of human greatness, and a proof of the impracticability of despotism in the present times.(1)

LETTER XVIII.

Affairs of Great Britain—War with the United States—Restoration of the Bourbons, and Napoleon's Exile to Elba—Ferdinand's Liberation and Return to Madrid—Unwise Measures pursued by him—State of France to the Re-appearance of Napoleon in that Country. A. D. 1813—1815.

THE unhappy differences which had arisen between Great Britain and the United States, in consequence of the Berlin decrees, had now subsisted for some time; and at the commencement of the year 1812, the tone and temper of the government of the latter country rendered it but too apparent that nothing could prevent hostilities between the two countries, but a repeal on the part of the former of the orders in council. The spring of that year passed away in the discussion of various measures of preparation by the congress, in all which the war party displayed a manifest preponderance. An act for an embargo on all the shipping of the United States, for the term of ninety days from its date, passed the congress in the beginning of April, the purpose of which was to expedite the fitting out of the American ships of war, and to prevent any more pledges from remaining in the power of the enemy on the commencement of hostilities.

On the 1st of June, the president sent a long message to both houses of congress, enumerating all the provocations received from England, and recommending the subject to their early deliberation; and on the 4th, he laid before them copies of the correspondence between Mr. Foster and Mr. Munroe, in which no expectation was held out of any relaxation of its orders by the British government. The result of the subsequent discussions in congress was an act passed on the 18th of June, declaring the *actual existence* of war between the United States and Great Britain. The different feelings with respect to this event were manifested by the tokens of mourning displayed on the day of the declaration of war at Boston, in which city the commercial connexions with England, and an abhorrence of French principles, rendered the breach extremely unpopular; whereas, at Baltimore, where a number of privateers were fitting out to commit depredations on the British West India trade, a furious mob perpetrated cruel atrocities against some of the opposers of the war.

The conquest of Canada was an object which the American government evidently had in view when they declared hostilities, regarding it no doubt of easy attainment, the British force in that country being small, and the attachment of the people equivocal. Their operations against it commenced early in July, 1812. General Hull entered the province of Upper Canada, above fort Detroit, and issued a proclamation to the inhabitants, in a style expressive of his high confidence of success. He proceeded to attack fort Malden, but failed in his attempt; and the British general Brock having collected a force for its relief, the Americans retired to Detroit. Hull was there besieged in his turn; and on the 16th of August entered into a capitulation, in virtue of which he surrendered the fort with two thousand five hundred men, and thirty-three pieces of ordnance, to a much inferior force of British and Indians. This was a severe mortification to the American government, which, in its sanguine hopes of conquest, had refused to continue an armistice that had been temporarily agreed upon, between general Prevost, the governor-general of Canada, and general Dearborn, commander-in-chief of the American forces in the northern states. The plan for the inva-

(1) History of the Wars in Spain and Portugal, by General Sarazin.—Jones's Journals of the Sieges in Spain.—London Gazette, and the New Annual Register, 1812, 13, 14.—Porter's Narrative of the Campaign.—Life and Campaigns of Blücher.—Phillipart's History of the Campaign in Germany and France.

sion of Canada, though disconcerted by this event, was by no means renounced; and a considerable American force being assembled in the neighbourhood of Niagara, general Wadsworth, on October the 13th, made an attack upon the British position of Queenstown. General Brock, who hastened to its defence, was killed while cheering on his men, and the position was for a time taken; but a reinforcement being brought up by major-general Sheaffe, the Americans were defeated, and general Wadsworth, with nine hundred men, surrendered themselves prisoners of war.

These disgraces to the American arms by land were in some degree compensated by their successes at sea. Their navy consisted in a few frigates, of a rate corresponding to the largest British, but in size, weight of metal, and number of men, nearly equal to ships of the line. Hence, when encountered by British frigates, the latter found themselves, as it were, surprised into a conflict with antagonists of much superior force.(1) The first action of this kind took place on August the 19th, between the English frigate *Guerriere*, captain Dacres, and the American frigate *Constitution*, captain Hull, in which the former, being soon totally disabled by the enemy's very superior fire, was obliged to strike. The injury she had received was so great, that the captors set her on fire. On October the 25th, the Macedonian English frigate, captain Carden, desecrating a large frigate under American colours, bore down, and an action ensued, which was continued with great bravery for more than two hours; when the English ship, being reduced to the condition of a perfect wreck, and having incurred a heavy loss of men, to save the rest it was found necessary to surrender. Her antagonist proved to be the United States, commodore Decatur, ranking as a frigate, with the scantling of a seventy-four gun ship. In an action between two sloops of war, the advantage also was on the American side; and these events, so unusual to the British navy, though easily to be accounted for, were the source of as much mortification to one party as of triumph to the other. Numerous captures, made by the American privateers among the West India islands, gave rise to complaints from the merchants and planters of Jamaica. Such were the principal circumstances of the first year of this new American war.

Eager to retrieve the disasters of the former campaign, the American general Winchester, in the month of January, 1813, advanced again, with more than one thousand men, to the attack of fort Detroit. Opposed to him was colonel Proctor, with five hundred regulars and militia, and six hundred Indians; when about five hundred of the Americans, with their commander, surrendered prisoners, and the greater part of the rest, on their retreat, were cut off by the Indians. This misfortune, however, was compensated to them by the capture of York, the capital of Upper Canada, on lake Ontario. General Dearborn, arriving by water at the place on the 27th of April, landed his troops, and commenced an attack on the works, defended by general Sheaffe, at the head of seven hundred regulars and militia, and some Indians. At the same time, the American flotilla, under commodore Chauncey, opened a fire on the British batteries from the harbour. An explosion took place, which obliged general Sheaffe to march out with the regulars, leaving the others to capitulate. Considerable public stores were taken with the town.

The lakes of Canada now became the most active scene of warfare, and a number of spirited actions took place on their coasts and waters. On the 23d of April, colonel Proctor embarked with a force of regulars, militia, and Indians, to attack a post of Americans at the rapids of the Miami, a river flowing into lake Erie. While engaged in battering their defences, an Ame-

(1) We regret that a grave historian, who has evinced considerable candour and liberality, should lend the authority of his name to a silly and unfounded assertion, that has been a thousand times refuted, and which was originally invented by British ministers, as a salvo for their disgraces on their own element. To all who ascribe the brilliant achievements of the United States' navy to the cause above mentioned, we would say, in the language of Hamlet to his mother—

“Lay not that flattering unction to your soul;”

And, as a warrant for the exhortation, refer them to a list of American naval victories, in a subsequent note.—Ax. Ed

The French navy was at this time so much reduced, that scarcely any opportunity was given during the year to the British seamen of displaying their superiority, in the combats of squadrons or single ships, against their accustomed foe; and their spirit of enterprise was chiefly exercised in attacks upon harbours and batteries on the seacoast. Several spirited and successful actions of this kind in the Mediterranean and its branches were reported, of which one of the most considerable was the capture of Fiume, in the gulf of Venice. Admiral Freemantle, with a squadron under his command, on the 2d of July anchored opposite to this town, which was defended by four strong batteries. On the following day, the ships weighed to attack the batteries, while a detachment of seamen and marines was sent to storm the mole-head. This party succeeding, they dashed into the town, drove before them the garrison, with the governor at its head, and with a very considerable loss gained complete possession of the place. It was highly to the honour of the victors, that although the town was stormed in every part, not an individual was plundered, nor was any thing carried away except the goods afloat and the government stores. Of ninety vessels captured, more than half were restored to their owners.

Before we turn our attention to the continent of Europe, it may perhaps be as well to pursue the narrative of the war with America, during the year 1814, when happily it was brought to a termination. On the 7th of January, the president communicated to congress copies of letters which had passed between lord Castlereagh and Mr. Munroe, in which the former proposed the appointment of plenipotentiaries to treat on terms of peace, either at London or Gottenburg; which proposal was accepted by the president, who made choice of Gottenburg as the place. Such a step was rendered the more expedient to the American government, by the open opposition to the war manifested in the northern states, of which a specimen was given in a very forcible speech delivered by governor Strong before the legislature of Massachusetts. That the discontents occasioned by the restrictions on commerce, and their effects on the revenue of America, had made a serious impression, appeared from an act passed by the congress, in consequence of a message from the president, for the repeal of the embargo and non-impotation acts. The expectations of a consequent revival of trade were, however, in a great measure frustrated, by the extension of the British blockade along the whole coast of the United States, announced in April by admiral Cochrane.

Early in the month of February, the American general Wilkinson abandoned his position on the frontier of Lower Canada, and moved his head-quarters to Burlington and Plattsburg, after partially destroying blockhouses and barracks erected at a great expense, the destruction of which, with a quantity of stores, was completed by a pursuing British detachment. Wilkinson afterward made an attack on a British post commanded by major Hancock, but was repulsed with considerable loss.

The fort of Oswego, situate on lake Ontario, was reduced by sir James Yeo and general Drummond early in May; an achievement which was chiefly serviceable as it retarded the equipment of the enemy's armament on that lake. The English commodore long blockaded Sacket's harbour, in the vain hope of co-operation from the commander-in-chief, general Prevost; but on the return of Chauncey, his able opponent, with a superior force, he reluctantly retired to Kingston. On this the Americans became the assailants: a formidable force under general Brown crossed the Niagara river, and compelled the garrison of fort Erie to surrender prisoners of

the whole British squadron on lake Champlain surrendered to one of inferior force, under the command of commodore Macdonough; and a powerful British army was at the same time repulsed at Plattsburgh by a body of undisciplined militia, under general M'Comb. February 20th, 1815, the U. S. frigate Constitution, Capt. Stewart, captured the British frigate Cyane, and sloop of war Levant, which together mounted fifty-four guns. March 23d, the U. S. sloop of war Hornet captured and sunk the British brig Penguin. The above is a brief catalogue of the most important nautical events of the late war; and in almost every instance the disparity of force was in favour of the British. To recapitulate the minor successes of the United States' public and private armed vessels, would swell this note to a history.—Am. Ed.

war. He then attacked the British lines at Chippewa, and after a warm action, in which the American troops appeared to have improved much in courage and discipline, the British commander, general Riall, whose strength was greatly inferior, (1) retreated upon fort George. The latter officer, however, being joined by general Drummond on the 25th of July, the Americans were in their turn defeated, and compelled to take refuge under the cannon of fort Erie. (2)

Large reinforcements arriving from Europe about midsummer, sir George Prevost, after much consideration, determined upon an expedition to Plattsburg, on lake Champlain. At the head of twelve thousand excellent troops the commander-in-chief ventured to enter the American territory; and, cautiously traversing the banks of the lake without seeing the face of an enemy, he arrived at his destination early in September. The defences of Plattsburg were no better than slight field-works, still unfinished, and the garrison consisted of about four thousand men, chiefly raw militia; but he was in vain urged to an immediate assault, alleging the necessity of naval co-operation. Captain Downie, who commanded the flotilla on the lake, reached Plattsburg on the 11th of September, and immediately commenced the attack, in full confidence that the land-works would be assailed at the same time; but his signals were not answered. That brave officer fell early in the action; but the squadron maintained the fight, till, completely overpowered by the naval force of the enemy, combined with the incessant fire from the works, the ships were either destroyed or compelled to strike.

The commander-in-chief at length commenced his reluctant and long-protracted attack; but almost immediately withdrew his troops, and, amid the loud reproaches of the soldiery, ordered a general retreat, leaving behind him a vast quantity of stores; but his whole loss in killed and wounded did not exceed two hundred men. This disaster closed the campaign, if such it could be called, in Lower Canada; and by the exertions of general Drummond, wholly unaided by the commander-in-chief, the Americans were finally compelled to evacuate fort Erie, and the whole of the Niagara shore in Upper Canada. Sir James Yeo did not hesitate to prefer a direct accusation against sir George Prevost for neglect of duty and misconduct. That commander was consequently recalled, but did not live to await the issue of an inquiry into his behaviour.

The military operations on the coasts of the southern American states had hitherto been rather of a harassing and predatory kind, than directed to any important purpose; but it was now resolved to strike a blow in this quarter, which might exert an influence on the fate of the war. A large naval force under the command of vice-admiral sir Alexander Cochrane, having on board a strong body of troops commanded by major-general Robert Ross, was in the Chesapeake the beginning of August, waiting for the arrival of rear-admiral Malcolm with an expedition from Bermuda. On their junction the admiral was informed by rear-admiral Cockburn, that the American commodore Barney, with the Baltimore flotilla, had taken shelter at the head of the Patuxent. Of this circumstance they determined to take advantage for ascending the river, with the declared purpose of an attack upon Barney, while their real object was the city of Washington, the American capital, not far distant from a port on the Patuxent.

On the 19th and 20th of August, the army being landed at that place, general Ross began his march to Washington, the force of the Americans

(1) By reference to official documents, it will be seen that the British forces, on this occasion, outnumbered the Americans, by more than one-third. "They were the veterans who had fought by the side of Wellington, and conquered the conqueror of Europe; and of whom many of the English predicted, that they would recolonize America." Whereas, the American officers and soldiers had, at the most, but two years' experience, and many of them had never before been in battle. The conflict was a fair one, but sanguinary and decisive. The English were defeated, and totally routed, by an inferior force of Americans.—Am. Ed.

(2) This is rather an ungracious style of passing over a sanguinary conflict, which reflected the highest honour on the American arms. The battle of Bridgewater, and the heroes of Lundy's Lane, will long live in the page of history. It has been pronounced "the best fought battle which ever took place on the continent of America."—Am. Ed.

for its protection having been ascertained to be such as would justify an attempt to take it by a *coup de main*. Arriving on the 24th within five miles of the capital, he found the Americans, to the number of eight or nine thousand, strongly posted to dispute his advance. An attack on them was immediately directed; and it was made with so much impetuosity, that they were in a short time wholly dispersed, and the British army reached Washington in the evening of the same day. No time was lost in commencing the work of destruction, which was the main purpose of the expedition. The public buildings committed to the flames were, the Capitol, including the senate house and house of representatives, the president's palace, the arsenal, the dock-yard, treasury, war-office, ropewalk, and the great bridge across the Potomac. A frigate, ready to be launched, and a sloop of war were consumed in the dock-yard. Private property was respected, and strict discipline was observed among the troops. On the following night a retreat was commenced, and the army, having met with no molestation on its return, was on the 30th re-embarked.

Connected with this enterprise was the destruction of fort Washington on the Potomac, below the city. This was effected on the 27th, by captain Gordon of the Seahorse, accompanied by other vessels; and by its fall the town of Alexandria, on the same river, was left without protection. Captain Gordon then advanced to Alexandria, and placed his ships so as to force compliance with any terms he chose to propose. The conditions at length agreed on were, that the town should be spared with the exception of its public works, and the inhabitants unmolested on giving up all the naval and ordnance stores, public and private, all the shipping and their furniture, and merchandise of every description. Twenty-one of the vessels were fitted for sea, and loaded on the 21st, when captain Gordon, being informed that preparations were making to oppose his return, quitted Alexandria without waiting to destroy the stores which he could not carry away, and brought back all his squadron and prizes in safety to the Chesapeake.

The American president on this issued a proclamation, in which he spoke of the devastation at Washington as a measure of extreme and barbarous severity; and mentioned that the British naval commander on the station had avowed his purpose of destroying and laying waste such towns and districts on the coast as should be found assailable, under the pretext of retaliation for the ravages committed in Upper Canada, though none such occurred but what had been shown to be unauthorized. He then called upon all officers to be alert and vigilant in providing the means of defence.

Admiral Cochrane and general Ross next concerted the plan of an attempt against the town of Baltimore, one of the most considerable ports in the United States. On the 12th of September, the troops were landed about eighteen miles from the town, whence they advanced along a peninsula between two rivers. As the vanguard was engaged with the enemy's riflemen covered with woods, general Ross received a mortal wound in the breast. He instantly sent for colonel Brooke, the second in command, to whom he gave some instructions: recommending his young children to the protection of his country, and exclaiming, "My dear wife!" he expired. Few men ever fell in battle more generally beloved in their private character, or admired in their professional capacity.

The van now pressed on, driving the enemy's light troops before them, till they arrived within five miles of Baltimore. A corps of six thousand men was there described, posted behind a palisade across the road. They were immediately attacked and dispersed with great loss, and the army halted for the night. On the next day, they advanced and took a position a mile and a half from Baltimore. The hills surrounding the town were found occupied by a chain of palisaded redoubts and other works, defended, it was said, by fifteen thousand men. An attack was, however, planned by the British commander; when a message arrived from the admiral, acquainting him that the harbour was closed in such a manner by sunken vessels, defended by batteries, that it was impossible to bring up his ships to co-operate

as had been intended. It was therefore the opinion of both commanders, that the chance of success in farther operations was not adequate to the hazard; and after the army in retreating had halted some time, to give the Americans an opportunity of following, which they declined doing, it was again embarked. The principal loss in this expedition was that of the lamented commander.

The negotiations for peace, which had been removed from Gottenburg to Ghent, commenced in August, 1814; and in October an account of the proceedings was laid by the American president before the congress. From this it appeared that the British government had advanced certain demands, respecting the integrity of the Indian territory, the military possession of the lakes, and the settlement of the boundaries, which the American plenipotentiaries did not hesitate absolutely to reject. The congress almost unanimously confirmed this rejection; and measures were determined on for defensive preparations, on the supposition of a continuance of the war, adequate to the emergency. At the same time, the impossibility of negotiating loans in the existing state of public credit, occasioned the adoption of a system of taxation which could not fail of adding greatly to the unpopularity of the war. Happily, however, its inutility to both countries was become sufficiently apparent; and the restoration of peace in Europe had removed most of the causes of difference. The commissioners at Ghent, therefore, came to an agreement before the year had expired; and on the 24th of December, a treaty of peace and amity between Great Britain and the United States was signed, which afterward received a ratification from both governments. The articles of this treaty chiefly related to the disputes respecting boundaries, for the determination of which it was agreed that commissioners should reciprocally be appointed. Each nation engaged to put an end to all hostilities that might be subsisting between them and the Indian tribes, and to restore to them all the possessions and privileges which appertained to them previous to such hostilities. Both parties likewise covenanted to continue their efforts for the abolition of the slave trade. No notice whatever was taken of the circumstances which occasioned the war. We now return to the affairs of France.

It was naturally to be expected that upon the abdication of Napoleon, the friends of the Bourbon family would be inspired with confident hopes of the elevation of Louis to the throne of France. They did not long conceal their sentiments, and an address was signed by a great number of the Parisians, recommending the royal exile to the patronage of the allied sovereigns, and urging them to complete by his enthronement, the liberation of France. Talleyrand, who had been long disgusted with the government of Napoleon, and had particularly disapproved of his conduct towards Spain, promoted this object of the address by all the weight of his authority; and this wish soon became general. Some days of suspense intervened, and during that time tranquillity prevailed in Paris. On the 6th of April, a new constitution was announced by the senate. The first article recognised the French government as monarchical and hereditary, and the second declared that the people freely called Louis Stanislaus Xavier to the throne. The count d'Artois came first into France in the quality of a lieutenant of the realm, and on the 23d of April signed the convention of Paris, which reduced the territory of France to its limits of the 1st of January, 1792, and by which Belgium, Savoy, Nice, Genoa, and an immense military *matériel* ceased to belong to it.

Louis XVIII., who had long lived in England in tranquil retirement, now roused himself from the indolence of a private life, and made all due preparation for undertaking the arduous task of governing a kingdom. He repaired forthwith to London, where, at the request of the prince-regent, he made his public entry into Westminster with the pompous parade of a sovereign; and having received from the good citizens of London the most gratifying marks of respect, he proceeded to Dover, and on the 24th of April embarked in a royal yacht convoyed by the duke of Clarence. At Calais he was hailed with the loudest acclamations, and on the 2d of May published a declaration

from St. Ouen, a pleasant village about four miles from the capital, in which, adverting to the constitutional act passed by the senate on the 6th of April, and which the allied powers had solemnly engaged to guarantee, "he recognised that its bases were good: but that a great number of the articles, bearing the marks of the precipitancy with which they were drawn up, could not in their present form, become fundamental laws of the state; and he convoked for the 10th of June the senate and the legislative body, engaging to lay before them the result of his labours." This declaration was by no means calculated to excite the national confidence! On the following day, however, he entered Paris, where he was received with some tokens of applause, partly voluntary and partly extorted, but none from the military.

Napoleon, "fallen from his high estate," professed to be gratified with a treaty, by which it was agreed that he should not merely reside on the island of Elba, but that he should exercise supreme sway over a whole territory, comprising a district of sixty miles in circumference, and having a population of fourteen thousand inhabitants! That he should retain the imperial title, and annually receive from France, for the support of his rank, two millions of francs, a moiety of which should at his death be transferred to the empress Maria Louisa, to whom, and to her issue, the duchy of Parma and its dependencies would be immediately assigned in full sovereignty; that his mother, and his brothers and sisters, should be accommodated with a liberal allowance; that his private property in France should, to a certain extent, be reserved as a fund for the occasional gratification of such friends as he might recommend to the notice of the government; and that he might take four hundred men to Elba, and retain them as defenders of his person. With these concessions he pretended to be satisfied; and taking leave of the imperial guard at Fontainebleau, he was escorted to the south of France by a detachment of the military, attended by commissioners from the allied powers. His progress was marked by alternate applause and reproach. At Valence he had an interview with marshal Augereau, duke of Castiglione, not of the most flattering kind. The marshal, who was a high-spirited officer, is reported to have reproached him severely as a traitor to the army and to France—as destitute of courage, and not daring to die the death of a soldier. But this was not the only mortification which he experienced during his journey. At Avignon he was in danger of personal violence, and he with difficulty escaped the effects of popular resentment. On the 28th of April, he embarked at St. Frejus on board an English frigate for Porto Ferrajo, where he landed, in a few days, and where he had leisure to reflect on the extraordinary vicissitude which his fortunes had undergone.

Previous to the allies reaching Paris, the impossibility of preserving Spain had prompted Napoleon to release Ferdinand from his captivity, and to conclude a treaty with that prince for his restoration to the throne of Madrid. In announcing this convention to the regency, Ferdinand expressed his gratitude for the unalterable attachment of his countrymen to his interests, and also for the persevering courage and energy of his British allies. He at the same time acknowledged his obligations to the emperor of France for the comforts which he had enjoyed during his exile, and the spontaneous offer of an advantageous pacification. The answer which he received was respectful and polite; but it was accompanied by a former decree of the cortes tending to annul every convention which he might have been induced to sign while in a state of captivity. In reply to another communication, the regents, evading the solicited ratification of the late treaty, informed Ferdinand, that an ambassador had been deputed in his name to assist at the proposed congress of the chief European powers, the result of which would probably be a general peace. The council of state, moreover, declared, that he ought not to be allowed to resume his authority without binding himself by an oath to an observance of the constitution; and the cortes confirmed this arrangement, adding, that no Spaniard who had obtained any employment, received any mark of honour, or enjoyed a pension by the grant of

Napoleon, or of Joseph, or who had retired from the kingdom with the French retreating armies, should be allowed to accompany Ferdinand on his return. Trusting, however, to his authority and influence, he disregarded these attempts to control him, and resolved to pursue his own inclinations, or follow the advice of his favourites. He secretly entered Spain by a different route from that which the regency had recommended, and proceeded to Valencia, where he issued two decrees, intimating an intention of sacrificing the interests of the two parties which divided the nation, to the benefit of a third set of men, then beginning to take the form and consistence of a party. These advisers were the friends of the ancient system, the slaves of superstition and deeply rooted prejudices, who had temporized during the residence of the royal family at Bayonne, and opposed the constitution which was adjusted at Cadiz. Influenced by these unenlightened counsellors, the king stigmatized the existing cortes as illegally constituted, and having condemned the new constitution, dissolved the assembly with a promise of convoking a regular national council. By another decree, Ferdinand restrained the liberty of the press, declaring that the censors should be such individuals as were not attached to the cortes, neither had been in the service of Joseph Buonaparte. Forgetting or neglecting the protest against despotism, which was included in the former of these decrees, he ordered the commandant of Madrid to seize two of the members of the regency, several of the members of the cortes, and some editors of periodical journals, without stating their specific crimes or delinquency, and many other arbitrary arrests and imprisonments speedily followed. Intent on the restoration of monasteries, he ordained the restitution of the estates belonging to these foundations without making compensation for the purchase or for the subsequent improvement of the property. He concurred with the late assembly in withholding the confiscated or sequestered lands and goods of supposed traitors, and thus enforced a decree which he ought rather to have annulled. The restoration of the pope's authority was almost as agreeable to Ferdinand as the grant of his own return to power; and the former, like an incorrigible bigot, exhibited the same superstitious zeal which characterized the Spanish monarch, instead of displaying a proper regard for incorrupt religion and enlightened government.

In France matters proceeded with as much tranquillity as, under existing circumstances, could reasonably be expected. The senate and the representative body had connected the acceptance of the new constitution with the inauguration of Louis, ordering that he should not be proclaimed king until he had sworn to the observance of the code; but, though a mild and moderate prince he was unwilling to be fettered; and, trusting to his own judgment, and to the good sense and patriotism of his friends, he declared that he would present to the people such a constitution as they should have no reason to disapprove. Aware of the influence and power which Napoleon's companions in arms, the marshals, had obtained, Louis endeavoured to conciliate them by respectful attention; and by a general confirmation of their honours and emoluments; and to extend his own interest among the troops, he gave to his brother, his two nephews, the duke of Orleans, the prince of Condé and his son, the command of regiments, subjecting the former colonels to the authority of these princes, with the title of inspectors-general. At the same time, he gratified both the army and the people by expediting the departure of the foreign troops, whose presence, notwithstanding their orderly and exemplary behaviour, unavoidably excited unwelcome sensations.

The negotiations between France and the combined powers were conducted without acrimony. Louis and Talleyrand were sensible of the necessity of abandoning Napoleon's conquests, and of restricting the kingdom to moderate limits. Great Britain agreed to yield all her conquests in the West Indies, except Tobago, St. Lucia, and the Spanish part of St. Domingo with the isle of France. Malta was confirmed to England: and France engaged to erect no fortifications in India; she also pledged herself to cooperate with Great Britain in the eventual abolition of the slave trade. This

rican reinforcement of thirteen hundred men, under the command of brigadier-general Clay, coming down the river, made an attack upon him, aided by a sally of the garrison. After a severe action, they were repulsed, and the greater part killed or taken prisoners. Colonel Proctor, however, was not able to maintain his position.

The Americans, in force, made a landing, on the 27th of May, at fort George, on the Niagara, and proceeded to an attack of the place. After a gallant defence, it was evacuated by the commander, colonel Vincent, who retreated to a position near the head of lake Ontario. In the mean time, the American army pushed forward in a large body, which rendered them masters of the Niagara frontier. They, however, met with several checks in attempting a farther advance; and in June, general Dearborn concentrated his forces at fort George, where he remained in a strongly intrenched camp.

On lake Ontario, the British naval commander, sir James Yeo, and the American commodore Chauncey, kept each other in check, without any decided superiority on either side. A British expedition to lake Champlain was successful in destroying a number of military buildings, and a great quantity of naval and other stores. In the month of September, the Americans accomplished their object of gaining naval possession of the lakes, as far as concerned lake Erie. Their commander on that station, commodore Perry, on the 10th of that month, brought to action the British, or rather the Canadian, squadron, commanded by captain Barclay, and compelled the whole of it to surrender. The consequence of this disaster was the relinquishment, by the British, of the Michigan territory, with the exception of fort Michilimackinack, and the abandonment of the posts in Upper Canada, beyond Grand river.(1)

In the autumnal months, a powerful effort was made by the Americans for the invasion of Canada, at different points. It commenced with the advance of major-general Hampton to the frontier on the Montreal side. Sir George Prevost repaired to the spot, bringing a reinforcement to sir R. Sheaffe, commander of the district. Hampton passed the boundary into Lower Canada, on the 21st of October, and proceeded along both banks of the Chateaugay river, against the British advanced posts. On the 26th he was engaged by a much inferior force of British and Canadians, and so effectually checked, that he recrossed the frontier and retreated to his former position. The American general Wilkinson, in co-operation with this attempt, embarked ten thousand men on lake Ontario, and proceeded in batteaux down the St. Lawrence, with the intention of reaching Montreal. Sir G. Prevost, however, had placed a corps of observation to watch the movements of the Americans, whom they attacked, and entirely defeated the assailants with considerable loss, after which they returned to their own shores. The final result of this combined expedition was, that both the provinces of Canada were freed from their invaders, who withdrew, in December, to winter-quarters, within their own territories.

A successful attempt by the British, against fort Niagara, was the latest occurrence in these parts. On the 19th of December, a body of about five hundred men, under colonel Murray, was landed, early in the morning, near the fort, which, by escalade, carried the works, with a trifling loss, killing or taking prisoners all the garrison, and making prize of a large quantity of arms and stores.(2) The American general Hall, arriving soon after at the

(1) The writer forgets to mention the battle of the Thames, where general Proctor's army surrendered to general Harrison, with the exception of about 200 dragoons, who fled from the field with their commander, leaving behind them all their camp equipage, and the leader's private baggage. The Americans regained possession of Detroit on the 29th of September.—AM. ED.

(2) Captain Leonard, to whom the defence of this place had been intrusted, neglected to prepare for an attack, which every one knew would shortly be made; and on the evening of the 18th of December, he took up his quarters at a farm-house, two miles distant from the fort, the principal gate of which was left open. At four o'clock the next morning, about five hundred of the British and Indians crossed the river, and entered the fort so silently, that the garrison was not alarmed until they had complete possession. The only resistance they met with was from a guard in one of the blockhouses, and a number of invalids in the hospital, who defended themselves until they were overpowered and put to death by the bayonet. A most horrid slaughter ensued, until above eighty of the Americans were butchered, and nearly twenty more severely wounded. As soon as the slaughter had ceased, and the survivors secured as prisoners, the private

town of Buffalo, to check the farther progress of the British, was attacked on the 30th, by general Riall, at the head of one thousand regulars and militia, and four hundred Indians, and entirely routed. Buffalo and the village of Black Rock were afterward committed to the flames, and the whole of the American frontier was left naked: sir George Prevost, in a proclamation, represented these severities as a measure of retaliation for the destruction practised by the Americans in their invasion of Upper Canada, particularly their conflagration of Newark, a place containing one hundred and fifty houses.

During the time that these transactions were going on in the northern part of America, a desultory warfare was maintained in the south by the British blockading squadrons, which sent their light vessels up the rivers at the head of the Chesapeake bay, and made occasional attacks on the small towns and repositories of stores on their banks. These were generally successful, though the objects were of inconsiderable value. A more important enterprise was undertaken against a post at Hampton, in Virginia, defended by a considerable corps of troops.(1) On the 26th of June, sir S. Beckwith, who had embarked, with the troops under his command, on board admiral Cockburn's light squadron, turned the flank of the Americans, unobserved, and, after a brisk action, gained possession of their camp and batteries. In the following month, the islands of Ocracoke and Portsmouth, on the coast of North Carolina, were captured by the squadron of admiral Cockburn.

The enterprising spirit of the British navy was displayed, not only in occasional attacks on the towns situate on the American coast, but also in some contests with the enemy's vessels of war. His majesty's frigate the Shannon, captain Broke, stationed off the port of Boston, had been brought to a state of the most perfect discipline by her commander, who assiduously exercised his men in the use of great and small arms. On the 1st of June, captain Broke stood close in with the Boston lighthouse, by way of a challenge to the United States' frigate the Chesapeake, a fine ship of forty-nine guns, full manned. The American accepted the proffered combat, and standing out of the harbour, confidently bore down on his foe. The ships were soon in close contact, when captain Broke, perceiving a favourable opportunity, gave orders to board the Chesapeake, himself setting the example. The conflict was severe, but short: in two minutes the American's decks were cleared, her colours were hauled down, and the British flag hoisted over them; and she was led away in triumph, in the sight of a number of the inhabitants of Boston, who witnessed the action, and were expecting her victorious return.(2)

property in the fort was given up to plunder, and not a single article was restored to the owners. The women of the garrison were stripped of their apparel, and many of them wantonly killed.—AM. ED.

(1) This "considerable corps of troops" consisted of 400 militia, while the assailants amounted to 2500 regulars, who had been in all the recent battles in Spain. But notwithstanding this disparity of force, the British were repulsed at the first onset, and compelled to withdraw. Another and more desperate effort finally secured them possession of the town.—AM. ED.

(2) This solitary instance of capturing an American frigate (the only one that occurred during the war, except by a *squadron*) is here recorded with many particulars; while all the American successes on the ocean are despatched in twelve lines! The destruction of the *Guerriere*, the capture of the *Macedonian*, and "an action between two sloops of war," where "the *advantage* was also on the American side," complete the catalogue of British disasters on the ocean; according to our author. Now let us see how the account actually stands, arranged in chronological order.

August 13, 1812, the United States' frigate *Essex*, Capt. Porter, captured the British sloop of war *Alert*, in eight minutes, without the loss of a man. Six days after the foregoing, the U. S. frigate *Constitution*, Capt. Hull, captured the British frigate *Guerriere* in thirty minutes: the prize was not set on fire, as above stated, but sunk soon after her surrender. October 18th, the U. S. sloop of war *Wasp*, of 18 guns, Capt. Jones, captured the British sloop of war *Frolic*, of 22 guns, in forty-three minutes. On the 25th of the same month, the American frigate *United States*, Com. Decatur, captured the British frigate *Macedonian*, after an obstinate action, and brought her into the port of New-York. December 29th, the U. S. frigate *Constitution*, Capt. Bainbridge, captured and burned the British frigate *Java*, of equal force. February 24th, 1813, the U. S. sloop of war *Hornet*, of 16 guns, Capt. Lawrence, captured the British brig *Peacock*, of 18 guns, in fifteen minutes. September 5th, the U. S. brig *Enterprise*, of 14 guns, Capt. Burrows, captured the British brig of war *Boxer*, of 18 guns, in forty minutes. Five days after the foregoing, the whole British squadron on lake Erie surrendered to one of inferior force, commanded by Com. Perry. September 16th, the American privateer *schooner* *Saratoga*, of 10 guns, captured the British brig of war *Morgiana*, of 18 guns. April 29th, 1814, the U. S. sloop of war *Peacock*, of 20 guns, Capt. Warrington, captured the British brig *Epervier*, of 18 guns, in forty-two minutes. June 22th, the U. S. sloop of war *Wasp*, Capt. Blakely, captured, in nineteen minutes, the British sloop of war *Reindeer*. September 11th,