GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

COLONEL 79TH CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

A POPULAR writer * of the past generation, in some introductory observations to his historical essay, makes the following on Scotland and its natives :—Considering the limited population and extent of that country, it has made a distinguished figure in history. No country in modern times has produced characters more remarkable for learning, valour, or ability, or for knowledge in the most important arts, both of peace and of war; and though the natives of that formerly independent, and hitherto unconquered kingdom, have every reason to be proud of the name of *Britons*, which they have acquired since the Union; yet they ought not to relinquish all remembrance of the martial achievements, and the honourable characteristics of their ancestors. Acting on the recommendation embodied in the foregoing quotation; and as the conductors of the *Celtic Magazine* have intimated their intention of making biographies form occasionally part of its contents, the following sketch of one who, in his day was not the least distinguished among our Highland countrymen, but of whose eminent services to his country, little or nothing has appeared, may prove interesting. Biography is admitted to be one of the most interesting sections of literature. We therefore trust that this feature in the Magazine will be appreciated. The field will be found extensive, inasmuch that, happily for the country, its benefactors have been numerous, the record of whose deeds deserve to be remembered in this Celtic periodical for the entertainment, and may be, the emulation of its readers.

The details of the life and public services of the gallant gentleman now submitted, and deserving record, are supplied partly from oral information collected at intervals, and partly from documents received by the writer, but which, although imperfect, it is hoped may be acceptable, even at this distance since the lifetime of the subject.

The absence of any adequate notice of Sir Alan Cameron's services, save that in a couple of pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* at his death (1828) may be ascribed much to his own reticence in supplying information respecting them. Sir John Philliphart and Colonel David Stewart, when collecting materials for their respective "Military Annals," expressed their regret that Sir Alan's reply to their applications for particulars of his life and career was of the most meagre nature. Although in common with the majority of other distinguished men, averse to giving publicity to the incidents of his life, he was otherwise than reticent with his friends, and was never happier than when surrounded by them. His house in Gloucester Place was a rendezvous during many years for his companions in arms, and his "Highland cousins" (as he fondly termed them) were always received with a genial welcome. Notwithstanding the general absence of his name

* Sir John Sinclair.

from unofficial publications, it may be affirmed, without hesitation, that in his day few were better known, and there was none whose fame stood higher than *Ailean an Earrachd*. In the army he was held in universal popularity, where, in consequence of his familiar habit of addressing the Irish and Highland soldiers with the Gaelic salute of "*Cia mar tha thu*," he was known as "Old cia mar tha." Indeed, he is so styled in Mr Lever's novel of "Charles O'Malley," where he is represented (vol. 1, chap. x.) as one of the friends of General Sir George Dashwood. Another writer (Miss Sinclair's "Scotland and the Scotch") refers to him as "a frequent visitor at her father's house in London, and a celebrity of the past generation who was said to have been one of the principals in the last duel fought with broadswords; and also known to his friends for the more than hearty grasp he shook their hands with." These distinctions, no doubt, combined many incidents for their existence. A tragic adventure at the outset of his career; his imprisonment during the American War; and afterwards his services with the Highlanders throughout the wars of the period. He was remarkable for the immense size and powerful structure of his person. In a verse from one of the many Gaelic songs written in honour of *Fear an Earrachd*, alluding to his majestic form and figure when in the Highland costume, the bard says:—

Nuair theid thu 'n uidheam Gaidheil
Bu mhiann le Ban-Righ sealladh dhiot,
Le t-osan is math fiaradh,
Do chalp air fiamh na gallinné:
Sporan a bhruic-fhiadhaich,
Gun chruaidh shnaim riamh ga theannachadh,
Gur tric thu tarruing iall as
'S ga riachaidh a measg aineartaich.

He was the firm friend of the soldier, and considered every man in his regiment committed to his personal care. In health he advised them; in sickness he saw that their wants were supplied; and once any became disabled, he was incessant in his efforts till he secured a pension for them. Numerous are the stories told of the encounters between Sir Harry Torrens (Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief) and himself for his persistent applications for pensions and promotions. These poor fellows, for whom he was never tired of interceding, were naturally grateful for his fatherly feeling towards them. Such is an outline of the characteristics of the subject of the following Biographical sketch.

Chapter II.

The sires of the subject of our memoir were of the tribe of Camerons' known as *Sliochd Eoghainn 'ic Eoghainn*, and descended directly from the parent stock of the chiefs of the clan, to whom they stood next in relationship after the Fassiferns. The lands assigned for their occupation, and on which they lived from the earliest settlement of the Camerons in Lochaber, were within a short distance of the castle of the chiefs, and the homestead of Sir Alan's family was named *Earrachd*, and situated on an elevated plateau at the entrance of *Gleann Laoidh* (Glen Loy) which leads off in a westerly direction. It is close to, and seen from, the banks of that portion of the Caledonian Canal between Gairlochy and Banavie Locks.

The parents of Alan were Donald Cameron and *Marsali* (Marjory) MacLean (of the family of Drimnin in Morvern). Two incidents connected with the infancy of both father and son are peculiarly remarkable. The father was an infant in the arms of his mother when she went to the gathering place to support the Earl of Mar (1715) to bid farewell to her husband the day the clan left; and Alan was an infant in the arms of his mother when *his* father marched out with the clan to meet Prince Charles at Glenfinnan (1745). The battle of Sheriffmuir ended the career of Alan's grandfather, and the disasters on the field of Culloden made the father a wanderer from his hearth and home for the next three years, while his family were subjected during that time to cruelties and indignities, which were a disgrace to men calling themselves the soldiers of the king. Domiciliary visits were made at frequent intervals, and on every occasion numbers of cattle were driven off the lands for the use of the garrison at Fort-William. These spoliations continued for several months after the *rising* was suppressed, and proved ruinous to the poor people whose only crime was that they risked their lives in support of the claims of one whom they believed to be the rightful heir to the Crown of the United Kingdom. Their descendants, a quarter of a century afterwards, risked their lives in another cause with equal fidelity and bravery, asserting the rights and defending the honour of the British Crown. It is known that the Clan Cameron was the first to appear in support of the standard of the Prince. The gathering place of the clan was at *Drochaid Laoidh*, and there ten of the *twelve* tribes promptly answered the *Cothionnal* "*Thigibh a chlann na 'n con 's gheobh sibh feoil.*" The absentees were, the Camerons of Fassifern, and the Camerons of Glen Nevis; the proverbial caution of the first forbade their adherence, while the influence of the Whig Clan Grant prevailed with the latter. The defection of the Fassiferns gave the place of second in command, or Lieutenant of the clan, to Cameron of *Earrachd* (Alan's father). The clan turned out 600, but these were considerably augmented a few days afterwards. After a spirited address from the chief (the "gentle Lochiel"), the first march of that eventful movement commenced with pipers playing and banners flying, wending their way with steady demeanour and elastic step up Glen Loy, and over the hills that separated them from Glenfinnan.

Many of the chiefs of Lochiel were, in addition to being men of great military renown and martial ardour, shrewd politicians. They encouraged other septs to dwell on their lands that they might be serviceable to assist them in keeping the jealous or more turbulent spirits of their own clansmen in subjection. At any rate, with the Camerons in this campaign, a third was composed of Maclachlans, Macmillans, Kennedies, Macphees, Mackinnons, &c.

The Governor of the garrison at Fort-William having heard of the intended gathering at Glenfinnan, sent out a company of soldiers by way of reconnoitring the proceedings. To avoid observance they followed a devious path over the hills, and most opportunely fell in with the Camerons, by whom they were surrounded, and without much difficulty made prisoners. Besides the *eclat* of this the first victory, the arms thus possessed were of considerable advantage to the Highlanders, most of whom were miserably equipped for the exigencies of the campaign.

A most cordial reception was given to Lochiel and his clan by the Prince, after which the Marquis of Tullibardine unfurled the standard, amidst unbounded enthusiasm. It was made of white and blue silk. Meanwhile the Laird of Keppoch was observed advancing with a contingent of 300 of his Macdonells. At the head of the dimunitive force thus made up, Prince Charles embarked on a contest with a power the most formidable in Europe. And the daring of this small band was even more conspicuous when they at once determined to march direct on the capital of the kingdom. Glenfinnan, formed not unlike an amphitheatre, and easy of access for all parts of the Western Highlands, was admirably fitted for the rendezvous.

The morning march of the little army took the route alongside of an arm of the sea named Lochiel (the same from which the chief takes his modern title) to Corpach. Here they encamped the first night, afterwards continuing their way up the Braes of Lochaber, Blair Athole, and towards the City of Perth, which they occupied as an intermediate resting place. A few days further march brought them within a short distance of Edinburgh. On nearing the capital a halt was made at Duddingston, and a council was held, at which it was decided to detach Lochiel's force to make the advance and demand the surrender of the city. The Camerons having been the first arrivals at Glenfinnan, may have been the cause of this selection. Lochiel having received some injury from a fall off his horse on the journey, he was unable to accompany his clansmen. Cameron of Earrachd consequently succeeded to the command of this important mission, and its success is matter of history. The events of the '45 are introduced into the career of Alan (the son) somewhat irrelevantly, but only to connect the latter with the singular incident that sixty-two years afterwards it fell to *his* lot to have been ordered by Sir Arthur Wellesley to take possession of the Citadel of Copenhagen (1807). Taking leave now of Prince Charles and his Highlanders, with their fortunes and their failures, the narrative of Alan Cameron will proceed without further divergence.

Chapter III.

It was during these turbulent times that Alan Cameron passed his infantile years—he was four years of age before he saw his father, and, although it was hoped that the settlement of the difficulties which had existed would favour his career in life, exempt from the toils and strifes of war, it was not so ordained, as the narrative will prove.

Alan was the oldest son of a family of three sons and three daughters, some of whom found meet employment subsequently in his regiment. Their education was conducted as customary in those days by resident tutors from Aberdeen and St Andrews. With one of these Alan, on reaching a suitable age, went to the latter University for one or two sessions to complete his education. As the oldest son, it was intended that on arriving at a certain age he should relieve his father of the care and management of the lands and stock, and become the responsible representative of the family at home ; while it was arranged that of the other sons, Donald was to enter the naval service of the Dutch East India Company,

and the youngest, Ewan, was to find a commission in one of the Fencible Corps of the county of Argyll. But this arrangement was not to be, especially as regards the eldest and youngest sons. A circumstance of melancholy interest occurred before the former had taken to the succession of the farm, or the other had arrived at the age to be an effective officer of his regiment, which had the effect of exactly reversing these intentions. The occurrence referred to was of a tragical nature, and caused the utmost sensation among the families of the district, inasmuch as relationship was so general there that whatever brought affliction to the hearth of one family, would leave its portion also at the threshold of the others. Alan, like other youths, employed much of his juvenile years in the sports of a Highland country life—fox-hunting, deer-stalking, and fishing for salmon on the Lochy; at all of which he was more than ordinarily successful. The nearest house to his father's was that of another Cameron—chieftain of a considerable tribe (*Mac Ile' Onaich* or Sliochd Ile' Onaich), who had recently died of wounds received at Culloden. His widow and children occupied the house at Strone. The lady is reputed to have been very handsome, and would apparently answer *Donachadh Ban's* description of *Isabel og an or fhuilt bhuidhe*, leastways, to borrow a word from the Cockney—she was styled *par excellance, a Bhanntrach Ruadh*. Alan, like a friendly kinsman, was most generous in sharing the successes of his gun and rod with the widowed lady, for which, no doubt, she expressed her acknowledgments to the youthful sportsman. The course of this commendable neighbourship was rather unexpectedly interrupted by some words of misunderstanding which occurred between Alan and a gentleman (also a Cameron) who was closely related to the widow's late husband. He was known as *Fear Mhorsheirlich;* had been *out* in the '45 when quite a youth, and escaped to Holland, from which he had only returned a few months previous to the incident of this narrative. Contemporaries spoke of him as being most accomplished, and of gallant bearing. The real nature of the dispute has not descended sufficiently authentic to justify more minute reference than that rumour assigned it to have been an accusation that Alan was imprudently intimate with the handsome widow of Strone (*a Bhanntrach Ruadh*). The delicate insinuation was resented by Alan in language probably more plain than polite. Mr Cameron was Alan's senior by some twenty years or so, but notwithstanding this, his high spirit could not brook the rough retort of the accused; and, much to Alan's confusion, the result was that he received a peremptory demand to apologise or arrange a meeting for personal satisfaction. As he declined to return the one, he was obliged to grant the desperate alternative. Reading this account of men going out to engage in personal combat for a cause so small, will lead us to consider that such a result ought to have been prevented by the interposition of friends. But it must not be overlooked that the customs of the times are very much ameliorated from what prevailed in those days (1772). It is probable that even then if the management of the affair had been confided to skilful diplomatists the meeting might have been averted. Friends of such conciliating habits were either not at hand, or they were not consulted; and, as men equal in high spirits, the principals could not volunteer any compromise. Alan's chief anxiety was how to keep the event secret from his parents and family,

therefore, he quietly repaired to a relative to request his attendance the following morning as his friend for the occasion. It is said that this gentleman used his utmost powers of dissuasion, although unsuccessful—determination had, in the interval of a few hours, become too settled for alteration. Alan, as the challenged, was, according to duelling etiquette, entitled to the choice of weapons and place of meeting. Although the pistol had in a measure superseded the rapier in England, the broadsword remained the favourite weapon in the north when required for the purpose of personal *satisfaction*. Highlanders had always a preference for the weapon named by Ossian—*An Lann tanna*—and by the modern bards—*Tagha nan Arm*. Alan decided on making choice of the steel blade, and named a certain obscure spot on the banks of the Lochy for the meeting on the following day at the grey hour of the morning. His difficulty now was how to get possession of one of these implements of war without exciting suspicion or inquiries. They numbered more than one in the armory of every Highland household, and in the case of those in his father's house they were preserved with a care due to articles which had been often used with effect in the past. Among them was one which had been *out* in the campaigns of 1689 (Dundee's), 1715 (Mar's), and in 1745-6. It was of Spanish manufacture, and remarkable for the length and symmetry of its blade, in consequence of which it received the sobriquet of *Rangaire Riabhach*.* In his failure to find the keys of the arms depository, he bethought him to make a confident and enlist the sympathies of an elderly lady, who had been a member of the family since the days of his childhood. The aged Amazon not only promised her aid, but highly approved, and even encouraged, the spirit of her youthful relative. Having access to the keys of the armory, the *Rangaire* was soon in Alan's hands, and with it he repaired to the place appointed, "to vindicate his own honour and give *satisfaction* to his antagonist."

The time of year when this event took place was in the early days of autumn. Daylight and the combatants arrived on the scene together. Vague particulars of the preliminaries between them have been variously retailed, but they are not necessary to the narrative, and therefore not referred to. The fact that the elder Cameron was reputed to be a skilled swordsman, also that it was not the first time he had met his foes in the field, may have had some effect on the nerves of his younger opponent, but there was no outward indication of it. The home-taught countryman, however, must have felt that he was standing face to face with no ordinary opponent. Alan, like the generality of young men, had such practice in the use of the weapon as to make him acquainted with the *cuts* and *guards*. The superiority of Mr Cameron was at first apparent and proved, inasmuch as he not only kept himself for some time uninjured, but inflicted a severe cut on Alan's left arm. This blow may be said to have brought the conflict to its sudden and fatal termination. The pain, together with the humiliation, roused Alan's wrath to desperation. It became manifest to the only two friends present, that the life of one, if not of the two combatants, would be sacrificed; but they found themselves quite powerless to restrain the rage of the wounded principal. Their anticipations were

* Brown or brindled wrangler.

not long in being confirmed. The elder Cameron fell from a blow delivered on the head by the powerful arm of his opponent. The force may be imagined when it is stated that it was what is known as No. 7 cut, and that the wounded man's sword in defending was forced into his own forehead. He lived just long enough to reach Strone house—a mile or so distant. It is impossible, except to those who have experienced a similar trial, to estimate the state of feeling such a painful scene produced on the three now remaining on the field. Time, however, was not to be trifled with, for, although, there were no "men in blue" to make prisoners of the breakers of the peace; yet the vanquished combatant had friends who would not hesitate to take life for life. Alan's *achates* at once thought of that probability, or of revenge in some form. They, therefore, hurried him away from the field and across the river Lochy. A short consultation decided that he should remove himself entirely from the Cameron country for the time being. This was concurred in by Alan, who girded his claymore and determined on making direct for his uncle's house in Morvern—(Maclean of Drimnin)—distant about sixty miles, where he arrived without resting or drawing breath. The advice of his counsel, and the decision arrived at, proved to be not unnecessary, as the sequel proved. The fallen man was one of the cadets of a numerous tribe, and they would naturally, in accordance with the habit of the times, seek to avenge the death of their kinsman. They sought for the slayer of their friend with diligence and zeal. Their search was far and wide; but, fortunately for the fugitive, and thanks to the vigilance of his relatives, his pursuers were defeated in their attempt to capture their intended victim. The consternation of the uncle (Drimnin), on learning the cause of his nephew's sudden visit, may be surmised; but what was done could not be undone. When the Laird was satisfied with Alan's version, that *Morsheirlich* fell in fair fight, brought about by himself, his displeasure somewhat relented. Affection and sympathy mingled in the old Laird's bosom, and he decided to befriend his unfortunate nephew at all hazard. It was conjectured that the search of the avengers would be directed towards this district, where Alan's relatives were numerous, and where he would likely betake himself in this emergency. That he might elude his pursuers with greater certainty, the Laird of Drimnin had him escorted across the Sound of Mull by some trusty kinsmen, to the charge of another Maclean (Pennycross), and with whom he was to remain until he received further instructions respecting his future destination. The grief and revenge of *Morsheirlich's* friends had not yet subsided, and would not, for years to come, so that Alan would be unwise to return to his native home, or place himself in their path.

The Collector of His Majesty's Customs at the Port of Greenock was an immediate relation to the Laird of Drimnin by marriage, and a correspondence was entered on with him with the view of ascertaining his opinion as to what was best to be done for Alan. Negotiations occupied more time for their conduct at that time than in the present day; at any rate nothing satisfactory was proposed to Alan, so that for a couple of years he continued wandering up and down the island of Mull, and through the glens of Morvern, entirely under the guidance of his uncle. At last a request came from the Collector to send the fugitive to him,

that he might find employment for him in his own office. The uncle decreed, rather against Alan's grain, that the offer of clerkship should meanwhile be accepted. He remained in this occupation for several months, until he received an invitation from another friend residing in Leith. This gentleman wrote to say that there was now an opportunity of giving him service in an enterprise likely to be congenial to "a man of metal" such as he conceived Alan to be. The war of American Independence had commenced, and the employment which the Leith friend proposed was that Alan should join a privateer which was fitting out in an English port, armed with letters of marque, to capture and destroy American shipping. Alan answered the invitation by repairing to Leith in person with all speed. The nature of the service offered, however, did not accord with his ideas of honourable warfare; in fact, he considered it more akin to piracy, and not such as a gentleman should take part in. He had no affection, he said, for clerkship, but he had still less for the life of a pirate.

While Alan was oscillating in this manner, he learned that another relative of his mother's, Colonel Alan Maclean of Torloisk, who had emigrated to one of the North American colonies some years previously, had received a commission to embody a regiment of those of his countrymen who had become residents on free-grants of land at the same time with himself. To this gentleman Alan decided on going. Soldiering was more genial to his nature than marine freebooting, and he calculated on Colonel Maclean's assistance in that direction. (This Colonel Maclean's grand-daughter was Miss Clephane Maclean, afterwards Marchioness of Northampton.) Arrived in America, Alan was received kindly by his relative, and being a soldier himself he viewed the past event in Alan's life as of a nature not entirely without a certain amount of recommendation to a wanderer in search of fame. Alan was not long in the country when Colonel Maclean added him to his list of volunteers, in a body, which was soon afterwards enrolled as the "Royal Highland Emigrant Corps."

(To be Continued).

A. R. wants to know "the best standard for Gaelic orthography?"

Cabar-feidh would like to know if any of Grant's [*Bard Mor an t-Slagain*] Poems were ever published? If so, where? and by whom? It is believed many of his pieces, which were famous in his day, are still known in the Lochbroom and Dundonnell districts. *Cabar* requests that any of the readers of the *Celtic Magazine* to whom any of the poems are known would kindly forward them for publication. Grant knew more Ossianic poetry than any man of his day—1746 to 1842. Any information regarding him would be of interest.

Macaoidh enquires to what sept of the clan the famous pipers—the Mackays of Gairloch—belonged, and how did they find their way to that part of the country? Are there any of their descendants still living in this country or in North British America, where the last famous piper of the race emigrated? The "Blind Piper" and bard was the most famous of this remarkable family, and was a pupil in the celebrated College of the Macrimmon's in Skye.

Reply to "Glengarry's" Query.—There are words in English to *Piobaireachd Mhic Ranuil* or *Chilliechriost*, and they, with particulars of the occasion on which the tune was composed, will appear in the next instalment of the Highland Ceilidh in the *Celtic Magazine*.

GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

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[CONTINUED].

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CHAPTER IV.

THESE acts of loyalty by the Highlanders in recognition of their Stewart Princes were not long concluded when the same virtue was called into action to defeat the intentions of *other rebels* (as they were rudely termed) from disputing the authority of the British Soverign, or dismembering any portion of his territory in the American colonies. An abridged outline of what came to be the War of Independence may not be out of place or uninteresting even at this distant date.

North America had been chiefly colonised by the British people—the settlements of the Dutch and French were few and unimportant. The colonists were in the enjoyment of liberal institutions, and the country being fertile, the population rapidly increased; while, at the same time, immigrants from Europe continued to arrive annually on its shores. The mother country being oppressed with debt, it was proposed to make her Transatlantic subjects contribute a portion towards her relief. This resulted in the imposition of a stamp duty on various articles. The Americans would neither afford assistance, nor would they sanction the taxation proposed to be placed on tea, &c.; and at a meeting of Congress resolutions of separation were adopted, followed by the Act of Declaration of Independence. George III. and his Parliament determined on chastising the recusants, and hence the commencement of the American Civil War. Jealousy of Great Britain, and a desire to humble her, induced France to join the Americans, as also did Spain. Against the combined efforts of these allies, however, the British sustained unsullied their ancient renown. The war continued with alternate successes, and disappointments to the contending parties for about six years, at the end of which honourable peace was concluded between them, and America was henceforth declared an Independent State; and in acknowledgment of the able services rendered to her, the colonists elected General Washington as the first president of the new Republic.

During the progress of the war the Americans were guilty of many acts of cruelty to whomsoever fell into their hands, some of which fell to the share of Alan Cameron. The Royal Highland Regiment, to which he was attached, was stationed in Quebec when Canada was threatened with invasion by General Arnold at the head of 3000 men. The colonel of Alan's regiment (Maclean) who had been detached up the river St Lawrence, returned by forced marches and entered Quebec without being noticed by Arnold. The fortifications of the city had been greatly neglected, and were scarcely of any use for the purposes of defence. The strength of the British within its walls was under 1200, yet they repulsed the repeated attacks of the American generals. Here it was that Alan Cameron came for the first time into hostile contact with the enemy, and both his regiment and himself

acquitted themselves with great gallantry—on one occasion in particular, when an assault was made by Generals Arnold and Montgomery, in which the latter was killed and the other wounded. Arnold foiled in this attempt, established himself on the heights of Abraham, thus blockading the town and reducing the garrison to great straits; but this was all he succeeded in, as he was beaten in every attempt to gain possession of the lower town, by the intrepid gallantry of Colonel Maclean and his Highlanders.

On the approach of spring General Arnold despairing of success, withdrew his forces, raised the siege, and evacuated the whole of Canada. Released from this defence the battalion entered on enterprises in different parts of the province, and to enable it to do so more effectually, Colonel Maclean transformed a limited number of it into a cavalry corps, for outpost duties and otherwise acting as *scouts*. Of this body Alan Cameron got the command. Daring and sometimes over-zealous, he often led himself and his company into situations of desperate danger. On one occasion they were surrounded by a strong force of the enemy, from which they escaped with the utmost difficulty, and only by the personal prowess of each individual and the fleetness of their steeds. The Americans communicated with the British commander to the effect that "this fellow (Alan) and his men had been guilty of the *un*military proceeding of tampering with the native Indians in their loyalty to American interests," stating a determination of vengeance as the consequence. It is not known whether Alan was apprised of this charge or not; at any rate he continued his incursions for some time. The threat was not unintentional, as the succeeding events proved, and an unfortunate opportunity enabled the enemy to give it effect. Alan and nearly one-half of his company were seized. The latter they made prisoners of war, but committed him to the jail of Philadelphia as a common felon, where he was kept for two years and treated with the most vindictive harshness. This proceeding was denounced by the British General as "contrary to all military usage," but his representations proved unavailing.

The ardent nature of the imprisoned Highlander chafed under restraint, and finding no hope of release he was constant in vigilance to procure his escape. This he was at last enabled to effect through his jailer having neglected to fasten the window of his place of confinement, which was on the third storey. His ingenuity was put to the severest test. He, however, managed to tie part of the bedclothes to the bars of the window, and descended with its aid. The blanket was either too short, or it gave way; anyhow Alan came to the ground from a considerable height, and being a heavy man, in the fall he severely injured the ankles of both feet. In this crippled state he was scarcely able to get away to any great distance, but somehow managed to elude the search of his enemies.

Although the Americans, as a nation, were in arms against Great Britain, still among them were many families and individuals who were slow to forget their ties of kinship with the people of the "old country," and Philadelphia contained many possessing such a feeling. Alan, on his first arrival in that country, became ac-

quainted with and obtained the friendship of more than one of these families. To the house of one of them, in his emergency, he decided on going. This was a Mr Phineas Bond (afterwards Consul-General in that city) who received the prisoner without hesitation, and treated him with the utmost consideration. Alan, however, before he would accept shelter and hospitality, explained to Mr Bond his condition and how he became a prisoner, adding that he merely desired rest for a day or two to enable him to escape towards the British cantonments. Mr Bond made him welcome and promised him every assistance. Both were fully impressed with the danger and delicacy of their position, and Alan like an honourable soldier was now more anxious about that of his host than his own. He, therefore, embraced the very first opportunity of relieving his chivalrous friend of so undesirable a guest.

Without entering into details as to the nature of his escape, it is enough to state that after frequent chances of being recaptured, he arrived at a station where some British troops were quartered. Among these were some officers and men with whom he had served in the early part of the campaign, but he had become so altered in condition that they scarcely believed him to be the Alan Cameron they knew. His relative (Colonel Maclean) sent his aide-camp to have him conveyed to head-quarters, on arrival at which he was most attentive to do everything that could be done. Medical inspection however, pronounced Alan unfit for active service for at least a year. This was disappointing news to him, as he feared his career in the army was likely in consequence to come to an untimely end. Colonel Maclean recommended him to repair at once to Europe and procure the most skilful advice for the treatment of his wounds and broken limbs. Alan concurred and returned to England on sick leave, where he arrived in 1780.

He had not been many months at home when news arrived of the conclusion of the war; and with that happy consummation Colonel Maclean's corps was reduced, the officers were placed on the "provincial list"—a grade not known in the army at the present day—Government, in addition to their pay, giving them and the other men grants of lands in the following proportions—5000 acres to a field officer; 3000 to a captain; 500 to a subaltern; 200 to a sergeant; and a 100 to each soldier. These conditions were applicable only to those who remained in or returned within a given time to the colony. In the case of absentees one-half of the above number of acres was the extent of the grants, but they were allowed to sell their lots. As Alan had been promoted to the rank of Captain he had 1500 acres which he turned into cash. This capital and his pay was the only means possessed by this "provincial officer." He was, however, only one of many similiarly situated on the termination of the American War.

Chapter V.

The transport ship brought home other invalids besides Alan Cameron, one of whom, Colonel Mostyn, and himself came to be on terms of warm friendship. This gentleman, descended from one of the best families in Wales, and having many relatives resident in London, was of considerable

service to Alan in the matter of introductions to the society of these relations and other friends. "American officers," as those returned from the war, were termed, were welcomed wherever met with. Among them Alan was not the least distinguished, perhaps the more so on account of his unfortunate adventure with his Lochaber adversary in the duel; and his subsequent distinguished career in America.

At the house of one of Colonel Mostyn's relatives, Alan met a young lady who was destined not many months after to become his wife. This was the only child of Nathaniel Philips of Sleebeich Hall, Pembrokeshire. The heiress of a wealthy squire was beyond Alan's expectations; besides he understood there were more than one aspirant for her hand, who were themselves possessors of many broad acres, therefore it could scarcely occur to the mind of the "provincial officer" to enter the lists against such influential competitors. However that may be, Alan's success with the lady may have been much the same as that of another with Desdemona: "Her father bade me tell the story of my life, the battles, sieges, and fortunes I had passed. I ran it through, even from my boyish days; of the moving accidents by flood and field; of the hair-breadth 'scapes and the imminent deadly breach; and of being taken by the insolent foe. To these things would Desdemona seriously incline, and devour up my discourse. When I did speak of some distressful stroke, that I had suffered, she gave me a world of sighs. She wished she had not heard it; but bade me, if I had a friend that loved her, I should teach him how to tell my story, and *that* would woo her." Duke—"I think this tale would win my daughter too."

Alan Cameron became the favoured suitor of Miss Philips, but both felt the barrier of the Squire's consent to be insurmountable. Nor was there any circumstance likely to arise in favour of Alan's worldly position to make him acceptable to Mr Philips as his son-in-law. Honourable conduct acted on Alan's feelings, and directed the proper course to be pursued. He made his visits to the house of their mutual friend less often and at greater intervals. Squire Philips was at the time, and had for some few years, been a widower; and it was reported and believed that he was contemplating a second marriage. Moreover, the intended spouse was scarcely yet out of her teens, while he was past middle age, and his daughter was also her senior. Her father's intentions created disappointment, if not dissatisfaction in Miss Philips' mind, which, it is alleged, was one of the causes that moved her not to view elopement with serious objection. There is no record of the occurrence to guide further reference than that Alan Cameron and Miss Philips had betaken themselves to Gretna Green without the knowledge or consent of her father, where marriages were solemnised without the preliminary formalities necessary at Hanover Square. Notwithstanding that a pursuit ensued either by the parent or other friends, it was not successful in interrupting the marriage of the runaway pair.

Instead of returning to London with his bride, Alan went towards the capital of his native country, where he and his wife remained for several months. It now, however, became almost a necessity that he would get into some office, the emoluments of which would add to his

slender income. After some delay he was fortunate in getting an appointment through the intercession of a friend with whom he had served in America. This appointment was on the militia staff of one of the English counties. Alan retained it until the fortune of events reduced the displeasure of the father-in-law to that state when mutual friends thought they could do something to induce the Squire to forgive and forget. These friends did not fail to take advantage of this state of feeling, and embraced the opportunity to obtain for Alan an interview with his wife's father, which resulted, as desired by all, in full forgiveness to both son and daughter. This reconciliation, like the wooing of Miss Philips, was also somewhat after the manner of that of Desdemona's father, who replied, "I had rather adopt a child than get it. Come hither. I do give thee that with all my heart, which—but thou hast already—with all my heart, I would keep from thee. For your sake I am glad I have no other child, thy escape would teach me tyranny." This act of grace was important to Alan, as the allowance to his wife, which followed, enabled them to live in affluence in comparison with their past state.

Squire Philips had not married at the time rumour had formerly assigned, but he did enter into that state, and that after he had become a sexagenarian. By the second marriage the Squire—unlike the father in the play—"had another child." This child is yet living, in the person of the venerable Dowager Countess of Lichfield, herself the mother of a numerous family of sons and daughters, including the present peer, as also the wife of the noble lord the member for the county of Haddington.

(To be Continued).

Highland Melodies.—The Gaelic Society of London finding that regret has been frequently expressed that the plaintive melodies of the Highlands should be allowed to pass away, have, we are glad to learn, taken steps to preserve them in a permanent form, and are now preparing for publication a selection of the best and most popular airs. The verses will be given in Gaelic and English, and the pianoforte accompaniments are arranged with special attention to their distinctive characteristics by Herr Louis Honig, Professor of Music, London; while slight variations are introduced to render the melodies more acceptable to the general taste. Editions of the Dance Tunes of our country are numerous, but the Gaelic vocal airs, set to music, have not hitherto been attainable. The issue is limited to 250 copies, which the Society are patriotically supplying at cost price—namely, 10s 6d per copy; or free by post to the Colonies for 12s. We feel assured that this want has only to be known to secure the necessary number of subscribers for the few remaining copies.

hopeless to have undertaken. Their leaders had to flee for life and find their way through swamp and forest to the far distant sea-board, as their only hope of safety. This they made out, and then found the means of transit, though by a circuitous voyage, across the ocean to their native land. The perils and hardships endured by these in their several routes could not be narrated in the space at our disposal. But we cannot take leave without briefly relating the daring exploit of one of their leaders after being captured and imprisoned. This, however, must be reserved for a subsequent numer.

JOHN DARROCH, M.A.

GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

COLONEL 79TH CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

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CHAPTER VI.

Two years before Alan's return from America, the Highland Society of London was instituted for "Promoting objects of advantage to the Highlands generally; and good fellowship with social union, among such of its natives as inhabited the more southern part of the island." To the foregoing summary were also added several specific objects, such as the restoration of the Highland dress; the preservation of the music; and cultivation of the Celtic language, &c., &c. An institution for the support of these objects would have purticular attraction for Alan; and now that he was not otherwise specially employed, he could give some attention to their promotion. The members of the society were composed of almost all the men of rank and position belonging to, or connected with, Scotland. In the list Alan appears to have been elected at a meeting on 21st January 1782, and with the names of other gentlemen on the same occasion that of John Home (Author of *Douglas)* is included.

The Act of Parliament which enacted the suppression of the Highland dress was in force in Scotland during Alan's childhood, and up to the time of his departure from it, after the encounter with *Morsheirlich*, so that he had never worn the garb of his ancestors until he had joined his regiment in America. Its use was still (1782) prohibited in the old country. Alan and many of his friends became the most active members for promoting the objects of the society. Having found that one of these was the restoration of the Highland dress, they formed a committee to co-operate with a member of the Legislature to have that obnoxious Act obliterated from the Statute Book. Of that committee the following were the Executive, and being the authors of the extirpation of this national stigma, they are entitled to be remembered, by Highlanders especially, with admiration and everlasting gratitude. They were—Hon. General Fraser of Lovat (President); Lord Chief Baron Macdonald; Lord Adam Gordon; Earl of Seaforth; Colonel Macpherson of Cluny; Captain Alan Cameron (Erracht); and John Mackenzie (Temple), Honorary Secretary.

Fortunately for the committee, the Marquis of Graham, one of the members of the society, had a seat in the House of Commons, and to this nobleman they entrusted a Bill for the repeal of the Act passed in 1747, commonly known as the *Unclothing Act.* The noble Marquis took charge of the bill, which he introduced to the House in May 1782, with so much earnestness that it passed through the various stages in both Houses of Parliament with unusual rapidity. Indeed, within a few months after this date, the legal restriction placed on the dress of a people for the past thirty-five years, was obliterated for ever. "The thanks of the Society were given to his Lordship for his exertions in procuring a law so acceptable to all Highlanders."* Addresses in prose and poetry were presented to the Marquis from all the Highland parishes, while at the same time the contemporary Gaelic bards were profuse with patriotic songs of praise, notably among them, that by Duncan M'Intyre *(Donnachadh Ban)* commencing—

"Fhuair mi naidheachd as ùr
Tha taitinn ri rùn mo chridh
Gu faigheamaid fas :n na dùtch
A chleachd sinn an tùs ur tìm,
O'n tha sinn le glaineachan làu,
A bruidhinn air màran binn,
So i deoch slainte Mhontrois
A sheasamh a choir so dhuinn.

The next action of national importance which engaged the attention of the Society was the publication of the Poems of Ossian in the original Gaelic. In the prosecution of this project Alan Cameron was also zealous, but before it was completed he was called away to duties of a sterner nature. About the same time the controversy respecting the authenticity of the poems was continuing to run its rancour unabated. During the few days of Alan's sojourn as a fugitive in Mr Bond's house, they had conversed on the merits of Ossian's poems, the latter gentleman informed Alan that he had such evidence in favour of their ancient existence that he was convinced of their being the genuine remains of poetry of a very remote period, adding that he owed his intimacy with Ossian to the acquaintance of the Rev. Colin M'Farquhar (a native of one of the Hebrides), at this time minister in Newhaven of Pennsylvannia. It occurred to Alan that it would be desirable to get the testimony of the reverend gentleman respecting the poems, therefore he decided to address himself to his kind friend in Philadelphia on the subject. In due time Mr Bond replied with a communication from Mr M'Farquhar, dated, "Newhaven, Penn., January 1806," stating as follows:—"It is perfectly within my recollection when I was living in the Highlands of Scotland, that Mr James Macpherson was there collecting as many as he could find of the Poems of Ossian. Among those applied to was a co-presbyter of mine, who knew that a man of distinguished celebrity had resided in my congregation, and he requested the favour of me to have an interview with him and take down in writing some of these poems from his lips for Mr Macpherson, which I did, but cannot recollect at this distance of time the names of the poems, though I well remember they were both lengthy and irksome to write, on account of the many mute letters contained in

* Minutes of the Highland Society of London, 1782.

almost every word. Indeed, it would be difficult to find one among ten thousand of the Highlanders of the present day who could or would submit to the task of committing one of them to writing or memory, though in former ages they made the repetition of the poems a considerable part of their enjoyment at festive and convivial entertainments. Well do I remember the time when I myself lent a willing ear to the stories of Fingal, Oscar, Ossian, and other heroes of the Highland bard. I cannot, therefore, forbear calling that man an ignorant sceptic, and totally unacquainted with the customs of the history of the Highlanders, and the usages prevailing amongst them; who can once doubt in his mind their being the composition of Ossian? And as to being the production of Macpherson or any of his companions, I have no more doubt than I have of the compositions of Horace or Virgil to be the works of these celebrated authors."

The Secretary laid Mr Bond's letter and its inclosure with the foregoing statement of the Reverend Mr M'Farquhar before the Highland Society, which they considered so important as to have adopted it in Sir John Sinclair's "Additional Proofs of the Authenticity of the Poems of Ossian." While on this subject, another reference must be made to Mr Bond. The Highland Society in acknowledging the receipt of his communications, alluded to the service he had rendered to their fellow-countryman (Erracht) when in distress. The Marquis of Huntly, who was President, moved that the Society's Gold Medal be conferred on Mr Bond; also that he be elected an *Honorary* member of the Society.* The propositions were unanimously approved, and thus his friendship to the benighted prisoner was not forgotten by the members of this noble and patriotic Society.

Chapter VII.

Alan, although now (1792) surrounded by a young family, and in circumstances independent of the emoluments of his profession, was not, however, disposed to live a life of idleness. Nor had he relinquished the intention to enter again on active service. This was most difficult of accomplishment, on account principally, of the reduction of the army on the termination of the American War; and that no additions were made to it for the last five or six years.

Britain was for the moment at peace with all nations; but the state of affairs in India was causing so much concern that the home government decided on increasing the military force in each of its Presidencies; and to enable that intention to be effected, an augmentation of the army of five battalions was ordered, commencing with the 74th Regiment. Two of these were to be raised in Scotland and three in England. Into one of the new corps, Alan hoped to be transferred from the "provincial list." In this, however, he was disappointed owing to other applicants being his seniors in the service; notwithstanding that the Marquis of Cornwallis, whose friendship he had gained in America, had previously recommended him to the Commander-in-Chief.

After remaining a few years longer at home, an event impended, which was to shake Europe to its foundation. This was the French Revolution. To trace the causes, or detail the scenes, which followed this

* Minute Highland Society of London 1806.

revolution, is beyond the limits of our subject, except simply to refer to its excesses in burning, plundering, and confiscating property of every description, to which was finally added the execution of the King and Queen on the scaffold. These iniquitous acts were execrated by reasonable people of all countries, but were shortly followed by the Republican Assembly offering aid to other nations to rid themselves of their monarchical rulers. The incitement to extend rebellion to their neighbours drew upon them the animosity of all governments, of whom the continentals were the first to take offence.

To demonstrate their earnestness, the French took immediate action by advancing three armies towards their northern frontiers; the total strength being not under half a million soldiers, under the command of their ablest generals—Jourdan, Moreau, and Pichegur. Simultaneously with this offensive demonstration, war was declared against Holland, Spain, and Britain. The manufactures of the latter country were strictly prohibited in France, and it was, moreover, ordered that all British subjects in whatever part of the Republic should be arrested, and their properties seized.

The whole powers of the Continent were now arrayed against the French, yet the vigour of their measures enabled them to disconcert the dilatory schemes of their allied opponents. This same year (1793) the insurrection at Toulon also broke out, and it was on this occasion that first appeared the extraordinary man, who was to wield for a considerable period the destinies of Europe. Napoleon Bonaparte, then *Chef de bataillon*, was dispatched by the Convention as second in command of the artillery, where he displayed a genius in the art of war, which soon afterwards gained him the direction of the *Corps d'armee* in Italy.

The British Government now became alarmed, and resolved on sending the Duke of York to Flanders with 10,000 troops. Among the evils of the Hanoverian succession was, that it dragged Britain into the vortex of continental politics, and often made her subservient to the King's views in favour of his electorate. The present was one of the instances. This decision of co-operation may be said to have committed this country to a line of policy which engaged its army and navy, more or less persistently for upwards of twenty years, and terminated only in varying success, with the crowning victory of Waterloo, and the occupation of Paris in the summer of 1815.

Chapter VIII.

The force sent to Flanders (1793) was a serious drain on the strength of the army, which must be made good without delay. The Government viewed it in that light, and ordered commissions to be issued forthwith for the enrolment of twenty-two regiments for general service (from the 79th to the 100th), sixteen of which were subsequently made permanent, and added to the establishment. Other bodies were also raised for home services, known as "Fencibles." Now was the time for Alan to bestir himself. Applicants, with influence and claims on the War Office, were greatly in excess of the number required. Lord Cornwallis' previous recommendation in his favour was found of advantage in support of Alan's present application, inasmuch that the "Letter of Service" granted in his favour was among the first of the batch gazetted on the 17th of Aug.

1793. Although Major-Commandant Cameron (he will be now named by his successive ranks in the army) had reason to be satisfied with the success of his application for the "Letters," yet the terms and conditions embodied were not only illiberal, but even exacting, a circumstance he had an opportunity some time afterwards of pointing out to one of His Majesty's sons (the Duke of York). The document is too long and not sufficiently interesting to be quoted, and an extract or two from it must suffice. "All the officers—the ensigns and staff-officers excepted—are to be appointed from the half-pay list, according to their present rank, taking care, however, that the former only are recommended who have not taken any difference in their being placed on half-pay. The men are to be engaged without limitation as to the period of their service, and without any allowance of levy money, *but they are not to be drafted into any other regiments.*" On receipt of this official communication from the War Office, Major Cameron had an intimation from his father-in-law—Squire Philips—that money to the extent of his requirements for the expenses of attaining his ambition, would be placed at his disposal. This act of generosity relieved the Major from one of his difficulties. The next consideration was how far it might be prudent to make the recruiting ground his own native district of Lochaber, when it is remembered that he left that country as a fugitive from the vengeance of a considerable portion of its inhabitants. The terms of his "Letters of Service" restricted him in the disposal of the commissions which might have been offered them as a means of pacification, but the few left in his power he decided at once to confer on those sons of families who might be in influential positions and otherwise eligible for the appointments. With this view he despatched several copies of the *London Gazette* containing the "authority to raise a Highland Regiment" to his brother Ewan (known in later years as *Eoghann Mor an Earrachd*) with a letter, both of which he was enjoined to make as widely and as publicly known as possible. The letter is, if somewhat plausible, frank enough, and characteristic of his conduct throughout his varied career in life. In it he states that, "having been favoured with the honour of embodying a Highland Regiment for His Majesty's service; where could I go to obey that order but to my own native Lochaber; and with that desire I have decided on appealing to their forgiveness of bygone events, and their loyalty to the sovereign in his present exigencies. The few commissions at my disposal shall be offered first to the relatives of the gentleman whose life, unfortunately, was sacrificed by my hand."

The printing press, even of the capital of the County of Inverness was not so advanced in those days, as to have circulars printed of the foregoing proclamation. Therefore, the brother had to transcribe copies as best he could, which he did to some effect, inasmuch that before Alan arrived in Lochaber, on his mission, Ewan had already engaged the complement of a company to start with, all of whom he retained on his farm at Earrachd till the arrival of the Major. Thus the credit of gathering the nucleus of the now famous 79th is due to *Eoghann Mor*, for which service the Major procured him a commission as captain and recruiting officer, for his regiment, in that district.

(To be Continued.)

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CHAPTER IX.

THE first duty which Major Cameron had now (1794) imposed on him by his "Letter of Service" was to recommend the officers from the "half-pay list" to be associated with him in raising the regiment. In the disposition of these he was to a certain extent under the guidance of his own inclination to have as many as he could, of his old American brother-officers, with him in the undertaking. After the selection was made, the names were submitted to the War Office and approved. Reference to the list of officers selected will prove that Major Cameron was not unmindful of his brother-officers of the "Royal Emigrant Regiment," his choice consisting of five officers of the Clan M'Lean, while two only belonged to his own. The reason of the numerical difference will be understood to be, in consequence of the above stated restrictions. When the "half-pay list" was exhausted, by distribution among the numerous corps being embodied, and Major Cameron was released from the War Office regulations, the commissions in the regiment were always given to his Lochaber relatives, as the army list of subsequent years will testify.

Although Major Cameron had been, by this time, absent from Lochaber a number of years, yet he was not an entire stranger, for he was from time to time heard of. He had been advised by his brother that the rage and irritation occasioned by the result of the duel had greatly subsided, if not, indeed, entirely disappeared, and that his arrival in the country was not at all likely to revive them. On receipt of this intelligence Major Cameron, with politic calculation, arranged that he should arrive in his native place on one of the first days of November, which arrangement would give him the opportunity of meeting the greater part of the country people of all classes, this being the week of the winter market at Fort-William. The idea also struck him that, as he was to be engaged in "His Majesty's service," the Government might give him, for his own and his officers' accommodation, quarters in the garrison. His application to the Board of Ordnance, to this effect, proved successful, and the building known as "Government House" was placed at his disposal. His family, at this time, consisted of three sons, respectively named Philips, Donald, and Nathaniel; the first and last after their mother's father, and the other after his own father (he of the '45). The eldest two accompanied him to the Highlands, and remained there long enough to acquire some acquaintance with the Gaelic language, an acquisition which they often declared afterwards to have served them advantageously in their relationship with the soldiers of the 93d.

The day at last arrived when Alan, after an absence of twenty-one years, was to look again on his native hills, an event which, no doubt, gladdened and warmed his Highland heart. It is stated that he timed his first appearance to take place on the last day of the market, and he

observed it punctually. This enabled the people, if so inclined, to meet him without interfering with their business affairs. His brother was most useful to him in making proper preparations for his reception. Quite a multitude went out to meet him and his companions, a mile or so, and accorded him a most enthusiastic reception. It has, indeed, been said, that the ovation and the escort of that day resembled more that usually awarded to an illustrious conqueror than that to a mere field-officer of the British army. Alan gave instructions to make that and subsequent days a carnival of hospitality—feasting and rejoicing without limit. After a reasonable time, however, festivities must terminate, and business commence. A writer of ripe experience, on Highland subjects, adverts to the anxious state of public feeling at this time*—"In 1793, and the succeeding years, the whole strength and resources of the United Kingdom were called into action. In the northern corner a full proportion was secured. A people struggling against the disadvantages of a boisterous climate and barren soil, could not be expected to contribute money. But the personal services of young and active men were ready when required for the defence of the liberty and independence of their country." Producing so many defenders of the State, as these glens have done, they ought to have been saved from a system which has changed the character of, if not altogether extirpated, their hardy inhabitants.

Chapter X.

The business of "raising" the regiment was now (1793-94) to commence in real earnest, and as it was the Major's desire that the complement should be made up of as many as he could induce to join from his own and the adjacent districts, his officers and himself visited every part round about, and with so much success that, between Lochaber, Appin, Mull, and Morven, 750 men were collected at Fort-William, within a period of less than two months; at any rate the official accounts record that number to have been inspected and approved by General Leslie on the 3d January (1794).† General Stewart states, "in the instance of the embodiment of the 79th no bounty was allowed by Government, and the men were therefore recruited at the sole expense of Mr Cameron and his officers; nevertheless the measure of the success will be understood by the early date of their inspection at Stirling, where they received the denomination of the 79th Cameron Highlanders." The Major was now desirous to repair as quickly as possible to the place appointed for inspection, that he might get his corps numbered, and with that determination, ordered every man to be in readiness for the journey southwards. Great was the excitement in the little village adjoining the garrison of Fort-William, on that winter's morning, when Cameron and his followers collected on its parade-ground, to have the roll called by "old Archie Maclean" (their first Adjutant), preparatory to bidding farewell to Lochaber—a last farewell by the greater part of them. The nearest and dearest must part, and such was the case with the Lochabermen and their friends, now that "they promised to help King George." With Alan at their head, this devoted band filed off in well regulated order,

* General Stewart's Sketches, vol. II., pp. 245-6.

† Historical Record of the 79th Regiment by Captain Robert Jamieson, Edinburgh, 1863.

marching with steady step through the village, the pipers leading, playing the well-known march—"*Gabhaidh sinn an rathad mor*" (We'll keep the high road), while large numbers of the country people convoyed them on their route a considerable distance, reluctant to give the final farewell; deferring it till they were reminded that they had now a long way to go back. Their affection probably laid them under a spell that "farewell was such sweet sorrow, they could not say farewell till to-morrow." A string of horses preceded them, to different stages, with their creels well provided with creature comforts desirable for their long journey, along indifferent paths, and over bleak mountains, to Stirling. At that season of the year, the weather was very severe, and the absence of any habitations on the way did not admit of any halting; therefore it was decided to continue their onward course without interruption, except the short intervals necessary for refreshments. This decision enabled them to reach the rendezvous at noon of the third day, when after a day or two's rest, drilling was resumed without intermission, in consequence of which persistency, the corps were in a fair state of order by the time the inspecting officer arrived. "The Cameron Highlanders" underwent this ordeal of military and medical inspection to the General's entire satisfaction, and he duly reported the result to the War Office, and, being the first to be so reported the corps received the first and subsequent number of 79th (the 78th, Mackenzie's Ross-shire regiment, had been completed in the month of March of the previous year). Meanwhile the exigencies of the service becoming pressing, the "Office" was induced to dispatch urgent orders to Cameron to augment the regiment with the necessary 250 men to raise it to a total strength of 1000 rank and file. In obedience to this summons, he, with others of his officers, lost no time in returning to the districts of the Highlands from whence they came. If further proof were needed of the popularity of Cameron, the fact that he collected the 250 recruits wanted, and reported them at the same place (Stirling), in the short space of five and twenty days, will be sufficiently convincing. When the 1000 men were completed on the 30th January (1794), Alan was advanced to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the regiment!* This marvellous rapidity may be contrasted with the fact, that when Mr Cameron of Fassifern was offered a company in the corps being raised by the Marquis of Huntly in the following month of February, he was obliged to have recourse to the assistance of his brother-in-law, Macneil of Barra, to complete the number of 100 men. He could only secure nineteen men in his own district of Lochaber, notwithstanding that he was aided by the personal influence of his cousin Lochiel. Alan Cameron did not seek, nor did he receive the slightest favour from the Chief of his clan, for reasons which may be subsequently referred to.†

Chapter XI.

The colours for the 79th had been prepared, and immediately on its being registered they were presented (1794), after which the regiment received the route for Ireland. There they remained till the following June, where their

* Captain Jamieson's Historical Record, Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1863.

† The Rev. Mr Clerk's Memoir of Colonel Cameron of Fassifern, p. 109.

uniform reached them, which, being the Highland dress, was similar to that of the other Highland corps, except in the matter of "facings," which were green. Although the tartan of the Clan Cameron is one of the handsomest patterns; the ground and prevailing colour being red, it was thought unsuitable for wear with the scarlet jacket; but that was not a sufficient reason for its non-adoption as the tartan of the "Cameron Highlanders," inasmuch as the tartan worn (the Stewart) by the 72d is of still brighter colour than the Cameron. Neither of these was the real reason which caused the clan tartan's non-adoption by the 79th.* Alan choose rather to have a tartan of his own (or rather his mother's) design. That pattern is so well known as to need no description. The first supply was provided by Messrs Holms of Paisley (now of Greenhead, Glasgow), and designated the "Cameron Earrachd," as distinguished from that of the Cameron proper. It is the pattern chosen by the Highland company of the Liverpool Rifle Corps, and by the 2d Lochaber Company, of which Lochiel was captain.†

The Cameron Regiment had scarcely completed its equipment, when it was ordered to embark for Flanders to reinforce the British and Austrian armies under the command of the Duke of York, against the French. They were joined in this expedition by their countrymen of the 42d and the 78th. Their arrival proved to be of the utmost consequence, inasmuch as that by their support, in reserve, they helped, by a victory over Pichegru to retrieve a disaster experienced by the Duke shortly before that. This engagement lasted from an early hour till the afternoon, and its decision was weighing in the balance, when the Duke charged with the British troops into the centre of the French army, bayonet in hand, and thus, brought hostilities to an end for the day. This success, however, was of small advantage, as the allies were subsequently compelled to retreat before the overwhelming forces of the French, and, retiring towards Westphalia, endured the most dreadful hardship and suffering, both from its inhospitable inhabitants, and the rigour of its climate (the winter and spring of 1794-5), the elements of which proved more fatal to the British army than the fire of the enemy. The Camerons lost 200 men. The contingent of the British army withdrew from the Continent after this fruitless campaign, embarking in April at Bremen. The 79th was ordered for quarters to the Isle of Wight, where it remained till the month of July, when it received the route for India, and Colonel Cameron was ordered to recruit the regiment to the extent of its losses in Flanders.

(To be Continued.)

* Mr Cameron of Lochiel, and Mr Cameron of Earrachd (Alan's father), had been, or were, at differences about the ownership of part of the property, when it was alleged that the latter was hardly used in the matter, by the former and his trustees, of whom Cameron of Fassifern was the most active. This misunderstanding led to a coolness between the families.

† It was returned to the Lord-Lieutenant by this company under the designation of "Cameron Lochiel." The captain's attention was drawn to the misnomer, who disclaimed any knowledge of the error. It has transpired since to have been the act of an officer of the corps, now deceased, who must have committed this paltry piece of piracy, either from ignorance or subserviency.

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[CONTINUED].

CHAPTER XII.

THE destination of India was suddenly countermanded and exchanged for the Island of Martinique. With this change the following incident may have had something to do. While Colonel Cameron was making the most laudable endeavours to complete his regiment to the required strength, he received private information that it was intended to draft one of the newly raised corps to others at the time serving in India, to make up for their deficient numbers, and that the measure was resorted to solely on the potent plea of economy. Rumour, moreover, gave it that the Camerons were those to be sacrificed. This report reached the Colonel, and although through an unofficial channel, yet he considered the source of his information to be too important to be treated with indifference, and it naturally caused him much uneasiness. While in this state of uncertainty he learned that the Commander-in-Chief (Duke of York) was expected on a tour of inspection, and he determined to await his arrival at Portsmouth, and seek an interview with reference to the truth or falsehood of the rumour regarding the drafting of the 79th. Of the nature and result of this audience we have read two accounts which will be transcribed as briefly as possible. The first is from the pages of the Record of the 79th.* "Colonel Cameron respectfully, yet firmly, remonstrated on the extreme hardship and injustice of the proposed measure, which, besides, being a breach of faith towards himself personally, would also be in open violation of a specific clause in His Majesty's 'Letter of Service' for raising the regiment. These representations had their effect, and, if an order so vexatious ever existed, it was rescinded, as nothing was afterwards heard of drafting." To this account the following "foot-note" is added, and we shall reproduce it, that an opportunity may be given to compare the uncompromising nature of the language, with the other account to follow:—"At this interview Colonel Cameron plainly told the Duke 'that to draft the 79th was more than his Royal father dare do.' The Duke then said, 'the King will certainly send the regiment to the West Indies.' The Colonel, losing temper, replied, 'you may tell the King from me that he may send us to h—l if he likes, and I will go at the head of them, but he *daurna draft us*,' a line of argument which proved perfectly irresistible." The following is the version of this incident by Mr Thompson (the Chaplain).† "The regiment had not returned many weeks from the Continent when it was rumoured that it was to be drafted among others in India. Colonel Cameron, however, was not the man to be disposed of in a manner so

* Jamieson's Historical Record of the 79th Cameron Highlanders.

† Military Annals compiled by Sir John Phellepart (Colburn, London, 1819).

summary, and he lost no time in waiting on the Commander-in-Chief, who admitted that it was contemplated to distribute one of the young regiments to reinforce those in India, but that its officers would not suffer in rank or pay meanwhile. The Colonel then unfolded a copy of his 'Letter of Service,' and begged the Duke would listen to the last clause of its terms, viz., '*No levy money will be allowed by the Crown, but in consideration of which it will not be drafted into other regiments.*' His Royal Highness remarked, that 'if the 79th would be thus exempted you must not be disappointed if your Highlanders are sent to a climate more trying than India—Martinique will probably be the destination.' To this Colonel Cameron answered, 'I have performed my duty to collect corps for general and permanent service, therefore that you may order us to the hottest spot in the King's dominions, and it will be cheerfully obeyed, and myself at the head of them; but I trust His Majesty will not be advised to compromise his commission.' After some complimentary allusion to the appearance of the regiment, the Duke shook hands with the Colonel, saying, 'Your protest will be taken into consideration.'" It is not of much consequence which version is the correct one, yet we incline to the belief that the Chaplain's has the better claim for acceptance. There is a rudeness and defiant tone throughout the first that Colonel Cameron would not be likely to commit himself to. He was by nature too courteous, and he would be politic enough to avoid language that might be construed into an act of insubordination. Whether it was from the necessities of the service, or as a matter of punishment for his remonstrance against the drafting, has not transpired; at any rate, within a few days after the interview, the regiment was directed to sail for the Island of Martinique. In this unhealthy place they remained for two years, where, and in which time, diseases carried off more officers and men than did the swords of the enemy in any of their subsequent battles. The regiment was reduced to less than 300 men, and Sir Ralph Abercromby (commanding the station) ordered Colonel Cameron, with his remaining officers and sergeants, home, while he directed the convalescent soldiers to be attached to other corps in the adjacent island. However welcome, the order was, to quit such sickly quarters, the Colonel demurred to the unreasonable proposition of the General, in detaining the men on stations where they had lost so many of their comrades by fevers. Sir Ralph's command, however harsh and cruel, was supreme, and the result to them was, that few returned alive.

In addition to grief for the loss of so many of his men, the Colonel had also the misfortune of losing his wife while stationed in Martinique. What, between the fevers, and the orders of Abercromby, drafting was accomplished most effectively, and Colonel Cameron had but a scanty number of his regiment to return home with. On arrival at Gravesend, Chatham was assigned as their station, but they did not rest long there ere they received orders to proceed to the north of Scotland to recruit for 800 men. As no place was specified in the warrant, Colonel Cameron selected Inverness for his headquarters, from whence himself, his officers, and sergeants, travelled over the northern counties as far as Sutherland, where they were most successful (the 93d had not then been raised), and also westward through the districts of the Great Glen. These

exertions were rewarded by Colonel Cameron being able to leave Inverness for Stirling at the head of 780 men to be inspected. Thus, in less than nine months after his return from Martinique he produced a fresh body, equal to a new regiment, and procured them, notwithstanding that the 91st and 92d had nearly denuded the country, a few years before, of all those eligible for soldiers!

Chapter XIII.

Colonel Cameron and his new regiment were (1798) ordered to occupy the military stations of the Channel Islands, and there they lay for twelve months, and until they received instructions to hold themselves in readiness for joining another expedition for the recovery of Holland from the French. The Duke of York again commanded in chief, while his generals of divisions were Sir Ralph Abercromby and Sir James Pultney, his brigadiers being Coote, Dundas, and Moore. The 79th formed part of Moore's brigade, with their countrymen, the First Royals and the 92d. Several actions took place with varying success, and considerable losses on both sides. The principal engagements were, one near a village named Egmont-op-Zee (Oct. 2d), and the other, in the vicinity of Alkmaar. Moore's brigade may be said to be alone the victors in the first, while the other British brigades shared as conquerors in the latter. The loss of the 79th in this, their first, encounter with the enemy, was two officers and several men killed, and nearly half the officers and men wounded. Among the latter was the Colonel, and so severe was the wound considered that his recovery was dispaired of. The brigade received the thanks of His Royal Highness, the commander-in-chief, who in passing it the day after the battle, approached the 79th, and, addressing Major M'Lean, inquired for the Colonel, and expressed a hope that his wound was not so severe as reported; then taking off his hat, and turning to the regiment, he said, "Major M'Lean, nothing could do your Highlanders more credit than their conduct yesterday."* By this time the season was so near winter that the Duke, sensible that operations during it would not be attended with much advantage, entered into a capitulation, and thus ended the second expedition to the Continent, which may be considered almost as ineffectual as that of 1793-4. It has been observed that although this was not the first campaign in which the Cameron Highlanders served, yet it was their maiden one, as far as regards personal conflict with the enemy. On the subject of the engagement on this occasion, an incident is said to have occurred which, not being without interest, may be fairly introduced in the narrative. It need not be denied now, that, for centuries, and down to a considerable period in the reign of George III., there existed in the breasts of the Highlanders, and especially those of the Jacobite clans, a feeling of kinship for their ancient allies, the French, as against their mutual foes. That amity, however, would last then only so long as the French did not provoke the wrath of the King, to whom the 79th had now sworn fealty. Alan Cameron and his officers had already proved *their* loyality in defending the rights of the British crown in the American War, but that test had not yet been applied to his

* Captain Jamieson's Historical Records of the 79th Regiment, p. 7.

Highlanders, and there was no suspicion that the slightest defection existed, nor was there any, when the moment of action arrived.

The incident referred to is hereafter transcribed on the authority of a gentleman, himself one of the heroes of Albuera, from an interesting work on congenial subjects.* "Without quoting the other verses of this song,† I cannot help remarking that the feeling against the English nation expressed in the song, came down, at least, among the adherents of the Stuart family, to my own time, the commencement of the war resulting from the French Revolution. This was shown by the 79th Highland Regiment at a critical moment, on its first meeting the French under its illustrious founder and chief, *Alain an Earrachd* (Allan of Erracht). This splendid officer heard a murmer passing through its ranks as the enemy was in front—'The French are our old friends, and of our own race.' Colonel Cameron said not a word, but ordered a slight movement forward, which brought his Lochaber men within range of the fire—upon which he exclaimed in his own thundering voice, 'Now my men, there they are, and if you don't kill them, by —— they will kill you.' The Camerons, on hearing this threat, and finding the bullets whistling freely in their midst, soon gave a speedy account of their ancient allies. From that day (Egmont-op-Zee) there has not been in the army a regiment more distinguished for loyalty and bravery." The sentiments of the song were entirely reversed during the Peninsular War, and the consequent companionship of the natives of the three Kingdoms, in many glorious victories, during the long years of that sanguinary strife.

Chapter XIV.

The prowess of the British on this occasion (1800) is commemorated by the Gaelic bard, Alexander Mackinnon, an enthusiastic soldier, who shared in the campaign, as a non-commissioned officer in the 92d Regiment. In his epic *Blar-na Holaind*, he celebrates the deeds of the two Highland regiments (79th and 92d) and their leaders, the Marquis of Huntly and Colonel Cameron, thus—

'S dh'fhag iad sinne mar a b' annsa,
Fo cheannardach Mhorair Hunndaidh,
An t-og smiorail, fearail, naimhdeil,
N'an leannadh ain-neart ga'r ionnsuidh.
* * * *

Bha'n leoghann colgarra gun ghealtachd
Sa mhile fear sgairteil lamh ruinn,
An Camshronach garg o'n Earrachd
Mar ursainn chatha 's na blaraibh.

The army left the shores of Holland and arrived in England, where they remained undisturbed to the following August, when a demonstration against Ferrol was determined on. The force sent included Colonel Cameron and his regiment, but the laurels attendant thereon were too slight to deserve notice. Another and more important expedition followed, of which the then unknown land of the Pharoahs was the destination.

* Traditions of the Highlands, its Poetry, Music, &c., page 130, by Captain D Campbell, late 57th Regiment.—Collie, Edinburgh, 1862.

† An old Gaelic Song of inimical sentiments towards the opponents of the Stewart dynasty.

During the time the British were aiding the Continentals, they were themselves on the defensive, protecting their interests in India, against the ill-feeling of its petty princes. It became known that the Prince of Mysore—Tippoo Saib—was intriguing with the French in the Mauritius (Isle of France) for the purpose of obtaining their assistance in expelling the British from India; and to thwart this project it became urgently necessary that the force in India should be augmented with as little delay as possible. Seringapatam was the fortress of Mysore, and the residence of its savage ruler, Tippoo. Lord Mornington, the Governor-General, determined to anticipate any hostile operations, and dispatched a force against this place. One of the divisions was under the command of his Lordship's brother, Colonel Wellesley. An action took place, and Tippoo and the Mysoreans were defeated. The place was invested, an assault on its citadel made, and Tippoo was killed.* This capture of Seringapatam, and the death of its governor put a complete extinguisher on the prospects of the French in that quarter; but they still continued in alliance with other powerful chieftains in the north and west of India. At this time a French army, with Bonaparte at its head, arrived in Egypt, preparatory to a movement on India. To drive this force out of Egypt was next determined on by the British ministry. The comparative failures hitherto experienced in Holland had not impaired the confidence of the country in its soldiers, or in the skill of its leaders. Sir Ralph Abercromby proceeded with a force of 12,000 men, arriving at Aboukir in March 1801. Bonaparte had, meanwhile, departed to look after his personal interests in France, leaving the command with General Menou. The British fleet had scarcely appeared in the bay ere Menou was prepared for resistance. This demonstration, however, did not daunt the former from attempting to leave their ships. To land in the face of an opposing army was a task of great hazard. A murderous fire galled them as they approached the beach. The men nevertheless landed, forming in order as best they could, bravely charged, and drove back the enemy, with great gallantry. The French retired and entrenched themselves in the vicinity of Alexandria. Abercromby followed him. Generals Hutchinson and Moore ably assisted. The French commenced the attack on the night of the 20th. The 42d Highlanders, who displayed their accustomed valour, were the first encountered. The commander was in their midst encouraging them, and it was on that occasion that he, with such effect, reminded them of "their ancestors." As day dawned a numerous body of cavalry bore down again on the shattered ranks of the Black Watch. Simultaneously with this, the brigade, of which Colonel Cameron and the 79th formed part, met dense swarms of the enemy's riflemen, with whom a contest lasted, more or less, throughout the day (21st). Their ammunition had been expended, and charges with the bayonet were their only recourse. The enemy, despairing of success, collected his scattered columns, and withdrew to his original position. The British then, laying siege to Alexandria, closely invested it, and in a few days it surrendered. Thus ended a short but arduous campaign. The result being, the total and rapid expulsion of the French army from Egypt. The four Highland

* The name of Sir David Baird will ever be honourably associated with the storming of Seringapatam and the death of Tippoo Saib.

regiments (42d, 79th, 90th, and 92d) gained imperishable honour in this campaign, and so also did their comrades, the Welsh Fusiliers, the 50th, and 28th (the Slashers). The latter regiment was attacked before and behind; the rear faced about and fought valiantly in this double position, and for this act of splendid discipline they are honoured by being allowed to wear their number on the *back* as well as on the front of their regimental caps.

The Egyptian campaign was fatal to few of Colonel Cameron's regiment; but he was badly wounded, and the largest number of his men were wounded more or less severely.

(To be Continued).

OBAN'S BONNIE BAY.

O'er Morven's blue mountains the gloaming is falling,
Night's grey clouds are sleeping on lofty Ben More,
Wee silver-ridged waves pour their music enthralling,
Light dancing afar on the shell-studded shore:
I love the calm beauties of gloaming's soft splendour,
I love the dream songs of the wavelets at play,
I revel in joys ever hallowed and tender,
When wantonly wand'ring by Oban's sweet bay:
By Oban's bonnie bay,
Loved Oban's bonnie bay,
There's no a spot in all the west
Like Oban's bonnie bay.

Low murm'ring the breeze o'er Dunolly is sweeping,
Rocked gently, flow'rs joyously close their bright eyes,
Slow-floating pale clouds on their night march are creeping,
And deep is the blue of the star-blazoned skies:
The moon o'er Ben Cruachan mildly is stealing,
Cold-chasing the kisses of gloaming away,
Her sceptre of light all its love is revealing,
For throned are her glances in Oban's sweet bay:
By Oban's bonnie bay, &c., &c.

Night shadows in beauty of darkness are trailing,
Deep fringed with a halo of glistering sheen,
Far-sounding, the echoes of peace are prevailing
In cadence that nurtures the soul to the scene:
Tell me if on earth nature's virginal smilings
Can ever be found in such gorgeous array?
O! no, all alone in its beauteous beguilings,
Supremely and purely glows Oban's sweet bay:
'Tis Oban's bonnie bay, &c., &c.

WM. ALLAN.

SUNDERLAND.

GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

COLONEL 79TH CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

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Chapter XV.

The 79th Highlanders, on their return from Egypt, were settled for a year at the Island of Minorca, from which they embarked for Britain, and remained till 1804. By this time, in view of further active service, Colonel Cameron was favoured with a "Letter of Service" to raise a second battalion, which he completed within a twelvemonth of the date of his missive. While the Colonel was recruiting for the completion of this battalion, a considerable amount of feeling and controversy had been abroad about superseding the kilt in the Highland regiments by the tartan trousers, and from the following correspondence between the Horse Guards and Colonel Cameron, it will be clear that an inclination to that effect had some existence:—

I am directed to request that you will state for the information of the Adjutant-General your *private* opinion as to the expediency of abolishing the kilt in Highland regiments and substituting the tartan trews, which have been represented to the Commander-in-Chief from respectable authority as an article now become acceptable to your countrymen—easier to be provided, and calculated to preserve the health and promote the comfort of the men on service.

(Signed) Henry Thorpe.

Colonel Alan Cameron.

Colonel Cameron's reply to the suggestive official above quoted, is worthy of space in the *Celtic Magazine*, notwithstanding its great length, its elaborate sentences, and discursive reasonings:—

Glasgow, 27th October 1804.

Sir,—On my return hither, some days ago, from Stirling, I received your letter of the 13th inst. respecting the propriety of an alteration in the mode of clothing Highland regiments, in reply to which I beg to state freely and fully my sentiments upon that subject, without a particle of prejudice in either way, but merely founded upon facts as applicable to these corps—at least as far as I am capable from thirty years' experience, twenty of which I have been upon actual service in all climates with the description of men in question, which, independent of being myself a Highlander, and well knowing all the conveniences and inconveniences of our native garb in the field and otherwise; and, perhaps, also aware of the probable source and clashing motives from which the suggestions, now under consideration, originally arose. I have to observe progressively that in course of the late war several gentlemen proposed to raise Highland regiments, some for general service, but chiefly for home defence; but most of these corps were called from all quarters and thereby adulterated with every description of men that rendered them anything but real Highlanders, or even Scotchmen (which is not strictly synonymous), and the Colonels themselves generally unacquainted with the language and habits of Highlanders, while prejudiced in favour of and accustomed to wear breeches, consequently averse to that free congenial circulation of pure wholesome air (as an exhilarating native bracer) which has hitherto so peculiarly befitted the Highlander for activity, and all the other necessary qualities of a soldier, whether for hardship, on scant fare, *readiness in accoutring*, or making *forced marches*, &c. Besides the exclusive advantage, when halted, of drenching his kilt in the next brook as well as washing his limbs, and drying both, as it were, by constant fanning, without injury to either; but on the contrary, feeling clean and comfortable, while the buffoon tartan pantaloon, with all its fringed flippery (as some mongrel Highlanders would have it) sticking wet and dirty to their skin, is not easily pulled off, and less so to get on again in *cases of alarm* or any other hurry, and all this time absorbing both wet and dirt, followed up by rheumatism and fevers, which ultimately make great havoc in hot and cold climates, while it consists with my knowledge that the Highlander in his native garb always appeared more cleanly, and maintained

better health in both climates than those who wore even the thick cloth pantaloon. Independent of these circumstances, I feel no hesitation in saying that the proposed alteration must have proceeded from a whimsical idea more than the real comfort of the Highland soldier, and a wish to lay aside the national martial garb, the very sight of which has upon many occasions struck the enemy with terror and confusion, and now metamorphose the Highlander from his real characteristic appearance and comfort, in an odious incompatible dress, to which it will, in my opinion, be difficult to reconcile him, as a poignant grievance to and a galling reflection upon Highland corps, as levelling that material distinction by which they have been hitherto noticed and *respected*; and from my own experience I feel well founded in saying that if anything was wanted to aid the rack-renting landlords in destroying that source which has hitherto proved so fruitful for keeping up Highland corps, it will be that of abolishing their native garb which His Royal Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Adjutant-General may rest assured will prove a complete death-warrant to the recruiting service in that respect. But I sincerely hope that His Royal Highness will never acquiesce in so painful and degrading an idea (come from whatever quarter it may) as to strip us of our native garb (admitted hitherto our regimental uniform) and stuff us into a harlequin tartan pantaloon which composed of the usual quality that continues as at present worn, useful and becoming for twelve months, will not endure six weeks' fair wear as a pantaloon, and when patched makes a horrible appearance; besides that the necessary quantity to serve decently throughout the year, would become extremely expensive, but above all, would take away completely the appearance and *conceit* of a Highland soldier, in which case I would rather see him *stuffed in breeches* and abolish the distinction at once.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Signed) ALAN CAMERON, Colonel 79th Cameron Highlanders.

To Henry Thorpe, Esq., Horse Guards, London.

The reader on perusal of this reply will be driven to the conclusion that the gallant Colonel had not strictly adhered to his promise of impartiality at the outset, at any rate it is clear that the Adjutant-General had applied to the wrong quarter for sympathy or favour for his views of abolishing the kilt as part of the uniform of Highland regiments.

CHAPTER XVI.

WHEN Napoleon left General Menou and his army in Egypt it was to take advantage of the acclamation in his favour by the Republic of France, whose directors created him First Consul; which act was followed by peace known in history as that of "Amiens." But it soon became evident that it could not last. Bonaparte was bent on excluding England from all continental influence or commerce. This inimical feeling was communicated to the Court of St James; also his studied rudeness towards our Ambassador at Paris, which conduct essentially brought the two nations again into war. He ordered all British residents or travellers found in France to be seized, of whom he had 10,000 put in the prisons of the various towns; and at the same time (1805) dispatched an army to displace our Viceroy from Hanover, and another to Boulogne, there to encamp for an opportunity to cross the Channel and chastise the British. This force was entitled the "Army of England"!! He next overran Italy, and was created its King, into which he introduced the conscription, and got 40,000 of its soldiers to abet his designs against Europe. He came to Boulogne and reviewed the 150,000 troops intended for the invasion, but while he was supposed to be ruminating on crossing the British Rubicon, the hostile operations by Austria took himself and his "Army of England" off rapidly to the Rhine. His victory at Austerlitz against the Russians and Austrians was more than vindicated by ours over his fleet at Trafalgar. The British nation had to lament the loss this year of two of her greatest sons—Nelson and Pitt. Public funerals were

awarded to the illustrious men; the Naval hero being borne to St Paul's, and the Minister to Westminster Abbey.

The former lay in state for a week at Greenwich Hospital, from which he was conveyed by way of the river with a magnificent procession of royal barges and those belonging to the Guilds of the city of London (1806). From London Bridge to the Cathedral the streets were lined with troops, of whom Colonel Cameron with the 79th and 92d regiments formed a portion. In the accounts of this grand and solemn funeral in the newspapers, reference is made to the presence of the Highlanders, who appeared to have quite won the admiration of the populace.

Although the French were nearly whipped from off the seas by the bravery and skill of our Admirals, Bonaparte was carrying victory before him over all Germany. The Prussians were badly beaten at Jena, which humiliation they richly deserved for their perfidy and selfishness in deserting at an earlier period, the cause of Germany, in hopes to be assigned the Kingdom of Hanover. Their capital was occupied by Napoleon and his generals (Oct. 1806). This was the occasion when the "Berlin Decree" was issued, forbidding all intercourse with England, and use either of her manufactures or any of her produce. By the subsequent submission of Russia to his dictates, a treaty known as that of "Tilsit" (1807) was agreed upon by which their fleet and those of Sweden and Denmark were secured to Napoleon.

These repeated acts of insolence by the French against this country could no longer be permitted to pass without action, and the British Cabinet directed a powerful armament, consisting of 60 war vessels with 380 transports to carry 27,000 troops, to be secretly fitted out and sail from Yarmouth Roads for the Baltic. The land forces were under Lord Cathcart, with Sir Arthur Wellesley second in command. Colonel Cameron and the 79th formed part of the force. Arrived at Elsinore, negotiations were opened up for the delivery of the Danish fleet, under solemn engagements that it should be restored on the conclusion of a peace with France. The proposal being indignantly rejected by the Crown Prince, preparations were made to enforce it. The fleet proceeded up to Copenhagen, the troops were landed, batteries were constructed, and a bombardment was immediately commenced both by sea and land, which lasted three or four days, after which the Danish commander surrendered. Colonel Cameron, at the head of the flank companies of the army, with two brigades of artillery, was directed to take possession of Copenhagen.* The loss to the Danes during this bombardment was very considerable. The grand cathedral and its steeple was laid in ruins, and the whole of their fleet was carried off to the Thames with its stores and artillery.

Much difference of opinion prevailed as to the policy or justice of this appropriation of the navy of a neutral power. When intelligence reached Bonaparte of this decisive operation of the British it is said his rage was terrific.

The Houses of Parliament voted their thanks to the Generals, Admiral, army and navy engaged in this expedition; and in additon,

* Life of the Duke of Wellington, Kelly, London,—1814.

Colonel Cameron received a special letter from Lord Cathcart, the latter part of which will be sufficient to quote—viz., "In communicating to you this most signal mark of the approbation of Parliament, allow me to add my own warmest congratulations upon a distinction which the force under your command had so great a share in obtaining for His Majesty's service, together with the assurance of the truth and regard with which I have the honour to be, &c."

Scarcely had the army returned from Denmark when another demonstration was directed towards Sweden, of which Sir John Moore had the command-in-chief, and Colonel Cameron was promoted to the command of a brigade. This was a bloodless campaign, and they returned pretty much as they went.

(To be Continued.)

THE SCOTTISH EMIGRANT.

[When the Highland system of clanship was abolished after the final fall of the Stuarts, hundreds of families left their homes for America. This was the result partly of the influx of the southern farmers, and partly because the chiefs being no longer allowed to keep vassals to carry on their feuds, had therefore no interest in retaining a large band of followers on their lands. The strength of the country was thus diminished, and many bold and patriotic men, whose ancestors had flocked round the standard of King Robert the Bruce, now left old Scotland to return no more. The following verses are supposed to be the parting adieu of an emigrant as he is leaving his native Caledonia]:

Farewell to the land of the mountain and wood,
Farewell to the home of the brave and the good,
My bark is afloat on the blue-rolling main,
And I ne'er shall behold thee, dear Scotland, again!

Adieu to the scenes of my life's early morn,
From the place of my birth I am cruelly torn;
The tyrant oppresses the land of the free,
And leaves but the name of my sires unto me.

Oh! home of my fathers, I bid thee adieu,
For soon will thy hill-tops retreat from my view,
With sad drooping heart I depart from thy shore,
To behold thy fair valleys and mountains no more.

'Twas there that I woo'd thee, young Flora, my wife,
When my bosom was warm in the morning of life,
I courted thy love 'mong the heather so brown,
And heaven did I bless when it made thee my own.

The friends of my early years, where are they now?
Each kind honest heart, and each brave manly brow;
Some sleep in the churchyard from tyranny free,
And others are crossing the ocean with me.

Lo! now on the boundless Atlantic I stray,
To a strange foreign realm I am wafted away,
Before me as far as my vision can glance,
I see but the wave-rolling wat'ry expanse.

So farewell my country and all that is dear,
The hour is arrived and the bark is asteer,
I go and for ever, oh! Scotland adieu!
The land of my fathers no more I shall view.

PETER CRERAR.

CRIEFF.

GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

COLONEL 79TH CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

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Chapter XVII.

In continuing an outline of the operations by Britain during the twenty-two years of hostilities with France and her allies, and with which the subject of our memoir is so inseparably connected, we arrive now at what may be termed the beginning of the Peninsular War. A few words as to its causes.

The King of Portugal having refused to enforce the "Berlin Decree" against Britain, Napoleon determined to attack that country; and that he might be aided by Spain, he promised that part of Portugal would be added to it.

The French Marshal Junot took possession of Lisbon (November 1807) with a large force, upon which the Prince Regent and thousands of its inhabitants fled to the Brazils, and thereupon Napoleon was able to proclaim that "the monarchy of Portugal had ceased to reign." No sooner was Bonaparte in possession of Portugal than, through the treachery of the Spanish Minister (Godoz), he was able to turn his arms against that country, while General Murat was sent to occupy Madrid with a French division. The imbecile King of Spain was induced to renounce his throne in favour of Napoleon's brother Joseph for a pension and a palace in Navarre.

England having traded with Portugal (1808) on amicable terms for more than a century, considered her ally entitled to protection. It was therefore agreed to make an effort to expel the French from the country. Spain up to this time had been a willing agent in the French occupation of Portugal, to which, although a neighbour, she bore no love; but when Napoleon's soldiers commenced to shed the blood of Spaniards in the streets of Madrid, an insurrection broke forth; their patriotism took fire, and war to the knife against the aggressors was proclaimed all over the kingdom. This established an identity of interests between Spain and Portugal, and a scheme was laid down for the expulsion of the French from the Peninsula. The amount of the British contingent for this object was 20,000, of which the first division was dispatched to Lisbon in July, under the command of Sir Arthur Wellesley. He landed at Mondego Bay, and marched towards Lisbon, but had not proceeded far when he was met by Marshal Junot at Roleca, determined to drive Wellesley into the sea, which feat he was unable to accomplish, for after a conflict of a few hours Junot's generals were beaten back. The Rifle Brigade led the way, followed by the 29th and 9th the latter two losing their colonels. The encounter was a desparate one.*

* In this the first fight of the Peninsular War, two Lochaber gentlemen, Ferrad, Major John Cameron of the Ceilchenna family, commanded a wing of the 9th Regiment, and Captain Alex. Cameron had a company in the Rifles. The first died a Lieut. General, K.C.B., and the second a Major-General and K.C.B.

Wellesley continued his forward progress with an augmented force (1809) now numbering some 17,000 strong. He was posted at the village of Vimiera, where Marshal Junot came with all his disposable forces (about 20,000). Victory again favoured Sir Arthur. The French were completely routed. The British commander was bent upon pursuit to the gates of Lisbon, but was interdicted by Sir Hew Dalrymple, who entered into negotiations with Junot, and allowed him, with his Frenchmen, to evacuate the country. Sir Arthur Wellesley was not pleased at this interference and obtained leave to return home. The enemy was cleared out of Portugal for the time, and the British took possession of Lisbon.

Chapter XVIII.

Soon after the battle of Vimiera Sir John Moore was appointed to the command of 20,000 men destined to co-operate with the Spaniards in driving the French from the north of Spain. Of this force the 79th and other Highland regiments formed a part. This period closed the services of Colonel Cameron as a regimental officer, the appointment of Commandant of Lisbon, together with the rank of Brigadier, having been conferred on him. His personal command of the regiment therefore ceased, after fifteen years' unremitting and unwearied zeal, sharing its every privation; *and his almost paternal care for his native Highlanders, had never permitted him to be absent from their head.* He finally resigned the command of the regiment into the hands of his eldest son, Lieutenant-Colonel Philips Cameron.*

Moore's plans for the campaign were well conceived. He advanced into Spain, but could get no assistance from its Government, nor was there any reliable information respecting the enemy attainable. The Spanish troops were beaten and dispersed by the French. Meanwhile Napoleon himself had entered Spain at the head of some chosen troops, so that, including those under Soult, their number would amount together to more than a quarter of a million. Bonaparte went to seek Moore that "he might drive the English leopards into the sea." Owing to false intelligence which Moore received from Mr Frere (formerly the British Minister at Madrid) he advanced with his diminutive force, in hopes that he might attack and separate Soult's force from Napoleon's, but Soult had withdrawn. Moore, now apprehensive of being surrounded, commenced a retreat. Napoleon was at his heels with 70,000 infantry, 10,000 cavalry, and 200 guns; and so near was he that, at one time, he could descry the British rear. Fortunately the career of this ruthless invader was checked before he could come up with the devoted band of British soldiers retreating before him. He received news that his arms in Austria had encountered reverses, which he considered could only be repaired by his own presence, and he accordingly turned with the best part of his force towards that country, leaving the pursuit of Moore to Marshal Soult. The story of the retreat on Corunna during that wintry month of January 1809, and the sufferings experienced by the army, together with the fall of its illustrious commander at the subsequent battle, are too familiar to require repetition.

* Historical Record, page 20 (Jamieson's).

The 42d and 50th were eminently distinguished. Sir John Moore went up to the one and bade them to "remember Egypt," and the other he approved by—"Well done Fiftieth." The 79th under Lieutenant-Colonel Philips Cameron, and the 92d under Lieutenant-Colonel Napier, were in the brigade of General Fraser, "a fine specimen of an open generous Highland chieftain, a good soldier, with plain common sense, whom everybody loved."* The British—or rather the remnant left from the retreat and the fight—embarked for England the same evening, and left Spain, for a season, a prey to the French.

Chapter XIX.

General Cameron, who had been relieved as Commandant of Lisbon by General Sir John Craddock, was advancing towards Spain with a reinforcement to Moore's army when he was placed in a most critical position by the unexpected retreat on Corunna. Nevertheless he succeeded in conducting his force back to Lisbon, undergoing great difficulties from the nature of the country, and the inclemency of the weather. It was considerably augumented by the stragglers from Moore's army, collected, as they went along. For this act of perseverance General Cameron received the acknowledgments and personal thanks of the Commander-in-Chief. The preservation of so large a number of men under the circumstances was fortunate, inasmuch that after the delay of a week Sir John Craddock, with them and those at Lisbon, was able to be of considerable assistance to Wellington on his return to Portugal.†

After the Battle of Corunna, Soult set forward with the design of seizing Oporto and so advancing upon Lisbon, in which object he had the aid of Generals Victor and Lapisse. The resistance of Oporto was slight, and the French soldiers took advantage of the tumult prevailing by indulging in indiscriminate plunder. Soult, in the first place, announced by proclamation that he was the representative of the French Emperor; and that he intended to afford them just laws and personal liberty. Finally, he assured them that the hour of their deliverance from the bondage of England had arrived, and invited them to place confidence in him. Such was the state of the Peninsula when the British Government decided on making another effort to clear it of its invaders. The chief command was conferred on Sir Arthur Wellesley, who arrived in Lisbon in April. A force under the direction of Sir John Craddock had previously moved from the capital towards the imprisoned city of Oporto, in which body General Cameron commanded a brigade, consisting of the 79th, 83d, and 95th regiments. Sir Arthur overtook this body at Coimbra, and immediately set about dislodging Soult from Oporto. His army amounted to 20,000, six thousand of whom were allotted to act as a separate corps under Marshal Beresford; Generals Hill and Cotton, with brigades, were directed towards it by way of Aveira, and Generals Sherbrooke and Cameron by Ovar; while the chief himself, and the remainder took another route. All arrived at the rendezvous as designed, but found that

* Stocquler's History of the British army—London 1854.

† Annual Register for 1828.

as the bridge for crossing the Douro had been destroyed, and every boat removed, it became no easy matter to effect a passage. This difficulty was shortly removed by Colonel Waters finding, at some distance higher up, a small boat, and standing near it, the prior of a convent, and three peasants. He prevailed upon these to row him across. The deed was a daring one, for the patrols of the enemy passed to and fro constantly. Colonel Waters returned with the peasants, and four barges, into which General Paget and three companies of Buffs threw themselves. The French were surprised, became confused, and before they scarcely realized the state of matters the British force had crossed; and soon after they were pursuing Soult out of Oporto. The slaughter was great, for a panic had evidently fallen upon them. The enemy was not far advanced when head-quarters were established in the house which Soult had so recently occupied, and Sir Arthur and his staff partook of the dinner which had been prepared for the French Marshal.*

The British now entered Spain to form a junction with the Spanish forces, but the condition of the latter was so miserable that no dependence could be placed on their co-operation. Both were in position before Talavera, when two French *corps d'armée* (Victor's and Sebastian's) attacked them with the utmost fury. The Spaniards, from the nature of the ground, were nearly out of harm's way, so that the weight of the combat fell entirely on the British. The battle occupied two days (27th and 28th July), and is reckoned to have been the best contested during the war. The French lost 7000 killed and wounded, and the British upwards of 5000. The victory gained Sir Arthur the title of Viscount Wellington of Talavera. Writing to his friend, Mr Huskisson of the Treasury, he says "We have gained a great and glorious victory, which has proved to the French that they are not the first military nation in the world;"† also adding that nearly every one of the generals were seriously wounded. And in his despatch he says, "I have particularly to lament the loss of General Mackenzie, who had distinguished himself on the 27th ‡

Brigadier Cameron is included among the general officers mentioned as "meriting the Commander-in-Chief's unqualified praise for their gallantry during the contest." Cameron had three horses killed under him—two on the first, and one on the second, day, and he himself was twice wounded—severely on the 28th.

(To be Continued).

* The Marquis of Londonderry's Narrative, vol. I. (Colburn, London).

† Greenwood's Select Despatches, Nos. 296 and 315.

‡ General Mackenzie had commanded the 78th, and will be recognised in the North as of "Suddie" (Ross-shire). A monument is in St Paul's to his memory.

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Chapter XX.

The defeat of the Austrians at Wagram having released Napoleon's army from that country, he resolved now to put the finishing stroke upon "British effrontery and Peninsular independence." The army across the Pyrennes was augmented to an enormous extent, and under the most renowned of his Marshals, among whom were Soult, Ney, and Massena. The latter boasted that he would drive the British out of Portugal within three months. His first move was on Almeida, which he took, and Wellington fell back on the strong but irregular ranges of Busaco (near Coimbra). The army of the latter was not much more than half the number of the former; but thus, with Wellington, was not of so much consequence as a good position fortified by nature. With this conviction he assembled the flower of his army and disposed of it along the hill-tops, there to await "the spoilt child of victory," as Massena was termed. These ranges, for a length of eight miles, were studded with Wellington's troops. Among his generals of divisions were Hill, Picton, and Lightborne, and his brigadiers were—Leith, Park, Mackinnon, Crawfurd, and Cameron. The plains below were thick with the enemy. Two months exactly to a day had elapsed since the last combat (Talavera), when now, on the early morning of Sept. the 27th, the French commenced their ascent towards the heights with their accustomed *elan*, and notwithstanding that the guns of the horse artillery made serious gaps in their ranks, their impetuous progress was not checked till they came in contact with Cameron's brigade (79th, 7th, and 61st), and Crawfurd's (43d, 52d, and 95th). The efforts of the enemy to force the British positions were unsuccessful, and these brigades suffered little during the rest of the day.*

This was the signal for the various divisions to become engaged. Unflinching valour was maintained on both sides, until, as evening was close at hand the contest ended with the disappearance of the French, and Busaco was added to the list of British triumphs ! !

The subject of our memoir escaped being wounded in this action, but as he was leading off his brigade his horse stumbled, and both came heavily to the ground, when he received a severe contusion of the chest, from which he suffered considerable inconvenience for a long time afterwards.

Wellington after this victory thought it prudent to make his way towards Lisbon.

It was on this occasion that he planned that wonderful system of intrenchment, known to the reader, as the "Lines of Torres Vedras." Along these *lines* he constructed a chain of fortifications, which ran the

* In this affair the 79th lost Captain Alexander Cameron, who commanded a picquet and could not be prevailed on to withdraw. He was last seen fighting hand to hand with several French soldiers, to whom he refused to deliver up his sword. His body was found to be pierced with seven bayonet wounds.—*Hist. Rec.*, p. 24.

length of nearly thirty miles. To accomplish these, it is stated that fifty thousand men were engaged; and the work was carried on with so much secrecy that the enemy were ignorant of their procedure or existence. Within the shelter of the "Lines" Wellington and his army lay during the winter of 1809-10. They made the best of the *tedium* they could; for we read of Captain Ferguson of the "Black Watch" writing to Sir Walter Scott: "I need not tell you how delighted I was at the success of your poem of the 'Lady of the Lake.' Last spring I was so fortunate as to get a reading of it when in the 'Lines of Torres Vedras.' While the book was in my possession I had nightly invitations to evening parties to read and illustrate passages of it; and my attempts to do justice to the grand opening of the 'stag hunt' were followed with a burst of applause—for this Canto was the favourite among the rough sons of the fighting third division. By desire of my comrades of the 'Black Cuffs,' I have sent to London for a copy of the music of the boat song—'Hail to the Chief,' as arranged for the play at Covent Garden; if you can assist me in this, I need not say that on every performance a flowing bumper will go round to the bard."*

Chapter XXI.

After remaining with the army within the "Lines" for a time, General Cameron, finding his health to be in a dilapidated state, was compelled most reluctantly to apply for leave to resign his command, that he might return to England. The resignation was accepted in a letter from the Commander-in-Chief, in which he expressed sincere regret for the cause of the retirement; also his having heard from Captain Burgh *(aid-de-camp)*, of the accident that befel him at Busaco, which would have had his sympathy at the time but from the pressing circumstances of affairs.†

This closed the military career of this veteran soldier, after a duration of thirty-six years—twenty-two of which were spent in active service in the field. "He first served in the American War of Independence; and next, accompanied his own regiment to Flanders; the West Indies; Holland, Egypt, Portugal, and Spain, at a period of life when men of less strength of mind or of ordinary constitutions and habits would have been incapable of encountering such changes of climate and exhausting duties."‡ This would also terminate our account of his biography, but as his heart was still with his Highlanders, having left his son at their head, whom he had the misfortune to lose but three months after they parted, it may be pardoned if we extend our memoir to a reference to that circumstance as well as the services of his Highlanders.

Previous to the action on Busaco, the French had turned the Spaniards out of Almeida, Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz, strong fortresses in the frontiers. Marshal Soult at the same time laid siege to Cadiz, near to which stood the island of "Matagorda," with a fort upon it, which was occupied by a small force under Captain Archibald Maclaire of the 94th, § and which he bravely held against the onslaughts of an

* Lockhart's Life of Scott, p. 206.
† Letter in possession of General Cameron's family.
‡ General Stewart's Sketches, p. 281, vol. II.
§ A native of Mull, known in military circles as the "Hero of Matagorda."

enemy tenfold his number, until relieved by General Graham (afterwards Lord Lyndoch, the pupil of Macpherson, translator of Ossian), and which subsequently led to his brilliant victory of Barrosa, where the 87th Royal Irish Fusileers *(Faugh Ballaughs)* gained pre-eminent renown.

Chapter XXII.

When (1811) Massena followed Wellington to the Lines of Torres Vedras, and found himself check-mated by his astute opponent, he retired sulkily and silently towards Santarem, and having received large reinforcements directed his movements with the view of relieving Almeida, which Wellington had meantime invested. The latter sent a portion of his army in pursuit, during which several partial actions took place. The light companies of the 79th were part of the pursuers, and in its progress they overtook the 39th French regiment at *Fozd Aronzee*, and after a spirited encounter Lieut. and Adjutant Kenneth Cameron* took its Colonel prisoner and conveyed him to headquarters.

Massena hurried on to Almeida, but on the way thither the village of Fuentes D'Onoro lay in his path. This position was occupied by the 24th, 71st, and 79th Highlanders, the whole being under the command of the Colonel of the latter (Philips Cameron).

Against this tiny band Massena brought an imposing force—including his "giant guards."† To obtain possession of the village was the determined object of the French Marshal—for it was the key to Almeida. The retention of the place, therefore, became matter of the deepest interest to Wellington. A frightfully sanguinary battle was the result. It commenced on the afternoon of May 3d, and with but little cessation continued till the evening of the 5th. Chroniclers tell how valiantly the French attacked the village, and how nobly they were resisted by the Highlanders and the 24th Regiment.

The contest raged furiously, and a series of hand to hand encounters continued till darkness ended it for that evening, only to recommence within a few hours afterwards. French superiority of numbers enabled Massena to press the British out of the lower part of the village, after which he attacked the upper portion, but without success. It was a personal combat again; the ammunition was spent; the bayonet was doing its deadly work, and some whose bayonets became disengaged had to use the butt-end of their muskets. Bonaparte's "giant guards" were among the assailants, notwithstanding which the Highlanders and their gallant comrades (or rather remnants) drove them back and maintained their position. It was now that one of the French grenadiers was observed to step aside into a doorway and take deliberate aim at Colonel Cameron, who fell from his horse mortally wounded. A cry of grief, intermingled with shouts for revenge, which was rapidly communicated to those in front, arose from the rear-most Highlanders, who witnessed the fall of their commanding officer. This act caused

* Lieutenant Cameron was of the family of Camerons of Clunes in Lochaber. He died a Colonel after retiring to Canada—1872.

† The enemy never had such a superiority of numbers opposed to British troops as in this action. Note Wellington's Despatches (Gurwood), No. 615, p. 545.

considerable commotion, during which two companies of the 79th that got separated from the main body were surrounded and made prisoners.*

As Colonel Cameron was being conveyed to the rear by his sorrowing clansmen, General Mackinnon, at the head of the 74th Highlanders and 88th Connaught Rangers, was passing at the double, and his men, on hearing who was in the blanket (that it was *Ciamar tha 's son*),† rose a yell, and redoubling their pace, dashed into the village, and with this *impetus* made a charge which cleared the enemy entirely out of it with great slaughter. Captain Stocqueler‡ writing of this engagement says—"The 71st and 79th formed a very wall of their dead and wounded in defending their position. Here their chivalrous Colonel fell—Philips Cameron, the beau ideal of a soldier, and the pride of his corps; and to this day a monument near a church at Villa Formosa records his virtues and his heroism. His premature death reminds one of Byron's lines on Colonel Marceau (French) as appropriate, viz.—

> **Brief and brave was his young career,**
> **His mourners were both friends and foes;**
> **Fitly may the stranger linger here,**
> **And pray for his gallant spirit a bright repose.§**

It was also at this engagement that Captain Norman Ramsay performed the gallant feat which Napier has described so well. He had, in forgetfulness of Wellington's orders to the contrary, quitted a position with his light guns to rescue a regiment from imminent peril. Suddenly the French dragoons surrounded the isolated battery. Ramsay was in the greatest danger. With undaunted self-possession he gave the word and set the example; the Horse Artillery putting spurs to their steeds, with wonderful velocity, and astounding fierceness, drove their way through the mass that hemmed them in. Such intrepidity would have earned for Ramsay the highest honours in the French army; but Wellington who held obedience to be the first duty of a soldier, was so indignant at the disregard of his orders, that he would not mention Ramsay in his dispatch. The fight was distinguished by many instances of prompt and opportune valour, and the end was that Massena drew off his troops and left Almeida to its fate. The garrison—had proper viligance been exercised—must have been made prisoners of war. Much ridicule was showered on the blockading contingents of the British army for this piece of neglect; in consequence of which the French got away in a single night unobserved, and thus the object of the interposition to its relief, at Fuentes D'Onoro, was rendered nugatory.

(To be Continued.)

* The largest proportion of the two regiments (71st and 79th) were Gaelic-speaking men (indeed spoke English but imperfectly), and when the exclamation of *Thuit an Camshronach* (Cameron has fallen) was heard, the excitement became intense. This was followed by additional cries of Gaelic revenge.—*Historical Records.*

† The soldiers of the 88th being natives of Connaught, spoke the Gaelic more like the Highlanders than any of the provinces.

‡ Stocqueler's History of the British army, 1854.

§ Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto III., Stanza lvii.

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Chapter XXIII.

Colonel Philips Cameron was held in the highest esteem as an officer of superior professional talent. So highly was he valued by Wellington that himself and staff, and all the general officers within reach attended the funeral, which was conducted with military honours; and this at a most critical period of the campaign when they were urgently required elsewhere.* Notwithstanding the pressure of important matter that must have occupied Wellington, he was so considerate towards the feelings of General Cameron (father of the deceased) that he took time to write him *two* letters—the first to intimate the Colonel's having been wounded, and the other announcing his death. The latter is worth quoting and is as follows:—

Villa Formosa, May 15th, 1811.

My Dear General,—When I wrote you last week (7th inst.) I felt that I conveyed to you information which would give you great pain, but I hoped that I made you acquainted with the fullest extent of the misfortune which had befallen you. Unfortunately, however, those upon whose judgment I relied were deceived. Your son's wound was worse than it was supposed to be—it was mortal; and he died the day before yesterday at two in the morning.

I am convinced that you will credit the assurance that I condole with you most sincerely upon this misfortune, of the extent of which no man is more capable than myself of forming an estimate from the knowledge which I had, and the just estimate which I had formed in my own opinion of the merits of your son. You will, I am convinced, always regret and lament his loss; but I hope you will derive some consolation from the reflection that he fell in the performance of his duty, at the head of your brave regiment, loved and respected by all that knew him, in an action in which if possible the British troops surpassed anything they had ever done before, and of which the result was most honourable to His Majesty's arms.

At all events, if Providence had decreed to deprive you of your son I cannot conceive a string of circumstances more honourable and glorious than those under which he lost his life in the cause of his country.

Believe me, however, that although I am fully alive to all the honourable circumstances attending his death, I most sincerely condole with you upon your loss, and that I am yours most truly,

(Signed) Wellington.

To Major-General Allan Cameron, &c., &c., London.†

Comment on this letter would be superfluous. No one will doubt the sincerity of its expressions of sympathy when they remember the character of the man who wrote it. And while it is beyond question, most honourable to the writer, we cannot withhold our admiration for one of whom Wellington could write in such terms of unqualified praise ‡ also our

* Historical Records by Captain Jamieson, p. 29.

† Letter in possession of General Cameron's family. It is also in Gurwood's Select Despatches, No. 539, page 478.

‡ Colonel Gurwood in his compilation of Wellington's select despatches records only five letters of condolence—viz., on the deaths of the Hon. G. Lake, 29th Regiment; Philips Cameron, 79th; Hon. S. Cocks, 79th; Hon. H. Cadogan, 71st; and Hon. A. Gordon (Staff); all of which bear unmistakable proofs of his sympathies, yet the reader would agree with us, that the one quoted surpassed the rest in its tone of sorrow.

regret that his brilliant career, and the distinction he must evidenty have attained, was cut off at the early age of thirty!

Besides the grief expressed for his loss by the Man of War, his lament was not forgotten by the Man of Letters—the Colonel's own illustrious countryman Sir Walter Scott—both in prose and poetry. In the vision of Don Roderick, stanza x., the death is bewailed thus:—

> What avails thee* that for Cameron slain?
> Wild from his plaided ranks the yell was given,
> Vengeance and grief gave mountain rage the rein,
> And, at the bloody spear point headlong driven,
> Thy despot's† giant guards, fled the rack of heaven.‡

Chapter XXIV.

Although the stern discipline of Wellington would not permit him to *mention* the daring feat of gallantry performed by Norman Ramsay and his artillerymen, yet the same writer commemorates him in one of the notes to the same poem:—"In the severe action of Fuentes D'Onoro, the grand mass of the French cavalry attacked the right of the British position. Captain Norman Ramsay (let me be permitted to name a gallant countryman), who, putting himself at the head of his mounted artillerymen, ordered them to fall on the French sabre in hand. This unexpected conversion of artillerymen into dragoons, contributed greatly to the defeat of the enemy." Napoleon was so disappointed with Messena's defeat that he superseded him by Marshal Marmont.

General Cameron was but slowly recovering from the effects of the injuries received at Talavera, and the accident at Busaco, when news of the death of his son reached him. This laid the afflicted veteran completely prostrate—the cup of sorrows was overflowing. Two of his sons had already fallen during the war, and he had also been previously deprived of his wife, who fell a sacrifice to the climate of Martinique. His third son, Nathaniel, was in command of the 2d battalion of the regiment, and his household now consisted of his two daughters. He must have found much comfort in the amount of consideration that was extended to him by the authorities on this occasion. Wellington's letter to him came with other official communications from the seat of war to Lord Bathurst (the Minister for War) and which his lordship forwarded, accompanied by a note expressive of sympathy with the melancholy nature of its intelligence. He also had numerous letters of condolence from other distinguished personages. But the burden of sorrow now uppermost with him was regret that he had survived Talavera, and so have not escaped this domestic and trying calamity.

Almeida having fallen to Wellington, the possession of Badajoz was the next object of that sagacious commander. To effect its capture Marshal Beresford was sent with a proportion of troops, and had com-

* Messena. † Napoleon.

‡ Colonel Cameron was wounded mortally during the desperate contest in the village of Fuentes D'Onoro. He fell at the head of his native Highlanders, who raised a shriek of grief and rage; they charged with irrestible fury the French grenadiers, being a part of Napoleon's selected guard. The Frenchman who stepped out of his rank to take aim at the Colonel was bayoneted and pierced with wounds, and almost torn to pieces by the furious Highlanders.—*Note to Don Roderick.*

menced operations in the usual way. On the 15th May a desperate engagement took place on the ridge of *Albuera* between Soult and himself. On the 19th Wellington arrived with fresh divisions, and the siege of Badajoz was resumed, but the French being reinforced to a disproportionate extent, it was abandoned after two unsuccessful attempts. The following months of the year were not distinguished by any action of much importance.

Chapter XXV.

Wellington opened the campaign this year (1812) with the capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, after a fortnight's siege, and Badajoz shared the same fate shortly afterwards (April); but both victories were won only at the expense of thousands of lives.* General Hill had contributed much towards the fall of these fortresses by his operations on Almaraz.†

The next object of Wellington was to attack Marshal Marmont who was at Salamanca, but which he evacuated on the approach of the British. Wellington followed him, and both were desirous to occupy a certain position on the banks of the river Tonnes, during which a series of manœuvres occured, wherein the commanders displayed great skill. Both arrived at the same time. The French Marshal commenced the battle by a display of military tactics to enable him to turn the right of the allied army, through which his own ranks became extended and thus so weakened, that Wellington detecting the false movement ordered his divisions forward, and commenced the battle known as *Salamanca*. The French army was speedily broken, overpowered, and chased from the field. Wellington in his despatch calculated that their loss was not far short of 20,000 men, and adds that the whole of the French army would have been taken had there been an hour more of daylight.‡ The French were pursued to Valladolid, and hence Wellington advanced and took possession of Madrid, which, however, he abandoned for further conquests. He laid siege to the Castle of Burgos. The operations against it were delegated to the light companies of several regiments, including those of the 42d and 79th Highlanders, the whole being under the command of Major the Honourable Edward Cocks of the latter corps, by whom the attack on the advanced *fleches* was carried in a most gallant manner. Notwithstanding that a succession of assaults were continued against the Castle with the intrepidity of British soldiers, they were of no avail, principally through the absence of ordnance and a battering ram. The 79th lost Majors E. Cocks,§ Andrew Lawrie, and Lieut. Hugh Grant, and had five officers wounded, while the party of the 42d had three subalterns killed

* Among the many who distinguished themselves pre-eminently were two Inverness-shire gentlemen—viz., Colonel Elder (Skye) and Colonel Alexander Cameron (Lochaber), both of the Rifle Brigade.

† Colonel Cameron of Fassifern is mentioned in handsome terms by the General for his conduct in the affair.

‡ Colonel Robert Dick (of Tullymet, Perthshire), and the 42d Highlanders were among the distinguished at Salamanca. Sir Robert Dick was killed at the battle of Sobraon (India), 1846.

§ Wellington's letter of condolence to Lord Somers on the fall of his son (Major Cocks) in Gurwoods, No. 691.

and one volunteer officer wounded.* This heavy list of sufferers from *storming* will demonstrate that the failure was in no wise attributable to their exertions.

The British army, after withdrawing from before Burgos, fell back towards the frontiers of Portugal and went into winter quarters. In May (1813) Wellington entered Spain in three divisions, the centre being led by himself, the right by Sir Rowland Hill, and the left by Sir Thomas Graham. The advance was made in the direction of Valladolid, the French retreating till they took up a strong position in front of the town of *Vittoria*. On the 21st June a general action took place named after this place. Joseph (Napoleon's brother) commanded the French, having Marshal Jourdan as chief of his staff. Wellington also had his chiefs (Hill and Graham) with him. The battle was severe and lasted the whole of the day. The French ultimately gave way, were driven and pursued through the town, and for a considerable distance towards Pampluna. The whole of their artillery, baggage, ammunition, together with property valued at a million sterling was taken, and King Joseph himself was nearly seized by a squadron of the 10th Hussars. The Spanish and Portuguese troops, in company with their British allies, are reported to have engaged themselves with great enthusiasm in this battle. In Wellington's despatch only two regiments are mentioned (71st and 87th).† The rest are specified under their respective divisions. The victory of *Vittoria* brought Wellington the rank of Field Marshal.

Chapter XXVI.

Following the outline of the war from Vittoria, Wellington, taking advantage of that victory to effect his mission of expelling the invaders from the Peninsula, directed part of his army to force them through the defiles of the Pyrennees. For the defence of these passes Soult, equally determined for resistance, made extensive preparations. On a day in the last week of July, the opposing forces came in sight of each other, near the *Pass of Maza*, and the first British corps to come in contact with the enemy were the 71st and 92d Highlanders, both under the lead of the colonel of the latter. The French, to the number of four to one, advanced with their natural impetuosity against the pursuers, who were scarcely able to check such formidable columns. Notwithstanding the intrepidity with which the attacks were met, and the obstinate bravery with which every inch of ground was disputed, they were like to be borne down by the overwhelming power of the enemy; but being reinforced, the Highlanders eventu-

* In a novel entitled "Annals of the Black Watch," recently published, its writer attempts to produce a somewhat sensational but unworthy point by alleging that "while a volunteer officer of the 42d lay wounded two soldiers of the 79th were detected ransacking his pockets for their contents." The writer of the present memoir wrote remonstrating with the writer of the novel for the introduction of such a charge against the honour of brave men, and more especially so, when it was detailed with apparent circumstantial evidence, and particularising the No. of the corps. His reply was as unsatisfactory as it was laconic. Its extent was—"Be pleased to remember that my book is a novel!—J. G."

† Colonel Cadogan of the 71st was killed. Letter of condolence No. 784. The 87th Regiment secured the baton of King Joseph, which was sent to England with the dispatch, and its captor, Major Gough, was promoted. He was afterwards commander-in-chief of the Battle of Chillianwallach in India, for which victory he was created a peer as Viscount Gough.

ally maintained the position. The action now became general along the heights, nearly every regiment having had to charge with the bayonet. The 79th stationed in the valley of the *Lanz*, was also attacked by masses of the French, which they resisted with a stubbornness that defied defeat. The series of engagements which took place along these ranges are termed the "Battles of the Pyrennees," and their result was the repulse of the French at all points. These were the first meetings of the 79th with the French under its new colonel (Neil Douglas), who commanded them in every subsequent action, including Waterloo, and whose gallantry throughout proved him worthy of the martial name he bore. Soult now retired behind the *Biddassoa* and afterwards to *Nivelle*. In the course of the following months (September and October) the two strong fortresses of St Sebastian and Pampluna were carried by assault. Wellington, now on the confines of French territory, after a halt of some few weeks, pushed on in pursuit of Soult, whom he overtook and fought at *Nivelle*. The firm line formed by the Cameron Highlanders when ascending a hill to meet the enemy at this battle excited the admiration of Sir Rowland Hill, who complimented Colonel Douglas on the steady advance of the regiment under fire.*

The whole Continent was again in arms against Napoleon. During his disastrous retreat from Moscow, a sentiment of national degradation impelled the people of Prussia to join in the coalition, to which succeeded the crowning battle (for Germany) of Leipsic. The British, under Sir John Hope, invested Bayonne, and Beresford was directed to occupy Bordeaux. Soult closely pressed, retired across the *Gave D'Oleron*, and subsequently retreated to *Toulouse*. Wellington following, found him posted on the right bank of the broad river Garonne which runs through it. Some days were occupied before the British army could be conveyed to the other side, and which was not finally accomplished till early on the 10th April (Easter Sunday), and on which day was fought the bloody battle that takes its name from that town, and resulted in the termination of the Peninsular War.† Out of the regiments of the Sixth Division Sir Denis Pack formed a Highland Brigade, which consisted of the 42d, 79th, and 91st Highlanders. That being so, and their deeds of that eventful day also having mainly contributed to its successful issue, it may be allowable that they should be recorded in this narrative.

(To be Continued).

* Captain Jamieson's Historical Records, page 41.

† In Mr Carter's "Curiosities of War" (1859), are enumerated the many important battles which have been fought on Sundays.

GENERAL SIR ALAN CAMERON, K.C.B.,

COLONEL 79TH CAMERON HIGHLANDERS.

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CHAPTER XXVII.

THE following letter from General Cameron to his son, and found in the pocket of the latter when he fell at Fuentes D'Onoro, not received in time for its place in the Memoir, is, however, considered entitled to precedence in this chapter :—

London, February 20th, 1811.

I arrived at home some few days ago after rather a rough passage to Falmouth. Captain Stanhope favoured me with his best cabin, for which I was thankful.

I am glad to say that I found your sister quite well ; and now my own health has so much improved, I begin to regret having resigned my command in the army. Let me, however, charge you to appreciate your own position at the head of a fine regiment : be careful of the lives of the gallant fellows, at the same time that you will also hold sacred their honour, for I am sure they would not hesitate to sacrifice the one in helping you to maintain the other. I will not trouble you with more at present, but write when you can.

Soult, having arrived at Toulouse several days before Wellington, was able to make choice of his own ground, which he selected to be on a height running parallel with the Canal of *Longuedoc*—having in the interval fortified the position with lines of intrenchments and several redoubts. It is admitted that, as an exception, the contending parties were nearly equal on this occasion, but in artillery the French were much stronger. Of these redoubts, two, named respectively *Colombette* and *Augustine*, were raised in the centre, both heavily armed with men and guns. On the order being given to proceed the Sixth Division moved towards the position of the enemy, its Highland Brigade in the van. Sir Denis Pack assigned the attack of the redoubt *Colombette* to the 42d, and that on the other to the Cameron Highlanders. Both redoubts were carried at a run in the most gallant style, in the face of a terrific fire of round-shot, grape, and musketry, by which both regiments suffered severely. Two companies of the 79th advanced from the captured work to encounter another force of the enemy on the ridge of plateau ; but fell back again on the redoubt on perceiving that the 42d had been attacked in its own redoubt by an overwhelming force. Alarm communicated itself from one regiment to the other, and both for a moment quitted the works. At this critical juncture Colonel Douglas having rallied the 79th, it again advanced, and shortly succeeded in retaking, not only its own former position, but also the redoubt which the 42d had left. For this service Colonel Douglas received, on the field, the thanks of his Brigadier (Sir Denis Pack) and of General Clinton, the commander of the division. The 91st in conjunction with some Spanish regiments (hitherto in reserve) now moved up and drove the enemy from the smaller redoubts, thus leaving the British army in possession of the plateau and its works. The 79th occupied the redoubt *Colombette* during the night of that day (Sun-

day)* Wellington, in his dispatch alluding to the gallantry of General Pack and his brigade in driving the French out of their redoubts, adds, "But we did not gain this advantage without severe loss, particularly in the Sixth division. The 36th, 42d, 79th, and 61st regiments lost considerable numbers, and were highly distinguished throughout the day.†

The 42d had four officers and eighty men killed, twenty officers and three hundred and ten wounded. Their Colonel (Macara) was honoured with K.C.B., having commanded the regiment in three general engagements. The 79th had five officers and thirty men killed; fourteen officers and two hundred men wounded (official returns).

The Colonel (Douglas) and Brevet-Colonel Duncan Cameron of the 79th received marks of distinction for the conduct of the regiment at this decisive engagement. In the course of the forenoon of 12th (Tuesday), intelligence was received of the abdication of Napoleon; and had not the express been delayed on the journey by the French police, the sacrifice of many valuable lives would have been prevented. A disbelief in its truth occasioned much unnecessary bloodshed at Bayonne, the garrison of which made a desperate sortie on the 14th. This was the last action of the Peninsular War, and in the course of a couple of months afterwards the British army embarked for home (some of its regiments having previously been ordered to augment our forces in America).

Before parting with them, Wellington issued a general order, part of which is quoted, viz., "The share which the British army have had in restoring peace, and the high character with which it will quit this country, is most satisfactory to the commander of the forces, and he trusts that the troops will continue the same good conduct to the last. Once more, he requests the army to accept his thanks."

General Cameron received the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel Duncan Cameron, giving him information about the battle.

Toulouse (France), 13th April 1814.

My Dear General,—I take the very first opportunity I could command since our coming to this place on the 10th to write you. We fought a heavy battle with Soult that day (Sunday) which we fervently trust will finish this interminable contest. I am sorely grieved at the loss of so many dear relatives and comrades in this action—in which I know you will join—your two nephews (John and Ewan), my cousin (Duncan), and Captain Purves were killed, and Lieut. Macbarnet is not likely to outlive his wounds. Adjutant Kenneth Cameron‡ is also severely wounded, indeed I think Colonel Douglas and myself are the only two among the officers that escaped. We buried Captain Purves, John, Ewan, and Duncan in the one grave in the Citadel of Toulouse, and I have ordered a memorial slab to mark their resting place. News is about that Napoleon has abdicated, but not confirmed. I will, however, write again and acquaint you of anything. I hope your own health is improved. My best regards.—I am yours, ever sincerely,

Duncan Cameron, Brevet Lieut.-Colonel.

To Major General Cameron, Gloucester Place, London.

* This account is that in the Historical Records, p. 45. It is substantially the same which Captain Ford gives of the battle in the *United Service Magazine*, 1843, and the accuracy of which he was particular to get certified by officers of the other regiments of the brigade. His correspondence with Sir William Napier respecting these *redoubts* is included by Lord Aberdare in his life of that General. He states his reason for recurring to a subject so long past, was that Lieut. Malcolm, of the 42d, suppressed the fact that the 79th held possession of the *Colombette* all night. Captain Ford was for many years secretary to the United Service Institution.

† Wellington's dispatches, No. 894.

‡ This gentleman is referred to by the Rev. Dr Masson, as Colonel Cameron of Thora, in his address before the Gaelic Society of Inverness (Transactions, page 37). He is also referred to in chapter xxii. of this memoir.

At a congress of nations held in Paris, Napoleon was ordered to be sent to the Island of Elba as a prisoner, and in charge of Colonel Neil Campbell.* King Louis the XVIII., who had been exiled in England during the previous twenty-one years (1793 to 1814), was restored to his throne, and Wellington was created a Duke with a grant of £400,000! These were a few of the advantages to nations and individuals, resulting from a cessation of hostilities. Notwithstanding the rejoicings consequent on the victory at Toulouse, the grief which the loss of so many lives brought to the homes of families was great indeed, and to nó quarter of the dominions more than to the straths and glens of the Highlands. Among the general officers on whom the Prince Regent (George IV.) conferred the honour of knighthood, and to whom the Houses of Parliament accorded their thanks, General Cameron was included, "in acknowledgement of long and meritorious services."†

Chapter XXVIII.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate here Napoleon's imprisonment in Elba, his escape in spite of the vigilance of his guardians, his arrival at Cannes on the 1st of March, his entry into Paris on the 20th, at the head of an army, and the consternation among the representatives of the allied Powers assembled at Vienna to regulate the dismembered state of Europe, when the astounding intelligence reached them that their imperial captive had escaped, and was already in possession of the Tuilleries. Nor is it necessary to refer in detail to the arrangements made by the Powers to meet their enemy again in the field, and the events which led to the battle of Quatre Bras, on the 16th of June. The history of the ball to which the Duchess of Richmond (sister of the Duke of Gordon) invited Wellington, his generals, and other officers on the evening of the 15th, is already well known to the reader. At midnight, in the midst of revelry and mirth, from which, however, the generals and other officers had quietly and secretly retired, the bugles were sounded throughout the city of Brussels, summoning the troops to assemble for further orders. Sir Thomas Picton's division was the first to march. It was composed of Kempt's Brigade (28th, 32d, and 79th), and Pack's (42d, 44th, and 92d). The Colonels of the Highland regiments were Neil Douglas, Sir Robert Macara, and John Cameron (Fassifern). At two o'clock A.M., the generals were informed that the troops were assembled and ready under arms. Perhaps no portion of British history has engaged so many writers, as Wellington's campaign in Flanders. Three of our poets—Southey, Scott, and Byron have devoted several stanzas to Waterloo. One stanza celebrates the gathering of the troops on that eventful morning. And its first line would appear to have been intended for the "Cameron Highlanders." We include it notwithstanding that it is so well known:—

* Of the Campbells of Duntroon.

† Two officers, not included among the order of K.C.B., were disappointed, and one of them (Colonel John Cameron of the 92d) wrote Wellington to that effect. The Duke's reply is in Gurwood's (page 833, No. 922), which states, "the regulations for that distinction were restricted to those officers who commanded at not fewer than *three general* engagements."

And wild and high the "Cameron's gathering" rose!
The war note of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills
Have heard, and heard too, have their Saxon foes:
How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills
Savage and shrill! But with the breath which fills
Their mountain pipe, so fill the mountaineers
With the fierce native daring which instils
The stirring memory of a thousand years,
And Ewan's, Donald's fame rings in each clansman's ears.

At 4 o'clock on the morning of Friday the 16th June, Kempt's Brigade was the first to start—its two senior regiments, 28th and 32d, leading, and after them the 79th. To these succeeded Pack's Brigade and the Hanoverians, taking the road to Waterloo by the Forest of Soignes, where they rested at mid-day and refreshed. The Duke appeared among them at this hour, upon which he issued orders to proceed direct to Quartre Bras (twenty-one miles from Brussels).

Soigne waves above them her green leaves,
Dewy with nature's teardrop as they pass,
Grieving—if aught inanimate e'er grieves—
Over the unreturning brave, &c., &c.

Picton and his division, with the Hanoverians and a corps of Brunswickers, arrived there at two o'clock, every man of which became immediately engaged with more than double their number, and continued so until six o'clock, when Sir Colin Halkett's Brigade most opportunely came to their aid; still it was an unequal conquest. The British had no cavalry present, except a few Brunswick and Belgians, but which were soon scattered like chaff before the veteran French Cuirassiers. We read how a regiment of Lancers galloped into the midst of the 42d, and how the latter stood back to back, every man fighting on his own ground, till they repulsed them, but with the loss of their intrepid Colonel (Macara) who fell pierced and mortally wounded with lances. And when the Duke ordered the 92d to "charge these fellows," how they sprung over the ditch and cleared them out of their position. It was in this charge their colonel fell also mortally wounded.* Leaving Pack's brigade, the Duke rode off to Kempt's position, where he directed the 79th "to cover the guns and drive these fellows from their places." The regiment accordingly "cleared the bank in front at a bound and charged with the bayonets, drove the French with precipitation to a hedge, where the latter attempted to reform, but were driven from that with great alacrity, and a third time scattered them in total confusion upon their main column." Their comrades of the 32d and 28th were at the same time performing heroic feats of gallantry, the latter sustaining the reputation won in Egypt. The enemy failed in every attack, and at nightfall withdrew to a considerable distance. The action of Quartre Bras would have been sufficient of itself to be sounded by the trumpet of fame, but it was overshadowed by the subsequent and greater victory of Waterloo.

Wellington, in a paragraph of his dispatch, pays his tribute of praise to Picton's men for their valour at Quartre Bras:—"The troops of the

* It is singular that Colonel Cameron received his mortal wound in a manner similar to that which his namesake fell at Fuentes D'Onoro, by the deliberate aim of a French soldier.

Fifth Division, and those of the Brunswick corps, were long and severely engaged, and conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry. I must particularly mention the 28th, 42d, 79th, and 92d regiments, and the battalion of the Hanoverians." Napoleon in person was at Ligny from which he compelled Blucher and the Prussians to retire on Wavre. This retrograde movement necessitated a similar one on the part of Wellington, in order to keep up the communication of the allied armies. On Saturday (17th) the Duke made a leisurely retreat, undisturbed except by a few cavalry skirmishes, to the plains of Waterloo, which he had previously selected for a battlefield.

On the same day Napoleon formed a junction with Ney, when their united forces amounted to 78,000—Wellington's effective strength on the morning of the 18th was 68,000. The two portions of the field which appear to have claimed the greatest desire on the part of Wellington to preserve were the house and gardens of Hougoumont (an advanced post situated on the right), and the other was the village Planchenoit, on the left. The importance to hold the latter position will be understood when it is stated that it held his line of communication with Marshal Blucher. The first of these posts was occupied by the brigade of guards among the commanding officers of which were, Colonels James Macdonell (Glengarry), D. Mackinnon and Lord Saltoun. The defence of the second *(Planchenoit)* was entrusted to Picton's division, but more immediately to Kempt's brigade, a wing of the Rifles under Major Alexander Cameron, the 28th under Colonel Belcher, the 79th under Colonel Douglas, and Royal Scots, under Colonel Campbell. Although during the Peninsular War, Wellington had met and fought almost all Napoleon's Marshals, yet the two principals had not hitherto contended. Napoleon is said to have been confident, and to have expressed his gratification that he was "to have an opportunity of measuring himself against Wellington." At about ten o'clock the respective combatants were marshalled ready for action, and near enough to see each other. The scene must have been imposing —Napoleon the Great at the head of the chosen troops of France, against those of Britain* and her allies, under the renowned British hero! The Emperor was observed with his staff to be passing along the lines, the troops hailing him with enthusiasm, and loud shouts of *Vive l'Empereur;* the infantry raising their caps upon their bayonets, and the cavalry their *casques* upon their swords and lances! "The force of the two armies," said the Emperor, "cannot be estimated by a mere comparison of numbers; because one Britisher might be counted for one Frenchman; but two of their allies were not equal to one Frenchman." The first attack was made by Prince Jerome with a strong force upon Hougoumont, which continued more or less persistently throughout that day,† but the gallant guards defended it successfully till the last, even when the whole place was in flames!

The enemy's next move was to wreak its vengeance on the British

* The majority of the British regiments were composed of young men drafted from their reserve battalions. The Peninsular regiments had not returned from America.

† This day of terrible strife was Sunday, and it was on the same sacred day, fourteen months before, that the battle of Toulouse was fought.

left position (Picton's). Ney with four massive columns made towards it, and meeting with some Netherland troops, which he dispersed easily, was descending upon a portion of Kempt's Brigade (28th and 79th). The artillery on both sides were blazing away at each other, regardless almost of friends or foes. There was a hedge between the combatants, and Picton, seeing the impetuosity of Ney's columns, ordered these regiments to give them a meeting, which was obeyed with a volley that stemmed their further progress, and then with a cheer rushed through the hedge, receiving a murderous encounter in return. This caused but a momentary delay as the leading regiment (79th) quickly rallied, and, levelling their bayonets, charged Ney's columns back to their position. It was during this repulse of the enemy that Picton fell—he was struck in the right temple and died almost immediately. His life had been spent in the rough service of his country; and no officer on the field that day was held in more admiration than this immortal son of Wales. His last words were, "Thornton (his *aide-de-camp)* rally the Highlanders" (the Camerons).* During the battle of Waterloo, Pack's Brigade was not so hotly assailed as that of Kempt's. The 92d was, however, an exception, but that occasion alone was sufficient to immortalize their bravery. It was when some one of the foreign corps gave way,† before a column of several thousand French, who, in consequence, came directly in front of the 92d, whose strength did not then exceed three hundred. Sir Denis Pack rode up calling out, "Ninety-second, you must charge that body." The regiment formed four deep, and in that compact order advanced until within twenty paces, when it fired a volley, and instantly darted into the heart of the French column, in which it became almost invisible. The Scots Greys seeing the desperate situation of their countrymen, galloped up to the rescue, shouting loudly, "*Scotland for ever.*" The impetuosity of the Greys broke up the column, and in pursuing it Sergeant-Major Ewart captured two of their standards. After this brilliant affair Sir Denis, complimenting Colonel D. Macdonald, added, "Highlanders, you have saved the position, retire and rest yourselves." Neither the 92d nor 42d, from the nature of the ground they occupied, were molested to any extent at Waterloo; but not so with Kempt's Brigade, inasmuch that Ney did not relax his utmost efforts to annihilate the devoted band that composed it, in hopes of interposing the co-operation of the Prussians expected from that quarter. The desperate trials they were exposed to will be understood when it is stated that the 79th lost all the superior officers, and their command, for the last three hours of the day, was conducted by a lieutenant (Alexander Cameron),‡ and that of the 28th and Rifles to captains. While Ney directed his energies towards this part of the field, Napoleon and his generals ordered their resources on the whole line of

* Captain Seborne's detailed account of Waterloo.

† Some writers say they were Belgians, others that they were Germans.

‡ Lieutenant Cameron was another nephew of Alan Cameron by his sister. His father was Cameron of Scamadale in Lochaber, who died in Inverness 1833. When the gallant conduct of this junior officer was reported to Wellington, he recommended him for promotion, in obedience to which his name appeared in the *Gazette* of June 30 as Captain, and in that of September as Brevet-Major. Reports describe him as a picture of one of Ossian's heroes.

the allies, but more directly on their centre. This demonstration brought the contending forces into general conflict — more especially so the cavalries. It would be superfluous to record the brilliant charges of Ponsonby, Vivian, Anglesey, and Somerset with their respective brigades. It was now seven o'clock in the evening, and the Prussians made their appearance, after which they attacked the French right (Planchenoit). Napoleon's chances were growing desperate, and as a last effort he ordered the advance of his magnificent old guard against the British position at La Haye Sainte, Napoleon himself and his Lieutenant Ney at their head. They went up a gently sloping ridge, at the top of which the British Guards were lying down (to avoid the fire of the artillery), but, as the columns approached, Wellington give the word, "*Up Guards,*" which was instantly obeyed, and at the distance of about 50 yards delivered a terrible volley into the French ranks. This was followed by a charge which hurled the Old Guard down the hill in one mingled mass with their conquerors. The result of that repulse threw the whole French line into confusion. Napoleon galloped to the rear, and Wellington availing himself of their dismay ordered a general advance. The French was now in complete rout; Blucher followed and overtook Wellington at La Belle Alliance, by whom it was agreed to leave the pursuit to the Prussians, who were comparatively fresh.

Many prisoners were made, and Napoleon himself narrowly escaped. It was computed that during the two days' engagement the French lost 30,000 men, while it was also estimated that nearly one-half of the allies were either killed or wounded. Among the killed, besides Picton, were Sir William Ponsonby and the Duke of Brunswick.

Chapter XXIX.

The battles of the 16th and 18th may be well described as having been a succession of assaults of unabated fury, which put the steadiness of the British to severe tests. Every attack diminished their numbers, and still their survivors yielded not an inch of ground. No other troops would have endured for so long a period so terrible a struggle with an enemy of undaunted courage, and hitherto much accustomed to victories. It is a fact well authenticated, that Napoleon repeatedly expressed admiration of the incomparable firmness of his opponents.

The wounded were in most instances conveyed to Brussels and Antwerp, while the remnant of the survivors bivouacked that night (Sunday) on the ground which had been the French position. Thus closed that eventful day, in a conflict, the first of which had commenced upwards of twenty years before its date, and which has resulted in peace between the British and French for now more than half a century. Notwithstanding the fatigues of the three previous days, the allied army marched off the field at an early hour the following morning to *Nivelles*, and where they remained till joined by Wellington on the 21st, who had been to Brussels to see to the care of the wounded. After some inconsiderable interruption they entered Paris on the 7th July. Napoleon had, meanwhile (22d June), abdicated in favour of his son under proclamation with the title of "Napoleon the Second;" but the submission was of no

avail—the terms of the conquerors being the unconditional removal of the Bonapartes and the restoration of the Bourbons.

For many years the field of Waterloo continued to be visited by men most eminent in the arts and sciences, civil and military, and of every nationality. Among the earliest visitors to it were Sir Walter Scott and Lord Byron, and both have commemorated their pilgrimages in verses that will co-exist with the memory of the battle itself.* Therefore as the commencement of this sketch of the campaign was prefaced by a stanza from Byron, it is fitting that the closing scene be graced with a few lines of Scott's, of which the following (slightly altered) is selected—viz. :—

Well has my country stood the fight,
In a just cause and in its native might;
Period of honour, as of woes,
What bright careers 'twas Wellington's to close?
Saw'st Miller's failing eye
Still bent where Albyn's banners fly,
And Cameron in the shock of steel
Die like an offspring of Lochiel.†

After the wounded reached Brussels, and were recovering somewhat, General Cameron received the following communication from Major (Brevet-Colonel) Duncan Cameron of the 79th Regiment :—

Brussels, June 26th, 1815.

My Dear General,—You will have heard of our great battles and our losses at them. I am here under the doctors, suffering rather severely from two wounds, and it is only with difficulty I can write these few lines. Our division was desperately engaged on both days, in fact I believe we suffered more than any of them. The colonels of the 42d and 92d were killed, besides heavy losses among their officers. I understand that our own regiment exceeded even them, in fact all our superior officers are either killed or wounded, and Colonel Douglas among the latter. You will understand *that* when I mention a Lieutenant (your nephew Alexander) commanded it for the last two or three

* Sir Walter and Byron met each other for the second and last time on this occasion. The former was on his way back, and the other was leaving the following day (15th September 1815) for Waterloo and Paris. And this was Byron's *last* in England as he never returned.

† "Colonel Cameron, 92d Regiment, so often distinguished in Wellington's dispatches from Spain."—*Note to Waterloo* (*a Poem by Sir Walter Scott*, 1816). This note must be accepted as more or less figurative, inasmuch that, as a matter of prosaic fact, Colonel Cameron is not mentioned twice in the Duke's dispatches. The poet must have mistaken him for other general officers of the same name. Half the Peninsular War had been through before the Colonel arrived, and during the remainder, he was only present at one of its great battles (Vittoria). *Arroyo, Molinos, and Maya*, gallant actions as they were, and so written of by Napier, yet these are ranked only as *desultory affairs*. Absence from its principal engagements was the cause ascribed for not including the Colonel of the 92d among those who received K.C.B. (Gurwood, page 833). No officer of the army was more ambitious respecting his reputation than Colonel Cameron, and the same might be said of his family. After his death at *Quatre Bras* the father applied for a baronetcy, which the Government did not think it gracious to refuse ; on receipt of which he erected a monument. The brother afterwards engaged the parish minister to write a memoir of him (1858), and Professor Blackie volunteered a poem, wherein he innocently places him as head of the "Cameron Men" (79th Regiment) ; therefore the gallant Colonel has had no lack of posthumous fame. The reverend compiler of the memoir filled it with needless hyperbole. At page 83 he says, "The author of 'Romance of War' knew the Colonel well." Mr Grant (the author) was *not* in the flesh till seven years *after* the Colonel was in his grave! Page 81—"The funeral at Kilmalie was attended by three thousand persons;" and at page 110 he adds, "There lives in our vicinity one of the soldiers who joined the 92d at its embodiment in 1794, and down to 1815 he has been present with her at no fewer than *forty four* engagements." If one-half the numbers in these quotations are relegated to fiction and the other to fact, the statement will be nearer truth.

hours. Both himself and your other nephew (Archibald) escaped being seriously wounded, as they have continued with the regiment and are off with it to *Nivelles*. This will be gratifying to you, and also that I can add, they conducted themselves with the utmost gallantry and coolness throughout the terrible attacks made on us, notwithstanding that it was the first time either had faced the enemy. This town is quite an hospital, and what between prisoners and invalids, it is crowded. Medical gentlemen both from London and Edinburgh have generously come to our aid, and I have been fortunate enough to have had the attentions of Mr George Bell of the latter, who gives me hope of recovery, after which it is my intention to follow the regiment.—Meanwhile, believe me, yours, very sincerely, DUNCAN CAMERON.

To Major-General Cameron, 28 Gloucester Place, London.

On receipt of this letter General Cameron, accompanied by one of his daughters, started for Brussels to see his suffering countrymen, where he remained a fortnight, and shortly after his return to London received letters from his two nephews from Paris (one of which we transcribe)—

Head Quarters, Clinchy, near Paris, July 15th 1815.

MY DEAR UNCLE,—I have to ask your indulgence for not writing sooner, but I was so closely on duty ever since we left Brussels on the 15th ult. that I really had not a moment to think of anything but to attend to it. I had a note from Colonel Duncan to say that you had been to see them there, and that he told you about Archie and myself. We both escaped getting badly hurt, which was a miracle, and we are thankful for it. In consequence of all my superior officers being either killed or wounded, the honour of taking the 79th out of the field devolved on me. We got frightfully attacked in getting through a hedge, the only time we got somewhat disordered. Our brave Colonel was seriously wounded on the 16th; but during the day he was always reminding us of *Toulouse*, and General Kempt rode up saying, "Well done, Douglas," and then added, "79th keep together and be firm;" and *we did*. Archie and myself are very anxious to have a look at Paris, but cannot get leave. Our strength is reduced very much—we do not number over 220 effectives out of 700 the night we left Brussels. We lost on the 16th (Quatre Bras) 304 men, and on the 18th (Waterloo) 175. (I don't know *how many e killed*). I am sure your visit to Brussels was welcome to the poor fellows, and that it more good to them than the doctors. I beg now to conclude with my dutiful affection to our cousins and yourself, and believe me to be your faithful nephew,

ALEXANDER CAMERON.

General Cameron, London.

On Napoleon leaving Paris he meditated proceeding to the United States, but finding all hope of escape cut off by the numerous cruisers, he surrendered himself to the Captain of a British frigate, and was afterwards conveyed, for better security, to the Island of St Helena, where he died after an exile of six years. He has been esteemed the greatest General of modern times; and during his military career of twenty years is said to have occupied every capital of importance in Europe, except that of Great Britain.

One of the conditions of the Treaty of Paris (negotiated at the end of the war) was that an "army of occupation" should remain in France for a period to be afterwards determined. Of the portion of British troops selected were the 71st and the 79th Highland Regiments. The rest of the British army had evacuated French territory, and arrived in various parts of Great Britain and Ireland before Christmas, where enthusiastic ovations awaited their attenuated ranks, the 42d receiving the greater share from their luck in being ordered to the capital of their native land. The "occupation" continued for three years (1818), by which time the British *occupants* acquired a considerable acquaintance with the French language, and of which the men of the regiments named were not at all loath to exhibit on their return among their rustic countrymen by whom they got in consequence the nickname of *Na Gaidheil Fhrangach* (the

French Highlanders). During their stay in France they became so enamoured with the charms of its females that many of them married, and after getting their discharges and pensions returned to that, henceforward their adopted, country.

We will now bring our memoir to a close, and as a fitting conclusion give (abridged) the notice by a writer on the occasion of his death :—*

"Died at Fulham on the 9th ult., at an advanced age, General Sir Alan Cameron, Colonel 79th Regiment. By birth a Highlander; in heart and soul a true one; in form and frame the bold and manly mountaineer. His adventurous career in early life, and subsequent distinguished gallantry in the field, gained him considerable celebrity, together with the unbounded admiration of his countrymen. The son of a private gentleman, but ardent and determined in accomplishing whatever he undertook, he brought to the ranks of the British army more men, and in less time than any other, who, like himself, were commissioned to raise regiments in 1793-4. During the American war he had the misforture of being taken prisoner, but from which he escaped after two years' confinement, by an act of desperate daring. Fate, however, brought him, in the course of his life, the rare distinction of being successively Commandant of the Capitals of two Countries (Denmark and Portugal, 1807-8). Although of late years he was not able to go among his friends, yet they were always, and to the last, found at his house, and around his hospitable table. The number of this man's acts of friendship to his countrymen cannot be estimated, therefore the blank his death has created, will be understood, better than described."

* Colonel (Sir William) Napier in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, April 1828.

AN T-ORANAICHE; OR, THE GAELIC SONGSTER.

A Collection of Gaelic Songs, most of which have not hitherto appeared in print, is to be issued in a few days in five monthly parts, by Archibald Sinclair, Gaelic publisher, Glasgow. Few have any idea of the quantity of really good Gaelic Poetry which is floating about the country, and we trust—indeed we have no doubt—Mr Sinclair has been successful in procuring a really excellent collection of unpublished Gaelic Songs. We wish him and all others engaged in the Celtic field a rich harvest. Patriotism which does not pay its own expenses can hardly be expected to last long.

OTAGO is sacred to Scotchmen. Here is a story which, besides being good, is true, in illustration of the fact. The other day tenders were called for some public work in Otago. One Macpherson was successful. Mr Macpherson was accordingly invited to attend and complete his contract. To the amazement of all the officials, a full-blooded Chinaman with a noble pigtail put in an appearance. "Where's Mr Macpherson?" asked the clerk. "Me!" replied John. "How came you to be called Macpherson?" "Oh, nobody get nothing in Otago if he is not a Mac," answered the unabashed Celestial.