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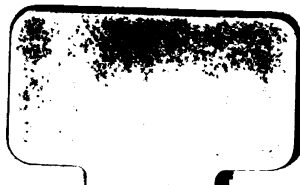
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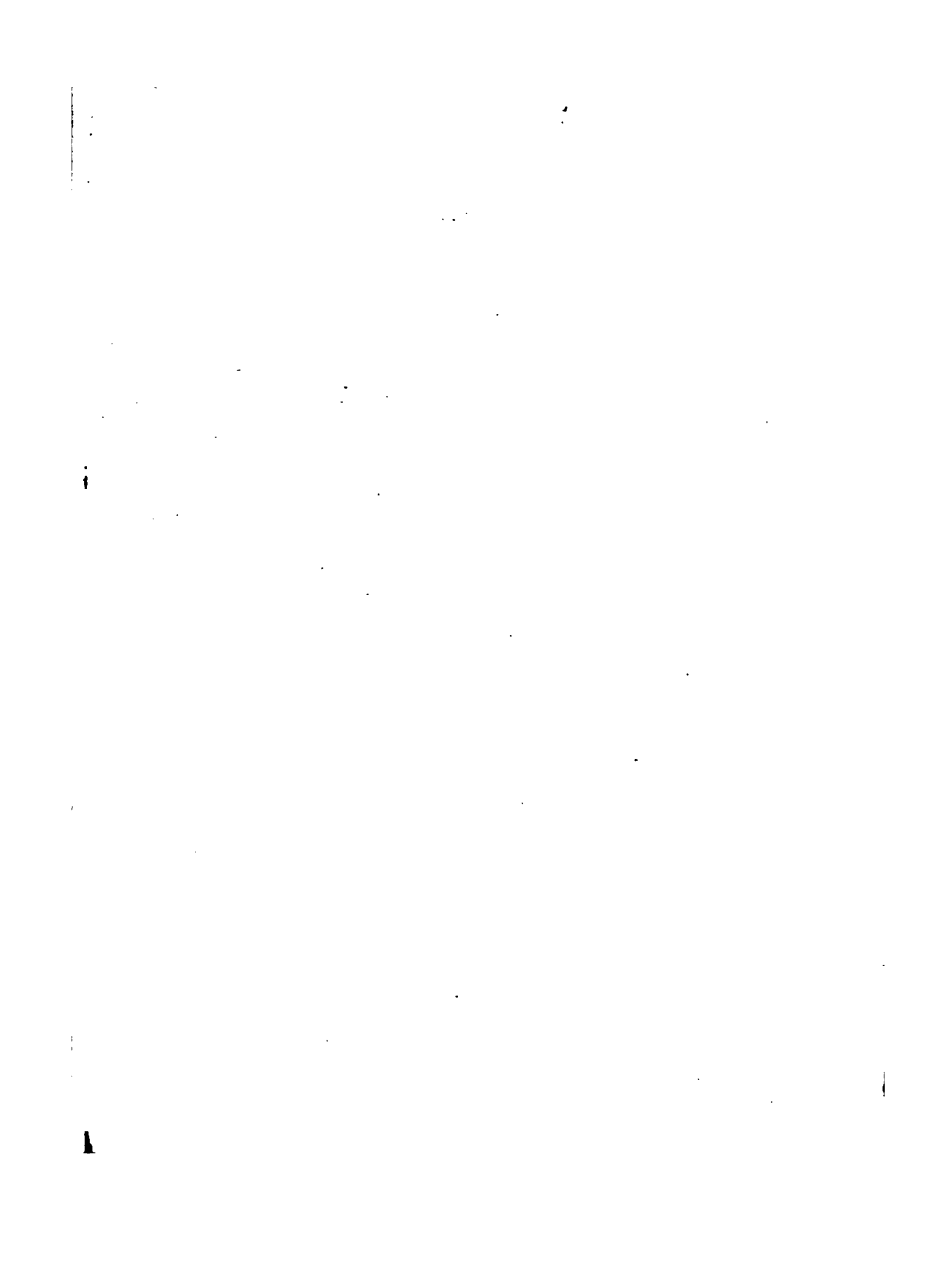
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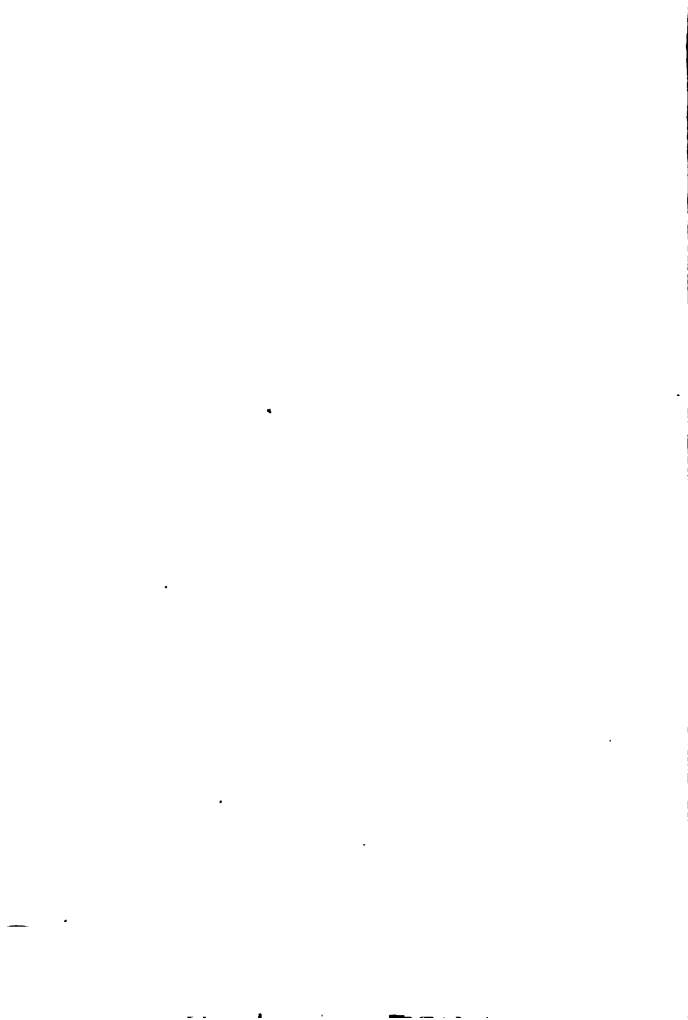
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# THE JEWISH SOLDIER,

OR THE

## Providence of God Exemplified

IN THE LIFE AND CONVERSION OF

# HENRY GOLDSCHMIDT.

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“Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee.”—*Deut.* viii. 2.

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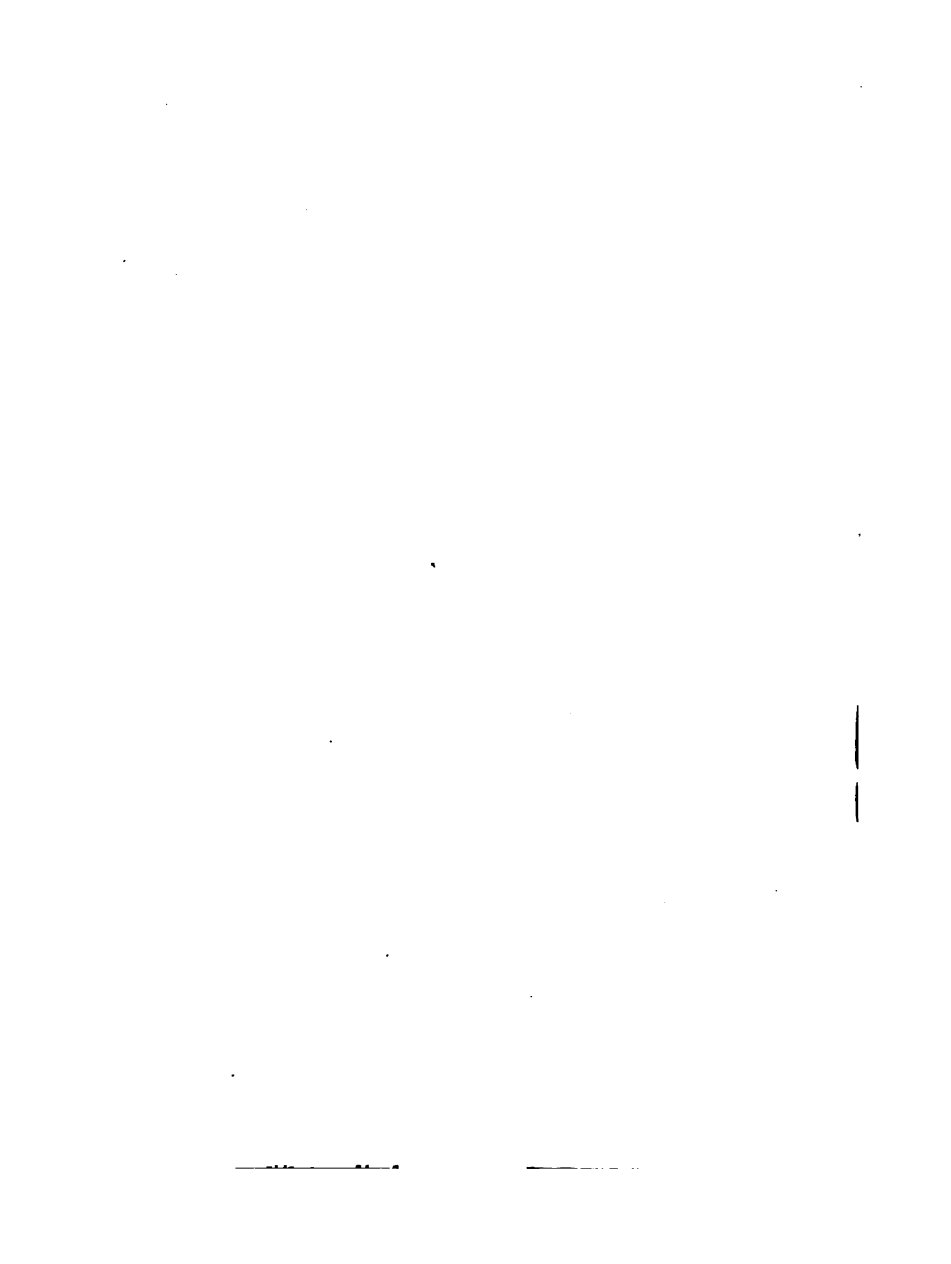
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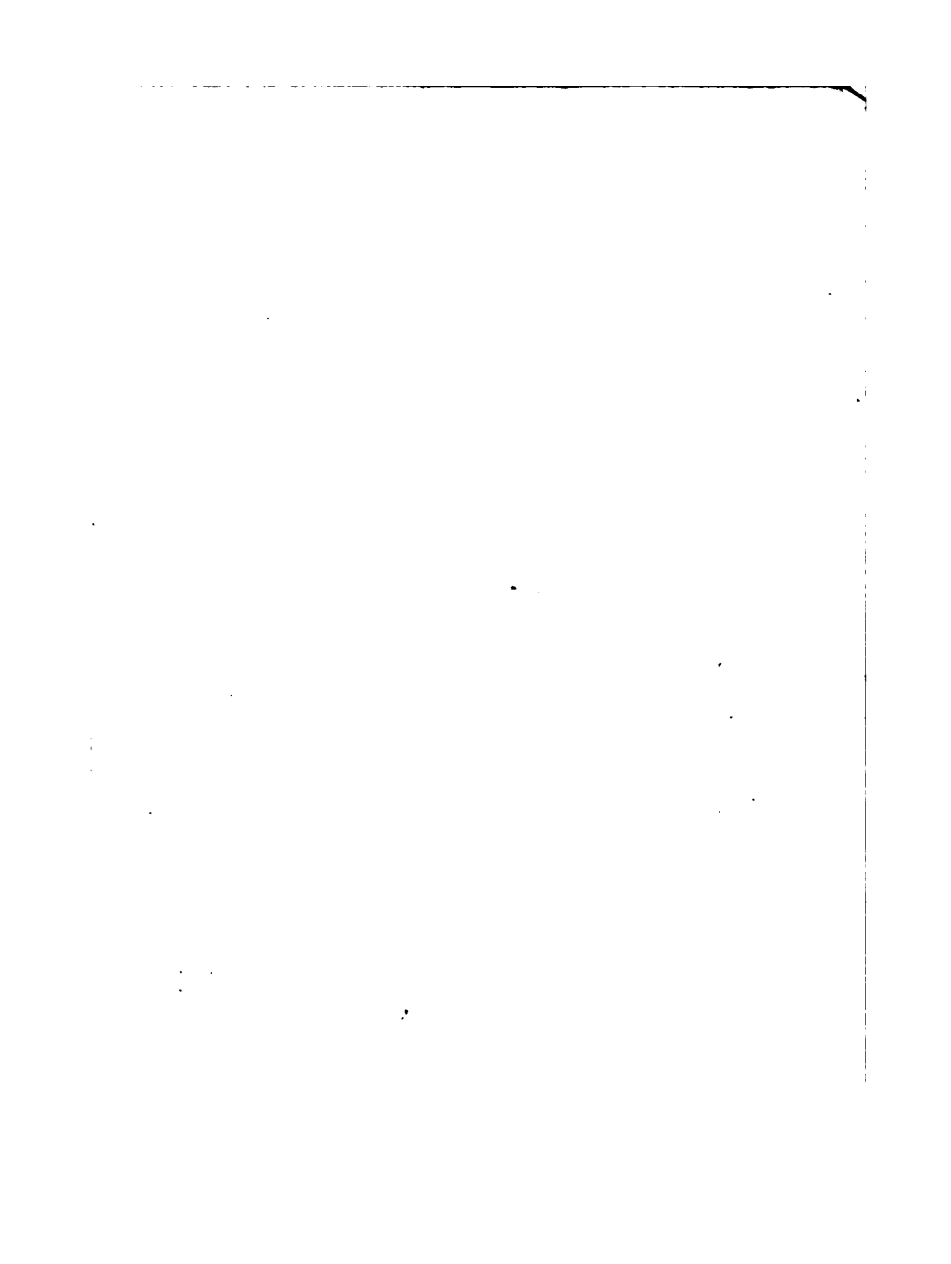
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210. C. 183







God ; hoping that others may profit by his experience.

With this hope he would send forth his narrative ; if it be at all worth perusing, it will recommend itself ; if not, its deficiency will not be supplied by the influence of another's recommendation.

To explain and apologize for the inaccuracies of style and language in this little work, it is perhaps necessary to state that it is *not* a translation from the *German*, but printed from the Author's manuscript, as written by himself *in English*. It was thought by the friends upon whose judgment the author relies that this would be more satisfactory to the reader than to ensure greater correctness of style and language by the sacrifice of its original simplicity.

## NARRATIVE.

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No consideration would have influenced me to write an account of my life, but the hope that it might afford one testimony more, to the unwearied faithfulness with which Jesus, the Good Shepherd, regards poor sinful mortals, from the cradle to the grave; convincing us of our deep depravity by nature, and of the need we have of an Almighty Redeemer.

That I may show how He is able to support us amidst all trials, I will simply relate the most remarkable instances of my life; when it will be seen that I, an humble individual, have had great reason to thank Him for the experience of his mercy and faithfulness.

I was born at Frankenthal, a small town on the borders of Germany. My father being the only son of Rabbi Eleazar, the priest of the Jewish congregation in that place, was educated not only in rabbinical learning, but he obtained also some eminence in other sciences. He married early in life, in order to avoid the conscription, and in consequence of his thorough knowledge of the French language, (which was then no common attainment in Germany,) he obtained an important situation under the French Government.

I was the eldest son of fifteen children. My parents, to the utmost extent of their ability, endeavoured to qualify me for becoming a useful member of society. In my early youth I was much troubled with scruples concerning the great truths which are narrated in the Bible. I have since read several of the writings of certain

persons, who pass for great philosophers and wise and learned men, against the scheme of man's salvation, and the truths contained in the Bible, but have seldom found anything new in such books, or what had not been suggested at that time to my own heart by a spirit of unbelief. Finding no rest and peace of mind, nor deliverance from sin by this human reasoning, I proposed to leave my friends and seek my own fortune in the world. My wish was obtained sooner than I expected. War broke out between France and Spain in the year 1808; my country, being united to the French dominions, received orders to furnish a certain number of recruits for the army.

I was then in my 18th year, being registered for the ensuing conscription. On the 20th July, 1808, I received orders to appear before the sub-prefect. Here I met many more similarly circumstanced

with myself, all hoping to draw a lucky number. The sub-prefect and magistrates having prepared the tickets, we were ordered one after the other to draw a ticket, and whatever number we drew above 120, would exempt us from service until the next conscription. Some of our parents having accompanied us to the place of rendezvous, were now anxiously looking for a successful issue. As for myself, my doom was fixed; I drew the fatal No. 8, which settled my destiny. My father returned with me in distracted sorrow, lamenting over my misfortune. As for myself, I was at that time too well satisfied with my state; but I must confess, the idea of being drawn into inevitable danger without the least hope of being released, very much alarmed me. However, the days of my calamity were at hand.

On the 30th July, we received orders to

join the Depôt of the 122nd Regiment, which was then at Nimeguen in Holland. On taking leave of my friends, my grandfather, a man of a venerable age, with a white beard, placing his hands upon my head, in a very solemn manner commended me to the grace of Jehovah, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; praying him to preserve and guide me through my whole life, by that angel which redeemed them from all evil. This circumstance made an indelible impression on my mind.

The anguish of our bereaved parents under these circumstances, might be more easily conceived than expressed; tracing the footsteps of their children, bewailing their misfortunes, and the toil and labour of the many years which had thus disappeared in one day. Thus we set off for Mayence, where we joined another party, with whom we proceeded to Nimeguen,



which we reached in six days' march.

Having received uniform and arms, we were drilled twice a day, and went regularly through all the military manœuvres. At this time the most of my comrades were taken ill of the ague, and in October, when the air grew cold and damp, I was likewise attacked with it. I had two fits of it daily, from ten in the morning, till six in the evening, and a slighter one from six in the evening, till ten in the morning; this continued for three months, which so reduced my strength, that I began seriously to despair of recovery. At length the illness took a turn, and on the 2nd January I had the last attack, which however left me very weak.

Soon afterwards, we got orders to join the regiment in Spain, which was in daily combat with the Guerillas, in the province of La Mancha. Three hundred men were now

appointed to be ready in marching order. My health being partly restored, encouraged me to join the party; although I knew the hardships and fatigue of the journey might soon destroy my weak constitution, yet I hoped through the change of climate to recover strength and keep up with the rest, which I was enabled to do. February the 16th, 1809, we left Nimeguen for Ghent, where we were inspected by the governor, who kindly granted us a day's rest; and being joined by a few more men, we set off for Versailles, where we arrived without any remarkable occurrence. Having left a few stragglers, we proceeded without delay for Bayonne, which is the frontier town of France and Spain. I began now to get daily more accustomed to the fatigues of the journey, and the hopes of approaching a warmer climate greatly encouraged me.

On the 4th April we arrived at Bayonne.

Here we stayed three days, and our detachment was increased considerably; which, in addition to a company of cannoniers and two field pieces, was reinforced by an addition of 200 men. General Chassè took the command. Having arrived on the frontier, we met a French courier and escort coming from Madrid. He informed us that a party of Guerillas had fortified themselves in a village, intercepting all communication between the French army and its frontier. Notwithstanding his strong escort, he did not escape without some loss.

This declaration which afterwards was confirmed, not a little alarmed us. We arrived at Yron where we encamped for the night, and proceeded the next day for Tolosa. We had not gone far, before our advance guard was attacked; the firing of cannon denoted that the enemy was ready to give us battle. General Chassè now

saw that the enemy's superiority consisted in cavalry, and gave orders to advance in close columns. The artillery, protecting our flanks, kept them at bay. In marching forward we perceived an entrenched battery on a hill by the side of the road, and soon felt its effects. This the general proposed to take by storm, and while thus advancing to the attack, our left wing was much exposed and pressed; this caused a little confusion, whereupon we formed into three squares, resolved to take their position; the enemy was on the alert; the moment we ascended, a vigorous fire broke forth from three cannon, accompanied by incessant discharges of musketry. However our artillery was not idle; they kept in check the advance and pressure of the cavalry, whilst our first column succeeded in capturing the entrenchment, and in dispersing the fugitives, who fled in great confusion. We took however,

seventy prisoners, three cannon, and a large quantity of stores and ammunition. We lost about eighty in killed and wounded. The Guerilla cavalry seeing themselves abandoned by their flying comrades, made no longer any effort to harass our columns, but retired gradually into the mountains. We however kept possession for four days, while the general waited for a reply to a dispatch which he had sent to the governor of Vittoria; this time we employed in burying the dead, and erecting booths for the wounded.

My mind during this action was anything but courageous. When I saw the grape shot sweeping along our ranks, carrying with it the heads and limbs of my unfortunate comrades, I began to tremble for myself. The very next man to me, while he was expressing his fears, was struck with a musket ball, leaving him speechless,

the ball having traversed both his cheeks, carrying with it part of his tongue and teeth ; he was nearly choked with blood. During this terrible conflict my mind was agitated with the fear of dying, but it was only physical fear, the thought of God never once came to my mind, and had I died in that state, my doom would have been the gulf of despair.

But to continue. On the fifth day, a reinforcement of a squadron of cavalry, one hundred chasseurs, and seven wagons and mules arrived, with orders to raze all the bulwarks, and to carry away the stores and cannon, which we performed effectually. We now continued our march on Vittoria, where we stayed two days. Having left the wounded in hospital and deposited the stores, we continued our march towards Madrid, which we reached without any further interruption. The governor being

apprised of our success with the Guerillas, made preparation for our reception in the barracks of the Retiro, or citadel.

During our residence here, the heat became so oppressive, that many of us were attacked with brain fever, and I did not escape that dreadful scourge. I was taken ill with violent giddiness, which prevented me from fulfilling my duties, and ultimately compelled me to go to the hospital. I was placed in a ward containing one hundred beds, all occupied by individuals in the same state, many of them dying. My disease now assumed an alarming aspect; I became delirious, under which circumstances it was found necessary to confine me to my bed; for I took not only the medicine prescribed for me, but also clandestinely that of my fellow sufferers. I daily became weaker, insomuch that my life was despaired of, and so reduced that I looked like a

skeleton. However as medicine could produce no effect, a last expedient was resorted to; five blisters were applied, one on the chest, two on the arms, and two on the legs, which, although very painful, were the means of restoring my senses, but left me greatly exhausted.

The physician now began to have hopes of my ultimate recovery. He told me one day that ninety-two bodies from the same ward had been carried to the grave since the time of my arrival in the hospital, and that I was one of eight who only had been preserved alive. I felt overwhelmed with thankfulness towards the doctor, to whom I attributed the recovery of my health. Alas! I knew nothing of the Great Physician of souls, who saved my life from destruction, and I knew not the hand which healed me. I returned to life and health with the same unrenewed heart, and the



same forgetfulness of God, and contempt of his word and commandments. Thus when all help had failed, that great Physician who is able to save to the uttermost, rebuked the fever, restored my understanding, and raised me once more from the borders of the grave. How awful is the alienation of fallen man! Look at him in his natural state, far from God, having no desire to turn unto him.

I began now daily to increase in strength, my appetite also gradually improved, so that within a few weeks I was able to leave the hospital, and to join a detachment ordered to head quarters. Before starting we were reviewed by the governor, who called me from the ranks, and told me I was so well recommended by the officers of the detachment I came with, that he could not do otherwise than promote me from a corporal to a sergeant. I told his Excellency I was

not aware that my conduct had been more remarkable than the rest for valour, however I most thankfully acknowledged the kindness of those gentlemen who distinguished me by their recommendations.

At Toledo we abode two days. Being joined by another party we set off for Truxillo, where we hoped to meet the regiment. But on the road we met a courier accompanied by an escort, who informed us of the recent battle of Talavera, where both French and English had lost many men, but that the French were masters of the field. Having arrived at the above place, we found the regiment had broken up and joined the army, but had left a depôt for garrison. Here we were stationed for upwards of five months, and made frequent excursions in the mountains after the Guerillas, whom we often encountered. We also made an expedition to Almaden

de la Saugè, a town in the Sierra Morenas, whence we escorted a convoy of quicksilver to Madrid.

Nothing very remarkable occurred during this march. But I was forcibly struck with the scenery of the country, which cannot be surpassed in beauty and fertility. The uneven road, from three to four feet in width, partly paved with rude stones, and a dry parapet wall on each side, only intended for mules and foot passengers, indicated the primitive simplicity of its inhabitants. Every winding of the road presented new prospects to my astonished view. Villages, convents, ruins of castles, orchards of fig trees, and pomegranates encircled with vines, vieing with each other in luxuriance; here and there a field of sweet and water melons, on our right a chain of hills covered with olive trees, casting their grateful shade on the weary traveller; refreshing springs

issuing from divers fissures, watering the vast plains of La Mancha before us.

We found the inhabitants hospitable and obliging, their houses thatched with reeds, peculiar to the country, consisting of three or four rooms on the ground floor, one of which was a sitting room, communicating with a stable by an aperture in the wall with a sliding shutter. The moment this was opened, in popped the heads of two oxen or cows. In this room we frequently saw either a boy or a girl sitting on a stool twisting the leaves of Indian corn, and putting them to the mouths of the oxen. This led me to enquire the cause of so strange an appearance, when I was told that this corn was more valuable to them than any other, the whole being applied to so many different uses both for man and beast. We left those enchanting scenes, with regret, and pursued our road to

Madrid, where we remained a few days.

Having received additional reinforcements, partly from the men left in the hospital by other regiments, we set off to return to Truxillo, and arrived early at that most wonderful convent the Escorial, in which we were quartered. To judge of its magnitude, it is said a whole division under Marshal Massena, composed of 10,000 men, had been quartered in it. Nothing could be more impressive than were at this time both the exterior and the many spacious apartments of this ruined Escorial. The rich trappings of the gorgeous spoils of South America, the decorations of the great chapel, the gallery of ancient Italian and Spanish paintings, all had vanished; the royal vaults alone remained untouched. Passing from the galleries, the cloisters, and cells, into the state apartments, the terraces, the chapels, all had been occupied for the

accommodation of the troops. The lower portion had been appropriated to the cavalry horses.

The next day we prosecuted our march, but a despatch in the night from Madrid, changed the direction of our route. We were ordered now to proceed to Almagro. After travelling over steep and intricate mountain roads, we reached it on the fifth day. Almagro is a pretty little provincial town situated in a beautiful country at the foot of the Sierra Morenas; but we were not safe here, for we learned that the Guerillas were in a neighbouring village, much too near to admit of a prolonged sojourn in the place, which at this period was seldom many days without a visit from some of the enemy's troops. We set off immediately, marched all night and part of the next day on toilsome cross roads. On our arrival we found they had fled, and to

our greater mortification, the inhabitants also had forsaken the place. Hungry and fatigued were we, but here were no stores for us. I was ordered on guard with sixteen men. The adjutant having fixed on the stations, placed three sentinels in several positions; I marched the remainder of the men to a house adjoining the gate of the town. Having consigned the charge of the men to the corporal, I took two men to accompany me in search of provisions, cautioning them to be careful not to drink wine on an empty stomach, and not to leave me. This caution I thought necessary, for frequently we found some of the men treacherously murdered in houses and cellars. We entered into a few houses, but found no provisions. In the adjoining street we saw a house with a fine balcony; here we entered. Being provided with pitchers, we proceeded to the cellar. Now

the Spaniards keep their wine in large earthen vessels, containing from one to three hogsheads each, with a wooden tap at the bottom. The wine is usually covered with olive oil to prevent evaporation. We found several of these vessels empty, others contained delicious wine, and not a few, olive oil. We now filled the pitchers, and were about to ascend, when, perceiving in a corner a jar of extraordinary dimensions, my curiosity led me to examine its contents; but as it was above my height, I proceeded to test it with my sword, when, to my utter astonishment, a female voice exclaimed in Spanish, "For God's sake don't kill me!"

I stepped back, astounded at what I heard. In an instant the men returned who had already ascended from the cellar, and it required our united efforts to pull down this stupendous jar, and thus to rescue the woman from her perilous situation. The



lady seemed to be about twenty four years of age, in appearance rather prepossessing, and to judge from her dress, of a superior order. In answer to my question how she came there, she told me, she had gone a short distance in the country to a farm, not being aware that the French troops were so near; on her return she found her family, with the rest of the inhabitants, had all fled; and not knowing how to escape, came to the resolution to conceal herself in this vessel. This account she gave me with deep emotion, accompanied with sobbing and tears.

How providential it was to have discovered her retreat, for it would have been quite impossible for her to have extricated herself from this perilous situation; and her provision consisted only of a piece of bread and part of a sausage, which would not have been sufficient to sustain her during the four

days we occupied the town. She now fell on her knees, and with much solicitation implored my protection. I took her hand and, lifting her up, told her, as regarded myself and the men, I would endeavour to protect her, and see that none should molest her; but in return I expected her to tell me where they had secreted the provisions of the house.

She hesitated for a moment; "Be frank and open," I said, "We want nothing but food." Upon this she desired us to follow her; having reached the second landing, we entered a small room. A borrowed light from the passage reflected against the opposite wall. The lady here pointed to the wall. At first I could not perceive any aperture, but on a closer inspection I saw strips of new paper pasted around. We were not long in forcing an entrance, when to our astonishment and agreeable surprise,

we found a treasure more precious than gold, for with that we could not have purchased the necessaries of life, circumstanced as we were. The room was full of eatables of all kinds. I dispatched one of the men to the corporal, informing him of my discovery, urging him to send me two or three men, whilst I was endeavouring to fill some bags with peas and flour, three hams, several bladders of lard, sausages, and a basket of eggs.

I then desired the lady to accompany me to the guard house, to which she reluctantly agreed. I told her she need not fear; I would undertake to protect and shield her, which I could not do if she remained in her own house. On my arrival I appropriated two rooms for the Signorina, cautioning the men not to intrude upon her. I now made my report to the colonel, accompanied with a present of provisions, while I dispatched

the corporal with a sentinel to guard the house, lest the provisions might be taken by unfair means. No time was lost to set about cooking, and before half an hour had elapsed, one of the men brought half a dozen excellent pancakes. The lady partook of them with seeming good relish. The colonel now paid us a visit, when I introduced him to the Signorina. She again told her sorrowful story, imploring also his protection and his sympathy in her friendless condition.

The colonel, after asking several questions respecting the Guerillas who occasionally visited that neighbourhood, told her it was fortunate that she had fallen into good hands, otherwise it might have been of serious consequence to her; and turning to me he said in Spanish, "Sergeant, you have acted a friendly part towards this unprotected lady; she was in your power,

but you have proved that we are not altogether void of humanity, as we are reproachfully reported to be, by the inhabitants of Spain; therefore I cannot do better" said he, turning to her, "than leave you in his charge. I am certain he will continue to exercise the same friendly feeling towards you during the time of our sojourn in this town."

The colonel now took leave, promising to see her again. She gave way to frequent paroxysms of grief. I endeavoured by all the persuasions I was capable of using, to calm her excessive sorrow, but all to no effect. Indeed it was not to be wondered at, for few ladies were ever placed in similar circumstances. Abandoned by her relatives, and surrounded by a band of soldiers; being little acquainted with their language, without any to commiserate her lamentable situation, and not a female in the whole town to speak to. But her table was

supplied with the delicacies of her own house, and I attended on her myself at every meal, thus showing that I sympathised with her forlorn situation. On the morning of our departure, the colonel, according to promise called again. He asked the lady if she had any complaint to make; she replied, "I expected nothing but wretchedness and misery, but feel thankful to say, I shall never forget the kind treatment I have experienced, and sincerely regret not being in a position to make compensation for the sergeant's kindness; but," she added, "I hope there is a day coming, when virtue will meet with its recompense."

The colonel would have sent her to her friends by an escort, but he feared the Guerillas might intercept the whole party. After the lapse of an hour, the adjutant came with orders to withdraw the sentinels,

and to keep in marching order. He said he would reinforce the number of my men, and patrol the town to bring up the stragglers who might be left behind. In taking leave of the Signorina, I told her we were now about giving up the possession of the town to her, and begged her to remain quiet in the house till we had all left.

Whilst thus conversing, the sentinel called to arms. A corporal and ten men had orders to join us. The adjutant followed on horseback, telling us to join the detachment, and that they would be halting outside the town. Having fulfilled my patrolling commission, we joined our party, and marched off toward Truxillo, which we reached on the third day. We remained there in perfect inactivity for some time, but we found there would be no safety without barricading the streets.

Truxillo is a large town of Estremadura,

which was formerly fortified by a citadel, but is now in ruins. The town stands considerably elevated. The view from it is not obstructed by the numerous splendid olive trees that shade the parapet walks. Its inhabitants having returned to their homes, we were for some time supplied with provisions by the town, but the army having encamped in the neighbourhood made food scarce, consequently we were obliged now and then to make excursions to the neighbouring villages to get supplies. But the principal reason for our sojourn here, was to escort stores and ammunition to the next station, the Guerillas frequently intercepting the convoys.

One morning we were called out unusually early; we assembled in the market place for muster. Three hundred and fifty men were chosen, with two pieces of artillery, Major Vallance being appointed



the commander. We set off, escorting ten wagons of regimentals and shoes. They had arrived late in the night under escort from Espinosa, which was the next station to us on the road to Madrid. Before we had advanced two leagues, we saw some troops on the hills before us; we immediately prepared for action, and while thus engaged, our advance guard suddenly halted. The enemy now proved to be of greater force than we at first imagined, the majority appearing to consist of cavalry, consequently we formed into squares, and took the wagons two abreast between each square, flanking them three deep, and marched forward. Whenever their movements became troublesome, a canister of grape made them keep a respectful distance. Having marched about four leagues, we found our progress suddenly impeded by a torrent, over which was a wooden bridge,

which must have been removed in the night.

Our position now became perilous; we were between brushwood hills, which prevented our manœuvring. Nothing was to be done now but to face about for Truxillo. Just as we were about setting off, a covered battery on each side began to open on us, sweeping down nineteen or twenty men; the cavalry in the meanwhile having possessed themselves of our rear, cutting off our retreat. We perceived now too late, that it was a deep, concerted scheme to entrap the whole escort. Of this we had proof from an officer, who told us that General Mina knew on what day the wagons were to leave Madrid.

We saw nothing now remaining but to surrender. A flag of truce being hoisted, a parley took place, but nothing would suffice but an unconditional submission.

Some of the men now threw down their arms and went over to the enemy, hoping by that means to obtain greater favour; others endeavoured to swim across the stream, and were drowned in the attempt, the water being much swollen. Major Vallance then commanded silence, telling us we were in the power of an enemy ten times greater than ourselves, and that therefore resistance would be madness; he would advise us to submit passively to them, (hoping thereby to gain more favour) rather than to make a violent resistance without the least hope of success.

Nothing but despair was now before us; knowing the merciless treatment of the Guerillas towards the French prisoners, and we had no reason to expect to be more favourably dealt with. We therefore yielded to the advice of our officers, and laid down our arms. I begged hard for my

knapsack, but was not listened to; our three officers were taken to the general, and we saw them again no more. We were marched off; an officer and 50 men took the charge of us and the wagons. We soon left the main road across the hills, marched about four leagues from where we had surrendered, fatigued and hungry. Here we found many mules waiting for us; our guards compelled us here to unload the wagons, and to assist the muleteers in loading their beasts. Meanwhile the villagers brought us about a pound of bread for each, and a small bason of gravansos, a kind of peas porridge. Upon this frugal meal we marched all night. Some of the prisoners and several of our guards being much fatigued, were left behind; as for myself my feet although blistered, enabled me to limp on, though with difficulty.

At length we arrived at a little town

partly fortified; we halted in a square for muster, where we were divided into messes, and taken to an old convent, where each mess was located in a room, with some straw matting rolled up; and now we received each a pound of bread, and again a bason of gravansos. Next morning we all mustered again in the square, then were marched to the ramparts, and were divided to several stations to work, some as masons, others were compelled to dig, and to wheel barrows. For a fortnight we worked without intermission, excepting a few hours' sleep at night, and as long as our clothes and shoes kept together, we gave satisfaction; but when these gave way, the labour was very toilsome, and the bastinado became the order of the day.

One morning as we were mustering, to go to work, a man on horseback brought some unfavourable report, upon which the

whole garrison took the alarm, and before we could find out the cause, we were marched off; our conjecture respecting this sudden movement was not far from being correct. Had we remained in the town we should have been retaken by the French, and liberated.

Our journey now lay through picturesque mountains and fertile valleys, fruitful in grain of all kinds; and no doubt many of us would have enjoyed this beautiful scenery, had we been in the enjoyment of comfort, and strength of body and mind. But it was far otherwise; we were in a pitiable condition; our clothes worn out through labour and fatigue, shoes we had none, but old rags and the bark of trees replaced them.

We were dragged from place to place for nearly six weeks, with only sufficient food to keep us in existence. Some became so

reduced, they could no longer keep up with the rest, and as an example to the others they were instantly shot, so that our ranks diminished day after day. At one time I felt so unwell while ascending a high hill, I thought I must give myself up for lost. The officer passing that moment urged me on, telling me in a few minutes more we should be at St. Lorenzo. The word St. Lorenzo operated on me like life from the dead. The officer perceiving an expression of joy in my face, asked me if I was acquainted with the place. I related to him briefly my adventure with the lady I discovered in a jar, and added that if she but knew my present dejected situation, I had no doubt she would make me some return for the kindness I had shown her.

The officer listened to me with much astonishment. "What is her name?" said he. "Sophia Lafucha," I replied. The

officer now exclaimed, "She is my cousin ! I heard of this before, in a letter I received from my father. How very strange that you should be the very man, but I much regret not to have known it before. However you shall no longer remain in confinement."

Having now arrived at the gate of the town, we were met by several officers, who took the charge of the prisoners, and conducted us to an old church. Meanwhile the officer of our escort called on his friends, relating to them their adventure in capturing a convoy of military clothing and so many prisoners, and that he was ordered to escort the prisoners to Murcia. "Among the number " he said, "was a serjeant, who with a detachment of French was pursuing after our troops ; upon their approach the inhabitants immediately left the place, and while they were looking for provisions, he



found a young lady concealed in a cellar."

Whilst I was lying on a mat thinking on this strange coincidence in meeting with this officer, he returned, accompanied by the lady, her father, and his brother. As soon as she saw me, she exclaimed, "This is my deliverer! but my good friend, I am sorry to see you in so sad a condition. We are however glad to have it in our power to return some kindness for the sympathy you showed to me in my calamity." The father now took me by the hand and said, "Come, let us leave this place, you shall see you have lost nothing by your kind conduct towards my daughter."

Having arrived at their house, the barber soon made his appearance to cut my hair and shave me. Meanwhile a hot bath was prepared; but oh! what enjoyment was it to me when I felt a clean shirt upon my back, after three months' wretchedness!

My clothes were sent to the dunghill, but my feet were so sore, that it was some time before I could wear shoes. So unexpected a change was almost beyond my belief; I was almost ready to worship these kind hearted people.

It might here be asked, was there no feeling of gratitude in my heart towards the *First Great Cause* in all these events Alas, none! God was not in all my thoughts. My heart was as insensible as the nether millstone; or as Dr. Doddridge expresses it, "like tempered steel which gathers strength by every blow of the hammer." I was in a state of torpor towards every thing heavenly, my mind was occupied only by the desire of life. As soon as this occurrence became known, many of the friends and neighbours came to see me, and the priests were not behind the rest. I remained with these good people about six

weeks; they treated me as one of their family. Having now recovered my strength, I told them I could no longer trespass on their liberality; I felt anxious to return to my country.

Perhaps it may not be generally known that no religion except the Roman Catholic, was tolerated in Spain. I wore therefore a wooden cross by way of deception, for it would have been next to impossible to get through the country without making *some* appearance of religion; consequently during my stay at St. Lorenzo I put on the mask of a true Catholic, went daily to mass, and was considered very devout; but I got tired of acting the hypocrite, and felt it a burden on my conscience.

The day for my departure being at length fixed, my passport was prepared for Carthage, where I knew I should meet with the English. I set off amidst the regret and

good wishes of my friends, yea, with the blessing also of the priest, who looked upon me as a prodigy; with money in my pocket, a present from the Signorina, and a guide to accompany me to Murcia, who had a letter of recommendation to a friend.

We took easy journeys, and arrived on the fifth day. I was received here also with similar marks of kindness. An incident happened here, which nearly cost me my life. While walking by the river Segura, the weather being very hot, I was tempted to get in, the water looked so clear and beautiful. The rapid current drew me imperceptibly into a whirlpool, which was produced by a small stream flowing into the river. I sank three successive times without hope of being saved, but although I never could swim, and my strength had left me, I made another desperate effort, and upon rising to the top succeed-

ed in clutching the grass which bordered the river, but as that was giving way, in an instant with my other hand I seized hold upon a patch higher up, sufficient to raise me upon the surface of the water, and so got safe to land!

One would have thought that after such repeated providential deliverances, I should have lifted up a grateful heart to the God of my fathers. Ah! no. At that time mercies had no more effect on me than miseries. My heart was hardened, and I knew not the hand which came to my relief. But the eternal source of mercy would not cut me off in impenitence and hardness of heart.

The next day I left in company with another guide for Carthagera, where we arrived in two days. Here I had a letter of introduction to a captain of the Spanish Navy, from my kind friends in Murcia. The captain, after he had read the letter,

shook hands with me, saying he would do all he could to assist me. But he thought my project of returning to Germany would be attended with serious difficulty. He said that he might contrive to get me a passage to England, but to get into Germany afterwards, would be an extreme difficulty. France being at war with England, I might be taken prisoner immediately on landing in any port, either in Germany, Holland, or France. "And," said he, "admitting you are successful in reaching your home, you would then be liable to be called back to your regiment again." But I was so intent upon seeing my friends, that I did not give this a moment's reflection. My situation was now perplexing, seeing my project was thus frustrated. I knew not what measure to adopt. He expressed his sorrow for my position, and kindly befriended me.

Next day I took a walk near the harbour, where I saw for the first time the English red jackets, and when I came nearer to them, to my astonishment they all spoke German, which so delighted me to hear my native tongue, that I could not refrain from introducing myself to them. They told me they were on a recruiting expedition for the German legion. After walking a little farther, I met with another group with green jackets, who told me they belonged to the fifth battalion of the 60th riflemen, entirely composed of Germans. They asked me if I was inclined to enlist in their corps, and said they would get me a good bounty, and after the peace I should have my discharge.

I began now to consider what to do. I saw no other choice but to begin the same tragical drama over again. The captain advised me in the choice of the latter, for

which I also felt an inclination. Having made up my mind, I enlisted the next day in the rifles, and took leave of the captain. the serjeants having a boat in readiness to take me on board a Spanish hulk. There I joined several companions of my former misfortune, waiting for a vessel to take us to Gibraltar.

After three days' delay we sailed in a man of war brig, for Malaga, taking in some additional recruits for the same destination. We had favourable weather, abundance of provisions, and joyful companions, so that I soon forgot my home and all my past troubles. Having landed on the quay of Gibraltar, we marched through the town to the south east promontory, facing the African coast. Here we found a camp and many tents, the greater number being occupied by volunteers who had previously enlisted, and were detained here until a



convoy should be ready to sail for England. Our number now daily increased, so that during the fortnight we were encamped here, our ranks amounted to nearly twelve hundred men.

On the 6th July, 1811, we set sail in a fleet of twenty-two vessels, under a convoy of two frigates, for Portsmouth. The ship wherein I was, had double hammocks for two hundred men; we had fresh provisions for three days, and all went on well till we entered the Bay of Biscay; here we encountered severe weather, with head winds, so that we had to tack all the way. One morning when we were going about five knots an hour, and were most of us in our hammocks, a brig which was tacking, came right upon us with her broadside, knocking me and my comrade out of our hammock. I ran on deck to see the damage, when I saw our bowsprit had been carried

off and the bower anchor was gone, besides other injuries. But the brig had her whole bulwark carried away, so that she became totally disabled; she made signal to the frigate, which took her in tow.

We having now been twenty days at sea, the salt provisions affected our health considerably, for most of us were taken with the flux; our biscuits also were full of maggots, and our stock had very much shrunk, so that the captain talked about putting us on half allowance. One day we saw a great many large porpoises. The mate being an experienced sailor, put out a bait, and took his station on the outside of the ship with a long line, one end fastened to the vessel, the other end to a pole, at the point of which was a harpoon, the middle part of the line being wound loosely round his arm. Whenever a porpoise snapped at the bait, he flung the harpoon at it. He made several

unsuccessful attempts ; at last a very large one was seen to approach the bait ; he flung the harpoon and effectually struck it. The sea became red with the blood of the creature, which went out as far as the line would allow it. A boat was now lowered with two men, who hauling in the line, succeeded, with some difficulty, in throwing a noose around its tail, and by means of a pully it was hauled on deck. It measured nine feet in length, and was bulky in proportion. A sailor now dispatched it with the butt end of a hatchet, after which it was cut into small pieces ; the blubber being separated for various uses, while the meat was cut into small pieces, and put into strong pickle of salt and vinegar for three days. It was then distributed, so many pounds to each mess, and being cooked under the direction of the mate, we much enjoyed the change of diet.

The wind having now shifted completely round, the next day we saw the English coast, and on the morning of the 2nd August, entered Portsmouth harbour. Here we parted with the frigates, and the greater number of the ships. The next day we left for Lymington, where we were happy to get on terra firma. We were taken to wooden barracks outside the town, and comfortably quartered. The depot of the fifth battalion of the 60th regiment being here, we were furnished with regimentals, and all necessary accoutrements for riflemen. Three months were occupied here in training and drilling, during which time I gained the esteem of the quarter-master and drilling serjeant. My leisure time I employed in acquiring a little knowledge of the English language. The habits and manners of the people, and, above all, the kind treatment I experienced, made a fa-

vourable impression on my mind, and the scenery of the neighbouring country was so beautiful, I thought nothing could equal it. I have seen flourishing meadows in Holland, but the whole face of the country is a perfect level, and so much sameness in it that there is nothing to relieve the eye; but here I felt enchanted with the grateful diversified scenery, hills and valleys, trees and hedges, hamlets and cottages, with their pretty ornamented flower gardens, all seemed combined to impress the mind with the persuasion that here is the abode of happiness and prosperity.

But alas! we had soon to leave this pretty spot, in exchange for the seat of war, and I was alarmed when I was told that in a few days we were to be sent to Lisbon, to join the army in Portugal. I thought upon my former trials and miseries, a repetition of which would most likely end my life.

The day of our embarkation was fixed for the 3rd November. Before we left I was made a corporal by the influence of the quartermaster. We marched to Portsmouth, which was the rendezvous of the squadron, and made sail under the convoy of a frigate and a brig. The wind being much in our favour, we reached the mouth of the Tagus on the 7th day. As we entered I perceived on our right some remains of that awful calamity which befel the devoted city of Lisbon in 1755. We passed close by the Princess Charlotte, man-of-war, which was lying at anchor, and I was much struck with her majestic appearance. We landed at Belem, and were quartered in the barracks.

Much of my time was now employed in landing Government stores; as I had the charge of them, I took also an active part in seeing them safely warehoused. In

one instance I noticed a flaw in the chain of the crane by which a great weight was suspended. I had previously taken the precaution to place a lighter below, when all of a sudden the chain snapped, and the whole burden fell upon the lighter, and the harbour master seeing the accident, recommended me to the notice of the staff officer.

Our stay at Belem was short. On the 14th November our detachment was divided among the different divisions that were stationed in various positions in Portugal. Each division was accompanied by one or two rifle companies, who either took the advance or the rear, as occasion might require. The first company which I was ordered to join was attached to the first brigade of the first division, composed of four regiments, the 2nd and 3rd guards, and 42nd and 79th highlanders. We set off for Abrantes, a little town near the

Tagus ; here we were in hopes to have met with the brigade, but it had moved to Coimbra ; however we were kept here till further orders, and performed the duty of the garrison. Nothing material happened during the five weeks we were here, the two opposing armies were marching and counter marching, without coming to a decisive engagement.

At length we joined the brigade at Guarda on the 26th of December. The captain was pleased with the addition of twelve men to his company, and he told me he had received letters of recommendation from the officer of the depôt at Lymington, and one from the staff major at Belem, speaking much in my favour, he would therefore bear me in mind. I thanked him for his good intention. A part of the army under Lord Wellington, moved now towards Ciudad Rodrigo, a fortress of some



note, on the Spanish frontier, and which in a short time fell into the hands of the besiegers, giving great encouragement to the army. Upon this success, we moved to Elvas, crossing the Guadiana on a pontoon, and encamped with three divisions about a mile from Badajoz. Another corps of observation was the Portuguese division, and the 2nd division under General Hill. The enemy's corps occupied Villa Franca de los Barros, but they soon after retired.

The weather was very unpropitious; the rain fell in torrents, and having nothing to protect us from it, we could ring out our blankets in the morning. But bad as our condition was, the third division was much more exposed. They laboured in the trenches, had to raise batteries under a constant cannon fire from the besieged, and looked more like navigators than soldiers. But what retarded most the progress of the

siege was the heavy artillery. In the mean time several forts were taken by storm; the fourth division came also to the operation, the works being carried on at night, for the greater safety of the men from the fire balls. At last the 5th division arrived from Rodrigo, bringing with them the 48 pounders which had been in operation in taking that fortress. But unfortunately the pontoon bridge was carried away by the swelling flood, and the current being too violent for the passage of boats, this was likely to become a great inconvenience, all supplies being obtained through this channel. Happily the next day the river fell considerably, and the bridge was again repaired, so that the progress of the siege was without further interruption.

On the 25th the batteries, being ready, opened a press fire against the ramparts from two or three different positions, and

Lord Wellington came to the resolution of offering conditions to the governor, but they were rejected with disdain. In consequence of this, the 5th of April was fixed upon for the assault, at nine at night.

The 3rd division succeeded in scaling the ramparts, in spite of all the desperate opposition; the enemy's troops were either bayoneted or made prisoners. Our loss was considerable, and that of the besieged could not have been much less.

The troops of the garrison were chiefly from the principality of Hesse Darmstadt. The first division broke up its encampment on 28th April, for Almeida; nothing transpired worth recording till the month of June, when the army collected near Salamanca. The 6th division was ordered to storm the fort, but their effort proved abortive. On the 26th, however, the batteries commenced firing red hot shots for twenty-

four hours without intermission, so that the whole fortress became as one mass of fire ; a flag of truce was raised with conditions of surrender, but it was then too late ; Lord Wellington would not listen to it, the assault of the division carrying all before them. They captured from 600 to 700 prisoners, and from 30 to 40 pieces of artillery, besides a quantity of provisions of all kinds.

Our division moved then towards Medina del Campo ; the heat here was intolerable, and the manœuvres of the enemy caused us many fruitless marches.

At last, on 22nd July, we were in position on the heights of Salamanca. Our two companies joined the light brigade in tirailade, in a valley between us and the enemy's line ; being protected by the light cavalry. This continued for some time, till the engagement became general. The whole chain of the opposite hills was covered with

the enemy's troops, and they were all in motion. The artillery forces on both sides poured down their murderous fire upon each other. A village, defended by the guards and our two rifle companies, was frequently assailed, and the enemy constantly driven back, from columns advancing, now in full force, upon the enemy's left flank, which was forcibly attacked and repulsed in confusion.

The attack now became general at all points, but the annoyance of the artillery from the heights where the enemy was placed, retarded our progress. The light brigade and our rifle companies, were now ordered to advance and to press up the heights to clear the line before the division, and to seize the enemy's guns. We soon drove all opposers from their position, and all impediments were removed for the advance of the line.

But this had been a serious affair for our

company. We lost seventeen men dead and wounded, among which number was a serjeant whom we afterwards buried with our swords, and I succeeded him. Marshal Marmont lost his right arm by a howitzer shell, the second in command was also wounded; and the field of battle was evacuated by the enemy with precipitation.

The trophies of victory were ten pieces of ordnance, several thousand prisoners, besides a great quantity of baggage, all which fell into our hands, and the defeated army retired with tumultuous haste upon Burgos, where we followed them with the 1st, 5th, and 7th divisions, and encamped on the north east side of the town near the Vittoria road. The Castle, prominently situated on a high flat hill overlooking the town and adjacent country, had been fortified with much ingenuity; joined to the castle was a fort and a redoubt.

On the 19th September in the morning, five light companies commanded by Major Cocks, of the 79th Highlanders, ascended the hill, and drove the scattered enemy into their intrenchment. Captain Williams ordered me with fifteen men to take a position in a nook of the hill, between the redoubt and the fort, protected by the bank of the hill from the fire of the enemy. Three men were placed in several positions with their bodies reclining on the bank, so that their heads only were visible to the enemy. Their orders were to fire upon all who should venture out upon the plain.

While thus on the *qui vive* all day, I had orders to protect them with the remainder of the men. One of the 42nd Highlanders beckoning to me, I took a rifle and ascended the hill, cautiously lying close to his left side where I saw several men in the act of

throwing a bomb shell over their rampart into our trench. I took aim and fired. The ball took effect. The Highlander also took aim, when a cannon ball from the right flank struck his right arm, severing it from above the elbow, and swept us both breathless down the bank. When I recovered myself, I saw the poor fellow bleeding profusely. I stripped off his jacket and bound up the stump of his arm with a garter, and had him conveyed to the camp. He would not however leave his arm behind, but took it up and threw it over his left shoulder. Here again I must remark the hand of God, who so mercifully spared our lives. Had the French cannonier taken aim but a quarter of an inch lower, my narrative would have been a blank.

At five in the evening the bugleman brought me three allowances of rum for each man, with orders to administer it at



eight o'clock; meanwhile the captain arrived, telling me that nine o'clock that night was fixed to escalate the redoubt. Ladders and hatchets were brought by the peasants for that purpose, and everything was carried on with the greatest order and quietness. The whole company mustered at eight; the rum was accordingly distributed, and precisely at nine o'clock we began the assault.

The night was densely dark, and the contest became desperate. The ladders were placed and ascended, but death met both officers and soldiers that reached the parapet. Fresh assailants courageously ascended; at last an entrance was forced from the summit of two ladders, and a firm footing effected; we all rushed forward in support, and thus succeeded in entering. But here our work began again. A Portuguese regiment bravely attacked the enemy at the same

time from another direction, but were repulsed, their ladders being too short.

The French having met with this partial success, now fell upon us with double fury; the only chance in our favour being the darkness of the night, but for which we must all inevitably have been cut off; as it was, we met with serious reverses; it was all a confused scuffle without order or discipline; two of our men only remained with me, all the rest were either dead, wounded, or scattered in all directions. We were pursued around a building in the centre of the place, one of my men received a mortal wound by my side, and never spoke again, the other sharing a similar fate while in the act of charging his rifle. I then endeavoured to make my escape, when, of a sudden, I ran into a file of bayonets! Fortunately my presence of mind never forsook me, I laid hold of the bayonets and forcibly burst

through the rank, and thus escaped my pursuers. Meanwhile the Portuguese made a second assault, which was attended with better success, the fugitives falling back.

I was constantly accosted with "*Qui est vous ?*" "Français !" I replied ; "a great coat and French casquet, I had picked up in exchange for my own which I had lost in the scuffle, favouring the deception. At one time I was so closely pursued that I laid down among the dead bodies which were lying around in all directions, and whilst in this position the darkness began to wear away. A serjeant of the 79th stepping over me, I rose up, and we both ran together, my right hand being on his shoulder. Suddenly I felt something like an electric shock. My first impression was that I was wounded, but my comrade staggered and fell ; I turned him round, and saw his last gasp.

The enemy in the fort finding the redoubt

in our possession, began now to pelt us with canisters of grape shot, which rattled about us like peas or pebbles, but I escaped safe and sound. I found my company in the camp, but alas! greatly diminished. It was then daylight; I had been given up for lost, and was therefore looked upon with astonishment, for my French great coat and casquet were literally riddled through with shot.

Here I must pause for a moment's reflection on the watchful Providence which so carefully guarded me, not only in the signal deliverances which I experienced at this time, but during the whole of my career as a soldier. In looking back upon them since my conversion, every event in my chequered life, and the spot where each occurred, seem pourtrayed as by the finger of God himself, for the purpose of leading me to see the faithfulness of the Divine promises.

But to continue my narrative. The great fatigue endured by all who were engaged in the siege, together with the wind and violent rains, greatly protracted the operations, and we were constantly exposed to a harassing cannonade. At night we toiled and laboured in raising and repairing batteries for the destructive operations of the next day. The men who toiled in the entrenchments and mines, were frequently dashed in pieces by the hand grenades, which the enemy continued to throw, whenever they were grouped together. Major Cocks, that excellent officer, met his death while he was gallantly resisting a sortie of the French. Burgos will never be forgotten, so long as there is a man in existence who witnessed that siege. The blockade was raised on the 20th October. The army of Marshal Soult forming a junction with that of Joseph Bonaparte, greatly outnumbered that of

Lord Wellington, the 2nd and 5th divisions of whose army were left at Toledo and Salamanca, so that it would have been imprudent to have risked an engagement with an enemy who greatly exceeded us in strength.

On the 21st, I was ordered with twelve men to protect six wagons of wounded men, and to follow the division, the cavalry forming the rear guard. On the 22nd, we crossed the river Arlanzon, endeavouring to keep up with the rest, in spite of the pressure of the enemy. The next day some Guerilla corps had a skirmishing with the French advanced guard, and compelled them to give way, and in the confusion intermixed with our rear guard, carried off our wagons, and sabred several of my men. I made my escape with three men in a little copse by the roadside. Here we lay unobserved for a short time, thinking how we might make our escape and return to the English, when

of a sudden, several chasseurs à cheval made their appearance. It was useless to make any resistance, on account of their superiority; they called on us to surrender, and we had no other choice. So having secured our arms, they demanded our money and watches, and we gave up all we possessed. I had a silver watch and sixteen Spanish dollars, which they took from me.

One of them rode up to me and insisted on it I had not given up all; I told him he was welcome to search me, but he would not listen to that, and in a rage pulling out a pistol, presented the muzzle of it at me. I thought then my days were numbered, for I perceived he was half drunk, and to reason with a drunken man was useless. I implored him to spare my life; the more I entreated, the more obstinate he became; at last another chasseur came up, to whom I appealed, who told him how un-

reasonable he was, and snatched the pistol from his hands. They conducted us back to a village which was near, and upon the road we met with a General Officer, to whom I made my complaint, telling him I had been commissioned with twelve men to protect some wagons with wounded men, which were captured, and we made our escape in the wood, and that whilst there, these chasseurs made up to us, and called on us to surrender ; that we did so, and that they then compelled us to give up our money and watches ; that not satisfied with this, they had repeatedly menaced that they would shoot me if I did not give up all that I possessed.

The General, with a look of anger, told the chasseur to dismount, and perceiving he was intoxicated, called him a drunkard and great poltroon. " I see," said he, " you have lost your sabre. Give up instantly to



these men all you have taken from them !” He began to murmur, “not a word !” replied the General ; all was restored, and he was ordered on *salle de police* for a fortnight. We kindly thanked the General for his humane interference.

We were marched back to Vittoria, where we met several hundreds of English, German, Spanish, and Portuguese prisoners, and the nearer we approached the French frontiers, the more our number increased. Monasteries and old churches were our usual night quarters, from eight to ten leagues were our daily marches, and while we were in Spain, bread and water was our daily allowance ; although some of us had a little money, we had no chance of purchasing any provisions, the shops being usually shut in most towns and villages through which we marched, for fear of plunder.

We rested two days at Bayonne, where

we met with many more prisoners. Our escort, being relieved by others, returned to Spain to rejoin the army; the prisoners were divided here into three divisions, to join the depôts of the different state prisons in France. I was among the number who joined the depôt at Besançon under an escort of 150 voltigeurs. Nothing remarkable happened during the journey to Lyons; we met now and then some kind inhabitants, who brought us a little soup and fricassée, but the long marches, with a wet and chilly autumn, and bad living, caused us much sickness and disease, so that by the time we reached Lyons, our number had greatly diminished through those who were left behind in the hospitals.

At Lyons we rested three days, and were remarkably well treated. I shall never forget the great attention we experienced from the Sisters of Charity, they greatly sympa-

thized with our miseries, and endeavoured to sooth our misfortunes by their kindness.

On the road from Bourg-en Bresse I was taken ill with the ague, and was left behind with two Irishmen in a bitter cold prison, shivering on the prison bench. After a while we were taken to the hospital, where we were attended to with maternal affection by the kind Sisters; never shall I forget their persevering attention. We were taken to a bath room; our clothes underwent a process of purification, a clean shirt warming over a stove was waiting until we had finished our immersion, and a ward dress placed beside our baths. I cannot express my feeling when once more I felt the comfort of a clean shirt and clothes upon me. They now took us to the ward, where a warm bed had been previously prepared. We lay down endeavouring to forget all our troubles. The Sisters brought us each

a bason of bouillon. Next morning at eight, the doctor came and prescribed an emetic for me; bouillon and bread the next day; purgative and a bason of bouillon for the third day. This brought me very low and feeble; however after a week's attention, the ague left me and I soon got better.

One morning the Sister asked me if I could repeat the catechism. I told her my religion was opposed to the Roman Catholic Church, I had therefore never learned it; she then left me. She met with better success with my Irish neighbour, as he could speak a little French. She gave him a lesson at once, which he had to repeat the next morning; the poor fellow wished the catechism far enough. We felt very sleepy in the morning, but the catechism was always opposed to it.

One morning the Sister awoke us unusu-

ally early; the Irishman was yawning and stretching. I heard her complain of his inattention. She asked, "what is the Catholic church?" The Sister was impatiently waiting for an answer. I turned round and said in French, "why do you not say something?" "I have forgotten it," he said. "Well, is it a house without a chimney?" She ran off like a fury, exclaiming "blaspheme! blaspheme!"

At eight o'clock the doctor made his usual visit, attended by the Sister. She made her complaint about me. I replied, "I had no intention to offend the Sister by my expression, but the thought struck me so suddenly, that I could not help giving utterance to it." I was booked however for three days on diet, which was bread and bouillon; fortunately my little money became very serviceable. Our health being once more restored, we set off with the first convoy

that passed, for our destination, which we reached in a few days.

The citadel of Besançon was wholly occupied by English prisoners, who now numbered nearly 2000. Here we had every necessary comfort consistent with our condition, the citadel being large, on a rocky eminence, the base of which touches on two sides the river Doubs, which here forms a peninsula. Once or twice a week we were allowed to visit the town, being guarded by an escort, to purchase any necessary article; every kind of trade was carried on, by the prisoners and the citizens frequently exchanging commodities with each other. I was often sent for by the French doctor and gendarmes, to interpret for the English and Germans, and frequently at night. By this intercourse I acquired in a few months a superficial knowledge of the English. A library and

reading room was at our disposal; letters from England or Germany had to pass through the censor's office. Notwithstanding this precaution, we often had underhand information from the seat of war of the frequent defeats of the French army, and the advance of the allies.

A deep plotted conspiracy now broke out, of a set of desperate adventurers; they had formed a scheme to make their escape, by fastening ropes to the clift of rocks, and letting themselves down a precipice of at least eighty or ninety feet. Some did succeed in making their escape, others fell down and were dashed to pieces, and others were retaken. They went through a severe scrutiny, in order to denounce the conspirators. A false accusation was brought against me; their envious feeling prompted them to mark me as one of their gang, whereas I had not a distant idea of exposing

my life in such a hazardous attempt. The truth of the matter was, they envied me, because the gendarmes showed me more favour than some of them. I earnestly pleaded my innocence, but all to no purpose. I was taken to prison with these wicked men, and there when I began to remonstrate with them concerning this bare faced accusation, they silenced me with their abusive clamour. After a week's suffering with fourteen desperados, we were all taken to a more confined prison.

On the 14th November we left Besançon for Briançon; we were chained together two and two like criminals, and after ten days' march arrived safely at Grenoble. Here we were informed the prison of Briançon had broken up its establishment, and we were joined to the last convoy which came from thence. Our shackles having been removed, we marched on to Lyons.



Here we stayed a few days, and were glad to see again the kind Sisters. The prison here was formerly a nunnery. While staying in this city, some of the prisoners were employed in the subterraneous vaults, to find a place for depositing government stores. They found some arches which had been walled up, which it was thought had been the entrance into a cellar. They were ordered to break it open, and they found the skeleton of an immured nun. Her beads and girdle were quite perfect, all the rest fell into dust as soon as the air got to it ; it was thought advisable to discontinue the work.

Dijon was our next halting place. These journeys were intended to answer two objects ; first to make a show of the prisoners to the inhabitants ; the next was, the government of France finding itself embarrassed how to dispose of us ; the dépôts

or prisons generally were fortresses, which now became the objects of defence against the victorious armies of the allies, who were now invading the frontiers from all points. However, after sojourning a week at Dijon, we left for Langres.

As I could speak French fluently, I made the gendarmes my friends, particularly the brigadier, who was a countryman of mine. Whilst staying at Langres, we had an increase to our number. A Bavarian officer with fourteen men were brought in prisoners; they were taken in a skirmish on the frontier, the officer had been seriously wounded, and as he could not speak French, I was ordered next day to attend on him on the road, and to follow the escort to Troyes; he was accommodated with a cart, with a mattrass to lie on, but as he could not bear the trotting of the horse, our progress was but slow. The second day was a

cold frosty morning; as we came near a village, called Magny-fouchare, he desired me to stop the horse. He felt the agony of death approaching; I pointed to the village, and told him I would endeavour to get him a lodging, he, however, rallied again before we arrived in the place.

The first person I met was the Baron of the village. I immediately presented the case of the dying man to him, asking for a few hours' shelter from the cold, as his life was fast ebbing. The Baron appeared to sympathize with his condition, desired us to follow him to a small inn by the roadside, where he gave orders to receive us; meanwhile I procured a couch, and, with the assistance of the carter, we carried him to a warm room. I expressed my obligation to the Baron for this accommodation. After the lapse of an hour, he made signs to speak to me; he told me he should like to see

the priest if he would come. I thought there would be no difficulty; I sent a messenger for his immediate attendance, and he arrived without delay.

But now I was placed in a strange predicament. The priest could not speak German, neither would he give absolution without confession; nothing therefore would do but for me to take an oath before the crucifix, not to divulge his confession. Fancy a Jew to be in such circumstances. But what was to be done? there was no time for hesitation, the poor man was dying and in the last pangs; he could hardly utter a word. The last Unction was then ministered, and while in the act of doing this he died.

The poor man's death soon reached the ear of the Baron. He sent a servant with a sheet, and needle and thread to sew him up, which I did without taking off his clothes;

and as no dead body is allowed to be kept longer than twenty four hours, I made an effort to get a grave. In this, however, I was disappointed, every one being too busy in concealing their valuables and provisions, hourly expecting the retreat of the French army, and the Allies in pursuit. However, after awhile I got a lad to assist me in digging a grave; but we had scarcely begun our work, when he threw down the tool and left me. The ground was so hard with the frost, that it was with great difficulty I could accomplish my task.

My next perplexity was how to get the body conveyed to the churchyard. In vain I sought for some labourers to assist me, but could not prevail with any to help me. I remembered the old proverb, necessity is the mother of invention. I saw a wheelbarrow in my way, which I thought was no bad substitute for a hearse, and as the body

had been lying all night in a barn, it was cold and stiff. I laid it across the barrow, and conveyed it to the grave; here I left it, while I went to enquire for the priest, but he was nowhere to be found. I returned to the grave, and was myself obliged to perform the last office for him.

Next day as I was about to leave for Troyes to join the rest of the prisoners, a messenger from Monsieur de Gachare called on me, with orders that I should not leave the place without calling on him first. In reply to my question who the gentleman was, he said it was Monsieur, le Baron du village. I followed the messenger to the chatelet which overlooked the churchyard, wondering what he might want of me. I met him at the entrance hall, and after a few preliminary questions respecting my country, he addressed me:

“My friend, I have observed your kind

conduct towards your companion you have just put under ground. You have shown by your kindness that you are not devoid of that tenderness of feeling so frequently described in military operations, particularly in the melancholy position you are placed in. I am disposed to place you in a better position, if you are willing to accept of my proposition. You may render me and the village important services during the passage of the Allies, if you will remain with us. Your services shall be remunerated, yet I will not make any stipulation, but reward you according to your usefulness."

I replied, that I should be most happy to comply with his kind proposal, were it not that the French army being in retreat, and myself their prisoner, I should be considered a deserter, and in consequence be treated with the greater severity. "I will take the responsibility on myself," replied

the Baron. "Monsieur de Bois-sans Coure, Prefet of Troyes is my brother in law ; I will write to him, he has power to protect you."

Relying on his promise, I consented to remain. The village shaver was now once more called in requisition, who performed the operation of cropping and shaving. I then took a warm bath ; clean linen and clothes were exchanged for the old rags which had covered me during the last three months. I felt after this quite like a new man.

We were now in the month of February ; the news of the defeat of the Imperial Guards, spread consternation among the villagers. The Allies defeated them near Bar-sur Aube, and on the following day we had the house full of officers ; however they did not make any stay. The marching of troops continued all night towards Troyes, where Marshal Macdonald intended



to make another stand. The French rear-guard retired about nine in the morning.

Soon after this, there arrived a race of people, their language barbarous as themselves, with whom I had no means of reasoning, famous for plundering; they were the notorious Croats. They began to ransack the house, and frighten the Baron and his lady. All I could say was to no purpose. I was confident that a disciplined troop is never without a leader, so I resolved to go and inquire for him. I had no time to lose, but ran off for protection, and near a broken bridge on the outside of the village, I saw a general officer, to whom I addressed my complaint, telling him of the insulting conduct of some men, who were ransacking the house of Baron Gachare. "Baron Gachare!" exclaimed the general, "where does he live?" "I will accompany you to his house, we shall be there in a few

minutes." As soon as we were within sight, the Croats began to make their escape through doors and windows.

Now here I must diverge from my narrative, in order to relate another coincidence. This general happened to be a Bourbon emigrant, who in the first revolution, had taken refuge in Austria, and took a commission under the Emperor of that nation ; he was the present commander of the Austrian advance guard. Before that revolution, the Baron chanced to serve in the same regiment with the general.

The meeting of these two friends after such a long separation, particularly under the present distressing circumstances, was truly affecting ; after mutual salutation, they embraced each other most cordially. The Baron pleaded now for protection from the overbearing treatment of the soldiers. "You shall have it," replied the general ; with this

he left, promising however to see him again before long. After a short interval, an officer with twenty Austrian soldiers arrived as a safeguard, with orders from the general to take up their quarters with the Baron ; but the mayor of the village was to supply them with provisions, excepting the officer, who partook of his at the Baron's table. These men were not so much needed during the passage of the greater part of the army, for then we could get the protection of the officers ; but the stragglers were our greatest dread. Had they been sent to us after the passage of the regular troops, they would have been of great service ; but they grew tired of a life of inactivity, and when we wanted them most, they took themselves off.

The next day the house was beleaguered with twelve Cossack officers, with their attendants, and a retinue of horses and car-

riages. Their first exploit was an assault on the poultry yard, where they helped themselves bountifully; their next was the barn, which was well stocked with hay and straw, of which they took complete possession, not only for themselves but also for those who were quartered in the village. They not only emptied a well-filled bin of oats, but carried off all that was in the loft; they discovered a cask of salt provisions, several fitches of bacon and hams, which had been previously hidden under the straw. But our greatest apprehension was for the safety of a large hamper of plate which had been sunk in a well nearly half filled with water, but which was in danger of being exhausted, in consequence of the great quantity used for the horses. I expressed my fears to the Baroness, and it was decided that Joseph, a confidential servant, with myself, should get up in the dead of the

night, and bury it in an open field fixed on by the Baron ; this was no easy task, however, the next night we were enabled to fulfil our commission with so much secrecy that not a dog was heard to bark.

The Cossacks had now been with us a fortnight, they had consumed all the provision they could get at ; and necessity obliged them to seek for supplies in villages distant from the main road ; but neither of the officers could speak French, consequently I was made their tool to interpret for them ; it was of no use to make objections, for resistance would have been attended with fatal consequences. Equipped like a Cossack, I had to mount one of their steeds, and off we went to a place about nine miles distant. My instructions were given me on the road ; having arrived in the village I inquired for the mayor, to whom I delivered my orders with much authority : in addi-

tion to the rations of bread and meat, so many fowls and hams, hay and oats for the horses, everything was to be ready in a short time. All was now hurry and bustle, running here and there, no time was lost till all was collected. While the distribution was going on, I thought it my duty to provide for a part of my family; the officers consented to give me three fowls, a ham, and three round loaves, which, by boring a hole through the middle, I hung to a strap over my shoulder, the fowls and ham in front of the saddle; with these supplies we returned to the village, where my provisions met with welcome reception.

The French once more collected in considerable numbers to make a last effort, with Napoleon in person, and repulsed that wing of the Allied army back to Langres. The Baron knowing the French army could not resist the united efforts of the Allies, deter-

mined not to risk another invasion, and made preparations to leave Magny for Troyes, lest another shock of misery might be fatal to his delicate constitution. The carriage was got ready, the hamper of plate secured, the Baroness, her maid, and myself, accompanied him ; the Count de Bois-sans-couere had previously made preparations to receive them at his hotel.

Here we waited the return of the Allies, which event the inhabitants had great cause to lament, for the town became a prey to pillage for four hours, in consequence of the ill usage the Allies had experienced from the lower orders in their retreat. Whilst here I felt it my duty to contrive a plan to protect the residence of the Count from plunder, which I carried by stratagem.

A division of Prussians having previously occupied the town, several officers of high

rank had been billeted with the Count, and, in the precipitate retreat, had left two chariots and several open trunks of clothes. I had the carriages placed before the entrance gate and covered them with dirt, to make it appear that they had just arrived from a journey; I then dressed myself in the Prussian uniform, ready to make my appearance against any intruder. The building was enclosed by a yard with a high wall, and a large entrance gate; an entrance could not be made without great violence, and whenever a party appeared at the gate, I called out in German, and opening the small gate, told them the place was occupied by some great personage; seeing me dressed in officer's uniform, I thus succeeded in repelling all intruders.

The Allies continued their march towards Paris without any more opposition. Fresh troops arriving daily at Troyes, Milioradi-



witch, a Russian General, had taken up his abode with the Count ; we had a sentinel placed before the gate, the inhabitants began again to open their shops, and every thing took a peaceable turn.

I thought now the time was come to return to my country, from which I had been absent upwards of six years ; I felt very anxious to see my friends, from whom I had heard at Besançon, informing me of the demise of my aged grandfather and several brothers and sisters. I told the Baron how anxious I felt to revisit my friends, as I saw he had no longer any need of my services ; and having an opportunity I purchased a caleche and a pair of horses from a camp follower, for a trifling sum, which sum the Baroness was so kind as to advance me ; this carriage served me in my journey, and I hoped to realise a good profit by the sale of both at the end of it.

The Baron said to me, "I cannot help regretting your anxious desire of returning to your country; you have rendered us most important services both at Magny and here, therefore I am loathe to part with you; nevertheless you are reminded by filial feeling to return to your parents, and I must submit to it; moreover, should unforeseen at any time trials overtake you, remember that you have a friend in either myself or the Count, and that you will always meet with a kind reception at Magny." I presented my grateful acknowledgments for the kindness of the Baron, who had rescued me from my degraded condition when a wandering prisoner; therefore the least I could do was to make some return for his benevolent conduct. I had a second interview with the Count and Countess, who again repeated similar kind expressions.

General Milioradiwitch had been pre-

viously informed of the circumstance which had led me to the Baron's family, and that I was now anxious to return to my own family. I took an opportunity to have an interview with his excellency, who not only granted me a passport, but also a *feuille de route*, that in every town or village where I intended sojourning, the authorities might procure for me lodging and maintenance. Having made all arrangements, I took leave of both families, again thanking them for all the favours I had received. The Baron presented me with a purse containing twenty Napoleons as a token of their approbation.

I now set off like a gentleman in his carriage, and with money in my pocket. I could not help contrasting my present condition, with the abject wretched state in which I was on my arrival at Magny. I proceeded by easy journeys towards Metz,

travelling daily from 25 to 35 miles; my horses like myself were accustomed to the fatigue of the journey. I stayed a day at Metz, to get some little repairs done to my carriage; the next night I slept at Sarbruck. The third day I reached my home, having accomplished the whole journey in eight days.

I need not expatiate upon the mutual pleasure of meeting with my friends; suffice it to say, it was one of the happiest days of my life. The neighbours wondered who the gentleman might be who drove up in such style. Each gave their own version for a time; some reported I had returned from Spain, having made my fortune. However it was soon proved to be otherwise, when they saw the carriage and horses put up to auction, and sold for 420 francs.

But what was I to do for a livelihood? I had no trade nor any knowledge of agricul

ture, neither capital for business. These things perplexed me very much, and I began to feel my helpless condition. I thought if the six years' service in the army which were spent in misery and wretchedness, had been employed in learning an useful trade, I should now have been in a better position. I could see no other way than to begin my wandering life again, yet I felt loath to leave my relatives; but if it must be so, I determined that I would endeavour to keep from military service. I dreaded to be sent to the colonies or to India, for then I might never see my friends again.

During my stay at home, my mind became much dejected. Impressed with a sense of fear and alarm for sins committed and duties neglected, I felt a sensation such as I had never before experienced. I endeavoured by various means to divert my atten-

tion, but all to no purpose. My relatives perceived the change, and wondered what had happened. I told them it was an impression of the mind of which I could not divest myself. They advised me to see the reader of the synagogue, to which I willingly consented. But I could get no comfort from him; all that he said was "it would wear off in time," if not I should go to consult the rabbi at Mannhiem. I went there. His advice to me was to perform certain duties with fasting, once a week, and to read devoutly portions of prayers appointed to be read for the day of atonement; which duty I endeavoured to do in the strictest sense for some time.

And now may I be permitted to make an observation to my brethren of the house of Israel. Is it possible that sinful man by these duties could quiet his troubled conscience, and give satisfaction to his offended

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God? Why were then those costly sacrifices instituted from the very beginning, by Divine appointment? Surely they must signify something; for if the institution of sacrifices is of Divine origin, and if it be coeval with the entrance of sin into the world, if it be connected with the first promise of a Redeemer from the guilt and penalty of sin; if the duty offering prefigurative victims were enforced, (not according to the Talmud, a cock or a hen,) the innocent victim for the guilty sinner; and if it be found to have been practised and continued in successive generations of the faithful, from the Fall to the appearance of our Lord to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; and of these things there can be no doubt; then the evidence is, that without shedding of blood, there is no possibility of remission. All the patriarchs and holy men of whom St. Paul speaks in Eleventh Hebrews,

cherished the same hope, founded, from the beginning, on a Divine promise of a great Saviour, whose government should be upon His shoulder, and whose name should be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah ix. 6.*

This is the Christian faith, which these holy men had, and which we also ought to have, and although they were not named christian men, yet it was a christian faith they possessed, the only difference between them is that they looked forward to the time when Christ should appear, and we live in the times when He has already come. The time is altered and changed, but not the faith.

But I must return to my narrative. I had previously made up my mind to return to England, and claim my arrears from the war office, which would amount to some-



thing considerable; a friend procured for me two letters of introduction to persons residing in London, who might be of some use to me.

With this prospect in view, I once more set off, grieved and broken-hearted over my misfortunes; to part from my relatives was more than I can express. I looked back to see the last of my native town till it disappeared from my view. I took the road by the Rhine, and stayed a few days at Mayence. Steamers were not known there at that time, but I engaged to join a party on a large raft destined for Rotterdam; these rafts are manned, according to the dimensions, by two to three hundred men, with large and small dwellings, or sleeping places, a tavern, and a plentiful store of all sorts of provisions, or necessaries; we were divided into two parties, each of which had to work eight hours every day, from four

in the morning till twelve, and again the other party from twelve to eight in the evening, when we anchored near land for the night.

The length of some of the large rafts is generally from seven to nine hundred feet, and their breadth about seventy feet; there are sometimes from twelve to fifteen houses, all built with planks; that which is inhabited by the proprietor is remarkable for its elegance and convenience; the next is the master's house, which is spacious, and is generally divided into two parts, between which there is room for walking. On one side is the sitting room as well as bedroom of the master, and on the other the pilot's room, and the storehouse for provisions. Quite at the end is the large dining room, and near it the kitchen, in which may be seen a large copper kettle always on the fire, and being constantly used for cooking.

A basket elevated at the top of a pole, is the signal when the meals are ready, and everybody proceeds to take his share, which is served in a wooden bowl. There are live cattle on the raft, and there are always several butchers in the equipage. This mass of floating timber goes down to Dordrecht, where it is sold, and thence part of it is conveyed to England, Spain, and Portugal.

On my arrival at Rotterdam, I lost no time in making inquiry for a vessel which would sail for London ; after a few days delay I got information of a vessel waiting to complete her cargo at Helvoetsluys. I hastened to the place, and saw the captain, who told me he would be ready to sail the next day, providing the wind was favourable. I agreed with him to take me to London for £1 10s. one pound before sailing, and ten shillings after our arrival ; and

in order to secure payment, I deposited my clothes in his hands; this seemed to satisfy him. But unfortunately we were detained for fifteen days by unfavourable weather; during that time the number of passengers increased to fourteen.

And now I was once more put to the pinch; my money was spent, not with wasteful living, nor yet in extravagant clothes, but in foolishly lavishing presents on brothers and sisters; my liberality exceeded my means; reflection came too late when poverty was threatening.

It may be asked, what induced me to leave my home with so little means at my command? The fact was, I did not anticipate there would be any difficulty in getting my arrears from the war office. I thought if I had just money enough to carry me to London, there I should be able to replenish my purse. Such was my witless calcula-

tion. Without acquainting my friends with the low state of my finances, I set off, heedless of the consequence. I lived here on herring and bread, and gathered up all the fragments of bread and biscuits which I found on board, for an anticipated day of trial, and tied them in a handkerchief.

At last we set sail for the Thames, and after a tedious and boisterous tossing of fifty hours, we arrived at midnight at that notable Billingsgate, with only two shillings in my pocket. Here we had to climb in thick darkness over a fleet of vessels. When I reached the landing I felt so giddy I could scarcely walk, and my inside was all in a quiver from sea-sickness. We were taken to a public house in Tower street. A passenger near the bar asked the charge of a bed. The reply was, "eighteen pence, and a shilling." I thought that would not suit my pocket, badly as I wanted rest. On

entering the tap room, a volley of tobacco smoke assailed my already sea-sick stomach. The room was full of Irish fish women, some of them half drunk, and one and all were smoking; they were waiting the arrival of the fishing boats.

I crept into a corner, and sat down on a bench, and ordered half a pint of porter, but I could not take it. I laid my head on the table, but the noise of the fish women prevented me from sleeping. However, towards four in the morning my company left me, and I soon fell asleep, and slept till seven, when I asked the servant for a room to wash. I was led into a small room in the garret. "Here, if this room will suit you, it is ninepence a night." "Very well, I will take it." I was not long about my toilet. Before I went out, I told the landlady I should probably stay for several days.

I now made inquiry for the war office, when I was directed to Somerset House, in the Strand. My coat and hat soon disclosed that they were not of English origin, and the schoolboys were not slow in pointing the finger of scorn at the Frenchman ; but I could easily account for this. It was soon after the first peace, and foreigners were not so numerous, neither so well looked upon, as they are now.

Having arrived at the office, I satisfied the clerks as to the justness of my claim. Having examined the register, I was directed to the chief secretary of the office, with a written instruction, and after waiting a little while I was called to the desk, when I was told I must return to the depôt to get my discharge, if they could dispense with my service ; then you will receive an order to this office, and we will pay what is due to you.

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This declaration very much alarmed me. I thought on India and the colonies; the 5th battalion of the 60th rifles might be commissioned to join the regiment in India, where I might never have a chance of returning to my country. These thoughts impressed my mind in quick succession; yet two other chances were still remaining, the two letters of introduction. I had made up my mind sooner to submit to the most menial situation, rather than return again to military service. With this resolution I left the office.

I set off back to the city. In my way I got information where to look for the residence of those friends to whom I was recommended. But judge of my disappointment! When I arrived at the several places, the people informed me the one had been dead some years, and the other was a bankrupt, and had left the country. I



now returned back to my lodging in an agony of despair, and cast myself on the bed, and gave vent to my feelings. Here I am, a perfect stranger in the country, without a friend to condole with me; all my prospects blighted, and without money, and without clothes, what will become of me! Bad as my position was when a prisoner, yet my wants were supplied, however badly; but here I am, thrown upon my own resources, which are now desperate.

At last the thought struck me, suppose I were to make my case known to the Jewish community, by showing those letters, I might probably get some immediate relief. I resolved on the next day to put this resolution into practice, and with this I fell into a sound sleep, and slept till eight in the morning, when I got up and dressed, and breakfasted on a crust of bread and biscuit, with musty water out of the ewer. I then

set off, inquiring for Duke's Place, but on my way I found myself near St. Paul's. I walked back to Cheapside, where I passed two gentlemen talking German. I felt disposed to speak to them. I returned again, but my courage forsook me. The third time I passed them. They, perceiving my hesitation, asked me if I wanted to speak to them. "Yes, gentlemen." I then stated briefly the principal facts, the unhappy circumstances of my case, and the cause that brought me to London; attesting the truth of my statement by showing my two letters and passport.

They appeared to listen to my story with great interest; each of them presented me with a half crown piece, and told me to meet them that evening at eight o'clock, at an inn in Carnaby market, where they would make my case known to their friends. I felt greatly thankful for such unexpected

kindness, and expressed my sincere thanks to them.

With this glimmer of success my drooping spirit revived again. A prize in the lottery to a poor man, could not have had greater effect than this small sum had on me. I now returned to my lodging with a light heart, paid for my room for two days in advance, and treated myself with a pint of porter and some bread and cheese.

In the evening I set off for Carnaby market. On arriving at the appointed inn, I inquired for my benefactors, who had previously given me their names. I was shown into a parlour where several gentlemen had already assembled, and amongst the number one of my friends, who called for a pint of porter for me. The company having assembled, they transacted some business of their own. During that time the other gentleman also made his appearance. Hav-

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ing settled their affairs, one of them stood up, and asked me to come forward ; he then began to plead my cause, showing by my letters and passport that my statement was true, and my case urgent ; a collection was then made, which amounted to eighteen shillings ; in handing me that sum they told me they had expected a better attendance, but if I would come there Saturday next, they would do something more for me.

I now felt more than I could express ; such unexpected relief filled me with astonishment. I returned to my lodging happy and thankful. The next day I set out to look for the captain ; I found him at the appointed place, and told him I was come to redeem my clothes, and related to him all my disappointments, which had placed me here without any resources. The captain was so affected with my friendless con-

dition, that he returned my clothes, refusing to receive any money. I could only thank the good captain for his humane conduct.

It may now be asked, was there no gratitude arising in my heart toward Him who had disposed these strangers to show me such amazing kindness? Alas! no. I knew Him not, I ascribed all to human instrumentality.

I took my portmanteau and walked back to the Inn; and now, I thought, after this good fortune I may afford myself a warm dinner after such a long privation.

On the following Saturday I made my appearance again at the appointed rendezvous. One of the gentlemen asked me if I would like to take a situation with a merchant from Hanover; "he is a brother of one of our friends here, and is in want of a person to interpret for him, if you are

disposed to take that situation, you are to have four shillings per day to find yourself in everything ; he is staying at the Bull and Mouth, in the city, you may go there tomorrow, and inquire for Mr. Steiner ; he knows all about you ; and here are ten shillings which a kind friend has collected for you." Such kindness as this exceeded all my expectation. I felt quite unable to express my feelings.

Next morning I waited on the gentleman ; he asked me if I was acquainted with London, and if I was a good walker. I told him I ought to be, for I had had my share of it in my time. After repeating the above agreement, he desired me to accompany him to St. Paul's, and Westminster Abbey, and the two Houses of Parliament ; this we did in one day, including the time it took to walk about in these different places, and to interpret all I heard. The next day we

went to see the Tower, and the East and West India Docks.

I now changed my lodgings, for I got tired of the fish women and their noise. I got a better room at the Bull and Mouth, and where I was on the spot. We continued sight-seeing day after day, till we had seen all the principal public curiosities in London.

When I look back and see the great interposition of an all-wise and merciful Providence in delivering me out of so many trials, rescuing me in the extreme moment of despair, and interfering in my behalf by his signal mercies, I am a wonder to myself.

One morning Mr. Steiner told me if I would like to accompany him to Paris, he would pay my travelling expenses, and give me the same wages at Paris. I told him every country was my home, I would follow

him wherever he liked. After a day or two we got our passports signed, and taking leave of my kind friends, thanking them for all their favors, we left for Southampton, by coach.

The next day we sailed for Havre, where we arrived after a passage of eighteen hours; and landing early in the morning, stayed a day at an hotel near the quay. We took our places in the diligence, and the next day we left for Paris, where we took a private lodging in the Rue Mont Blanc, Chauseè d' Antoine. Here Mr. Steiner had letters to several bankers. Five weeks were here employed in seeing the curiosities of Paris; we were out every day as in London, from morning till night. I took as much delight in these sights as Mr. Steiner, so that I not only got familiar with most of the curiosities, but also the principal streets of Paris. Thus time ran on in



quick succession. Mr. Steiner would have remained longer, had it not been for his father's illness, which obliged him to return to Hanover, I was therefore once more thrown upon my own resources.

However the recommendation to his banker assisted me to a situation as valet de chambre to M. de Sinerique, Director of the Mint. Here I had little pay for much work, which was to act as valet to three gentlemen, and then I had to do work to which I had never been accustomed; it was to frotter, or rub the oak floors of an apartment, which had to be rubbed over with wax, and then worked into a gloss with a brush fastened to the right foot; my wages were two francs per day, without food, for the gentlemen went out for their meals, which is commonly the case in Paris; however I contrived to save fifteen sous every day, in order to get some respectable

clothes, for I had not forgotten my trials in London, which, although of short duration, had yet taught me an indelible lesson. I remained here six months in order to get their recommendation to a more profitable situation, as they were persons who moved in the best society.

I then applied at the intelligence office for another situation, and after a few days I got an application to present myself before Count Morran, Commander of the 4th division of the Imperial Guards, in the Rue Victoire. I was engaged at once through the recommendation of the banker, as his valet, and entered into the Count's service on the 1st of July, 1814. Nothing remarkable happened during the first eight months. I lived with the Count, till we heard of the landing of Napoleon at Frejus; and his successful march towards Paris.

I shall not venture to describe what so

many able hands have done before me ; suffice it to say, nothing could exceed the enthusiasm of the populace after the departure of Louis the Eighteenth, and the entry of Napoleon into Paris, on the 20th of March. I stood on the Carrousel when he entered the Tuilleries with the whole retinue of his staff ; the bells were ringing, the cannons were firing, and every countenance appeared to gleam with joy. The theatres in particular made the greatest display.

Soon however bills were posted up recalling all the men that were on furlough, to join their regiments, fresh conscriptions were raised in all the departments, the National Guard, newly organized, replaced the regulars stationed in garrisons and fortified places, who had orders to join the army on the frontiers, which were again threatened by the Allies with another invasion.

One morning the Count asked me if I was inclined to follow him in the ensuing campaign? Perceiving my hesitation, he said, "Well, what is your objection?" "Not anything excepting to carry arms!" "What? not a sword?" "Not any warlike weapon." "Very well," replied the Count, "you shall have a stick! and ride one of my horses, and take the other en traineau, with two panniers, containing my canteen and toilet, and follow the rear-guard."

On the second of June we joined the 4th division at Cambrai, here we stayed till the 14th, when Napoleon joined the army, which was now concentrated on the frontier. On the 15th, the first engagement took place with the Brunswickers and Belgians who were repulsed. Napoleon, flushed with this temporary victory, proceeded the next day to attack the Prussians, but here he met with a desperate resistance; for

some hours the superiority was undecided ; parties were observed firing or charging in all directions. Repeated attacks were made by either forces as circumstances demanded, or as they became most numerous at the particular points. In one direction was to be seen a troop or squadron charging half their number of opponents, who by a precipitate retreat fell back on others, until their strength became superior ; when, in turn, they for a time carried with them successfully the tide of battle. The plain was covered with officers and scattered cavalry soldiers, carbines and pistols were discharged without intermission, frequent personal conflicts took place. During the progress of the protracted attacks, the Prussians although occasionally successful, were losing ground, and were finally driven back by the advance of four regiments of Cuirassiers.

The weather during the whole day, in short for the last fortnight, had been very unpropitious ; torrents of rain fell, and gales of wind continued to obstruct and annoy both armies ; at one time the vivid flashes of lightning, which were succeeded by violent peals of thunder, had a threatening effect on a brigade of cavalry, which halted to our left, the men dismounted were either seated or lying on the ground, holding their horses, who, alarmed by the thunder, started with violence, and many of them breaking loose, galloped across the country in all directions, the frightened horses passing without riders in a state of wildness, added to the awful effect of the tempest. The paved roads were almost impassable, much less the open country, the cavalry sunk to their knees in the soil. As far as the eye could reach, the corn fields, which at this time of the year are luxuriant, were

levelled with the ground. I beheld at one time nine or ten villages and hamlets in flames, men and women, with children in their arms, dragging through the mire making their escape; it makes me shudder to think on the thousands of slaughtered and mutilated victims of war. Grouchy and Vandamme were now dispatched to pursue the rear of Blucher, who retreated to Sombreuf. Thus ended the second day's engagement.

Little was effected on the seventeenth, but we were in front of the English line. Napoleon impatient to concentrate his scattered divisions, pursued them with his usual tactical manœuvres, till he arrived at the forest of Soignies, where he met with a formidable resistance, which he despaired to vanquish that day. The engagement began about ten in the morning; on the next day the advance guard began the skir-

mishes; the troops advanced to their positions. When suddenly a cuirassier arrived with a message from the Count for his other horse, the one he rode having met with an accident and broken its leg. Moreover the Count ordered me back to Quatre Bras to remain with the baggage till further orders. I had now no other choice than to mount the panniered horse and turn back; however by one o'clock a lancer brought me an English dragoon horse, with orders still to remain where I was.

Here I waited till five in the evening, when I heard very unfavorable reports; in fact, the confused and dispersed masses of wounded and fugitives left no doubt of the defeat of the French; but soon the report spread that the Prussians had joined the English, and that Grouchy who was so anxiously expected had disappointed the army. I found the road was completely blocked up



with caissons, carriages, baggage wagons, all pressing forward from the field of action; some dispersed themselves among the houses in search of provisions, ransacking our baggage. The troops, pursued by the Prussians, fled in a mixed mass.

In this confusion I chanced to meet with the Count's aid-de-camp, with his arm in a sling, and his head bandaged; he told me not to wait any longer, for the Count was taken prisoner. I hastened back to my horses, tied up what was most valuable into two bundles, and secured them on the leading horse, but left the panniers behind; taking the road to Mons instead of Charle-roi out of the way of the pursuers. I travelled all night, and the next morning arrived at Maubeuge. Here I refreshed the horses, and started again for Laon; from whence I reached Paris in two days.

The Countess had been anxiously waiting

to hear the fate of her husband ; she had been previously informed of the great disaster which befel the Imperial guard, but was left in suspense respecting the destiny of the Count. I narrated in a few words my adventures, and what information I had collected from various sources, and that while I was waiting for orders from the Count I had met with the aid-de-camp, who told me not to wait any longer as the Count was taken prisoner. But this was too much for her ; she gave vent to her feelings and retired.

After a little while the Countess again sent for me, asking my advice as to what means she could adopt in order to communicate with him ; she thought a letter directed poste restante, Brussells, might reach him. I begged the Countess to calm herself, and wait the return of the aid-de-camp, who no doubt would give her the best

advice. The Countess now asked if the Count was provided with his clothes and toilet, I told her he had nothing but his great coat, the rest of the things I had brought back with me.

Paris in the mean time was more tranquil than could have been imagined. The remainder of the army of Grouchy and Soult had arrived, and other troops poured in from the south, the Allies having pursued the French to the barriers of Paris, the commanders were eagerly wishing to obtain possession of the city, before the confusion of the expected strife should commence. Some idea of approaching famine now began to be entertained; immense crowds ran to all the markets and eagerly purchased every article of provision which they could possibly procure; in a few hours neither bread nor meat could be obtained at any price. The shops were shut, the streets were thronged,

the most valuable property of many who were preparing to fly from the threatened ruin was packed up, and as the fortune of the times declared against the French, despair took possession of every breast. But no sooner was it known that the Allies had consented to a suspension of arms, and that the city was guaranteed from pillage and destruction, than the promenades were soon crowded with idlers, and all sorts of amusements. But to return. The aid-de-camp having arrived in Paris, called on the Countess, and endeavoured by his persuasions to pacify her anxious and disturbed mind respecting the Count, and in a day or two she received a letter from him.

On the 8th of July, Louis the Eighteenth made his triumphant entry; the same compliments and respects were paid to him as to Napoleon, and probably by the same

people: in no other city but Paris could these contradictory scenes happen. What confidence could a monarch place in such shallow sincerity! Many foreigners now arrived daily, particularly from England, to see those wonderful productions of the fine arts, which Napoleon had taken from other nations and placed in the Louvre, before the Parisians had the mortification of seeing them restored to their former owners. As I had no particular calling, I frequently resorted thither to wile away an idle hour. I thought at one time to acquaint the Countess how uneasy I felt at having nothing to do but to eat the bread of idleness. However, one morning the Countess sent for me, telling me she had received a letter from the Count, advising her to reduce his establishment; and as I was one whose services might well be dispensed with, she thought it best to acquaint me in time, in

order that I might suit myself with another situation.

I thanked her for her considerate care for me, and I was glad to receive this previous notice in order to give me time to advertise at the intelligence office; and after a day or two I got a notice to inquire at No. 8, Rue Grange Bateleur, after Colonel du Bois. I was informed he was one of those who had emigrated from France in the first revolution, to Sweden, where he held a commission under that Government, and returned to Paris on the restoration of the Bourbons. I found him at breakfast; after a few preliminary questions, he told me if my recommendation was to his satisfaction, he would engage me as his valet, and if I would call the next evening at five o'clock, he would then close with me. Accordingly I went the next day, when he at once agreed to take me into his service.

During my abode with the Colonel nothing very remarkable occurred worth relating, excepting one circumstance, which I cannot pass by unnoticed, inasmuch as it came under my observation. The next house to us, No. 7, was a lodging house, which was let unfurnished in small apartments; a porter's lodge adjoined the premises. The porter who had the charge of the letting, followed the business of a hair-dresser. One morning whilst he was out in his calling, a gentleman presented himself to see the vacant apartments; the portress accompanied the stranger to view them; after a few important questions the gentleman agreed, and took them for a limited time, fixing the day when he would take possession, handing his card for references, and left. The portress, occupied with the business of her little family, forgot to tell her husband of her success; and what was

worse, one of the children had made away with the card. The husband returned, and the wife went to market; after a little while a lady made her appearance and desired to see the apartments; the porter conducted the lady about the establishment, when, after a little discussion, she fixed on the rooms the gentleman had already engaged, agreed on the terms, and appointed the day to bring her furniture, but in looking for her card case, she apologized for her forgetfulness, and of necessity had to make a deposit for security. The portress having returned from market, heard with astonishment what had transpired during her absence, and exclaimed in distraction, *mon cher mari!* I have forgotten to tell you, I have let the same apartment this morning to a gentleman who gave me his card. "Where is it?" interrupted the husband; "I left it on the mantlepice, and the little boy took it."



After running here and there, it was no where to be found; perplexed what they should do in this difficulty, they resolved to seek the advice of the commissary of the police; to him they went, who told them they need not be alarmed, as it was an unforeseen case; he would say, the first applicant was entitled to the apartment; but what is most singular, both parties fixed on the same day to take possession. The appointed day having arrived, the lady with her luggage presented herself first, and as the great gate was open, the goods were taken to the house; the porter, however, prevented the men from unloading the wagon, and went to the carriage of the lady who arrived with the luggage, and briefly told her the circumstances he was placed in, and begged her to take the other apartment, which was still vacant; but the lady would not so easily give up her right, and in-

sisted on taking possession of the one she had chosen, and denied the right of the commissary to interfere with her, saying nobody should expel her or dispute her right. While the lady was thus debating with the porter, his wife came running to say the gentleman had arrived at the gate, and told her his luggage would be there in a few minutes; the porter now left the lady and ran to the gate. The gentleman astonished to hear the statement of the porter and his wife, vehemently said, "what shall I do with my luggage? this is a vexatious affair." The lady in the meantime had taken possession, whilst the porter was endeavouring to persuade the gentleman to take the other apartment; but nothing would do, he was peremptory in his claims. At last, after much persuasion, the gentleman prevailed on to see the other apartment; on the stairs he met the lady; the moment

he saw her he fell round her neck, and exclaimed, " My dearest Sophia!" The lady at the same time screaming and fainting.

The mystery was soon explained; they were a married couple, who, through a trifling misunderstanding, had come to the determination to break up their establishment, and separate, and as they had a family of three children, the gentleman took two little boys, and the lady the eldest girl. They had now been parted nearly six years, living in different parts of Paris, without having communication with each other, when they here met again in this marvellous way; the ecstasy of joy was so great between parents and children that they could not restrain their excited feelings before strangers, who were sensibly affected by this wonderful drama. This strange event led them once more to reunite, and as this favored lodging was the means

of their reconciliation, they considered it their duty to make this lodging their permanent abode.

I have made it my business for several years, whenever I came to Paris, to inquire about them ; and found they were still living in the same house and very happy. Who after this, will deny an over-ruling Providence? I know not whether they were converted christians or not. .The bow of God's divine care encircles not only the pious christian, but the whole human race ; he is not only the God of the Jews, but of the Gentiles also. In reviewing this mysterious event, how suitably every link is adapted to strengthen the whole chain. Who can doubt the power and goodness of the Almighty, in governing all the affairs of the children of men? How unsearchable are His judgments ! and His ways past finding out. He must be the First Cause,

not the second, who ordereth and disposeth all things. But alas! is He not often dishonoured by the abuse of His providence? Not only the ignorant world are guilty of this, in setting up an idol of their own invention, called chance or luck, as the chief ruler of human affairs, but I have met with professors of religion who were so short sighted, as not to see and own the hand of the Almighty.

During my abode with Colonel du Bois, I felt very uneasy, at not having sufficient occupation; and being accustomed to a life of activity, I soon got weary of the confinement. I was wasting my time, whereas I ought to endeavour to turn to some account the languages I had acquired; and now I had a favourable opportunity to put this in practical use. Daily inquiry being made for persons competent to speak several continental languages, to travel with families

in the capacity of courier, I was not long before I got an answer to an advertisement which I published. I received a note to call on Sir W. Bellingshan, at the hotel Mirabeau, Rue de la Paix.

I lost no time to get an interview with Sir William. Our conversation was in English. He asked me if I was accustomed to ride, as he wanted a courier. Having answered that question, he said he thought of making a tour through Switzerland. My terms were accepted, promising to pay my return to Paris, should my services no longer be required. As to character, the Count, who had by that time returned to Paris, testified respecting my conduct, to his satisfaction. The Colonel also sent a suitable answer to a letter, so that in a week I was at liberty to join Sir William's family, consisting of five persons. In the mean time I endeavoured to procure infor-

mation respecting the duties of a courier, in order that my services might be acceptable.

Sir William being now ready for his departure, he ordered me to get the passports signed for Switzerland, by Mulhausen. We left Paris early in July, 1816. I anticipated the pleasure of revisiting my former friends, the Count and his family at Troyes, and the Baron and his lady at Magny, as our road lay direct that way. On the second day we reached Troyes. I felt not a little disappointed when I found the Count and his lady had left the very day we arrived there, on a visit to friends at Sens; and I was told also the Baron and his lady were staying in Paris, he being a member of the chamber of deputies. Thus defeated in my expectations, I had no chance of seeing them again.

We continued our journey to Basle. Here we stayed a few days. During that

time I consulted some German tourists respecting our intended journey through the Berner Upperland; the accounts from them and others were rather discouraging. Those different passes were not then so much frequented by ladies as they now are. However Sir William would not hear anything about difficulty. I hired four horses for Lucerne; from thence we sent the carriage to Thun. From Art we ascended the Righi; we had previously provided ourselves with horses and long ash poles pointed with iron for walking sticks, and made choice of a guide.

The dreadful calamity which befel the village of Goldau is generally known, yet as there are many of my readers who have never visited the spot, they may feel interested to hear a short account of this fearful calamity. This valley, which lies between the lakes of Zug and Lowertz, was formerly studded with smiling villages, inhabited by



a thriving population, until the fatal 2nd September, 1806, when a part of the Rossberg descended, and crushed under its ruins both habitations and people. Such was the suddenness of the calamity, that out of a party who accompanied a new married couple, who were walking from Art towards Goldau in order to ascend the Righi, seven who were a little in advance, perished, while four escaped unhurt. Five minutes were sufficient to destroy five villages. The waters of the lake of Lowertz sustained so violent a shock, that they overflowed the village of Sever situated at its northern extremity, and caused considerable damage. Four hundred and fifty-seven individuals perished on this occasion; fourteen were severely wounded, and the survivors reduced to beggary.

Having attained the object of visiting the Righi, and witnessed the effects of the

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rising and setting of the sun on the extensive range of mountains, lakes, valleys, and plains, in the centre of which it is placed, we descended by Weggis. Our next excursion in the mountains was to cross the Brunich to Meyringen, Grindelwald, Interlachen, and Thun. These, and many more intricate passes have been frequently described by many tourists, who have contributed no small share to the information and amusement of the public. Having joined the carriage at Thun, we continued our journey to Geneva, where Sir William took a private villa, and here my services were no longer required.

I am now about to relate that part of my life, which to myself is the most important ; by so doing, I hope the name of God will be glorified, and others led to hope and derive encouragement from my experience of the Lord's goodness. We, as christians,

should also record every instance of His favour, with the place, the time, and manner wherein God was pleased to bless us. The Lord has his book of remembrance, and so should we have, by treasuring up in our memories a Bethel, a Penuel, and an Ebenezer. "Come then and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul."

In the autumn of the year 1816, I was engaged by J. S. Harford, Esq., a gentleman from the neighbourhood of Bristol, to whom by the providence of God I am indebted as being instrumental in leading me to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. (It is needless to relate what has been so repeatedly described by many more able penmen; I mean the journey from Geneva to Rome, where we spent the winter.)

The first Sabbath after our arrival, Mr.

Harford sent a message to say I might go to mass, to which I replied, "I was not a Roman Catholic." "Well then," I was asked, "have you any objection to join us in our family devotion?" "By no means," I replied, thinking at the same time, if it does me no good, it will do me no harm. Consequently I went, and heard for the first time the Liturgy of the Church of England; being much impressed by the sublimity of that composition, which filled my mind with reverential and favourable considerations towards the christian religion. I considered particularly the Litany, its sublime compilation, which led me to reflect, "such prayers I have never heard before; the christians are not only praying for themselves, but they are also interceding for their enemies; for Jews and Gentiles, for bond and free." These reflections resulted in awakening in me a long-

ing desire to join with the family as often as they met in their devotions; and although the occupations of life checked for a time the development of the germ of grace, yet the impression of it was never wholly obliterated. After a few weeks the English residents obtained permission to hold their worship in a house adjoining Trajan's place, where we and many others resorted every Sabbath day.

During our residence at Rome, I had an opportunity of contrasting between the pompous worship of a so-called christian church, and the simple unadorned service of the Protestant community. Many times I had to make my escape from coming in contact with what I considered an idolatrous procession, for fear of being obliged to conform to the practice of kneeling while it passed by. Although I had no scruple in breaking the law by living among the

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Gentiles, and partaking of their food, yet I had a great horror of the worship of idols.

After a while I made a little inquiry about the welfare of my brethren. I had heard so many strange stories about them, that I could hardly give credence to all I was told, that such barbarous despotism had been, and still is, practised in the nineteenth century; yet as these reports were confirmed, and came from a quarter quite unprejudiced, I cannot entertain any suspicion of the truth of the statement.

For instance, I was told that before the conquest of Italy by Napoleon, the chief rabbi had to present himself in the name of the Jewish community, on a certain day in the year, at the Capitol, where the cardinal of state sat invested with Papal authority; the rabbi being obliged to submit to the most degrading humiliation. He was compelled to prostrate himself

with his face to the ground, while the cardinal placed his right foot upon his neck. So debased is their condition, that they are marked with yellow badges of scorn, which they are compelled to wear, yea, even to the present day. I was also informed that the origin of the Carnival dated its institute from the triumphal entry of Titus Vespasian, with so many thousands of Jewish captives, who were afterwards compelled to amuse the Roman populace. Not only to fight with wild beasts in the amphitheatre, but they were forced to submit to many other indignities, such as running races; and till very lately, as a favour, the Jews had to defray the annual expenses of the horse racing in the Carnival, instead of running themselves, which in ages past they were obliged to do.

One might multiply the acts of atrocity and oppression which the Romish church

has perpetrated in ages past on the poor Jews. Such has been, and still is, the Papal or Jesuitical Propaganda, which upholds universal bondage, and keeps in constant activity the great furnace which forges the links to enchain the intellect.

To return to my narrative. We continued in Rome until the following spring, when we returned towards England. But I cannot omit saying that, during the progress of our journey, I had many unhappy days; a repetition of what I had experienced in first visiting my friends on my return from the army. A constant depression of spirits, and a state of dissatisfaction with myself; and yet I could not summon resolution to disclose the working of my mind to those who were about me; for I concluded if my employer had been aware of my origin, he would not have retained me in his service.



In August we arrived at Jordan's hotel, London, where we remained a few days. During that time by the kind recommendation of Mr. Harford, I was transferred to another family, relatives of Mr. Harford, who were about going to Nice, in the south of France. Before we parted, he kindly admonished me in a truly christian spirit, not to forget those solemnities in which I had the privilege of joining, during our sojourn on the continent, the remembrance of which would preserve me from the many snares to which I might be exposed; and above all things not to omit prayer, and to be circumspect in my conduct. This solemn advice was accompanied with the present of a German Bible, with marginal references; he desired me to read a portion of it daily, with prayer to God, for the teaching of his Holy Spirit.

This serious address renewed all the for-

mer anguish of my mind ; my feelings were worked up to such an extent, I could hardly refrain from making an avowal of my sentiments. Little did Mr. Harford know what was passing in my mind at that moment ; but I refrained, for reasons before mentioned, and suppressed my convictions, in order that I might more fully investigate the Word of God, before making an open confession, particularly as it was now presented to me in my own language. I now retired to my room, resolved not to omit reading a portion daily. But alas ! I knew not my fallen nature ; this resolution, however sincere, was frequently broken.

With much regret I now took leave of those christian people, and joined the family of Smith Wright, Esq. Travelling in the south of France, in those days, especially with a large family, (and the lady being an invalid,) was more a task than a pleasure,

consequently the progress of our journey was but slow. However, we reached our destination without any interruption. Mr. Wright settled here for the winter, and as the family was attended by their own servants, my services were not now required.

I had been wishing for a little retirement, in order to give a fair examination and study of the Word of God. I felt more anxious on that account. I now devoted my serious attention to reading the Scriptures, particularly the historical parts; the great transactions of the forty years in the wilderness, the great forbearance and long-suffering of our Heavenly Father towards that rebellious race. This melted me to the quick, but my prejudice kept me back from reading the New Testament. Various distressing accounts from home occasioned me much trouble of mind, and which made me more than ever to seek for consolation

in those divine aspirations which were a refuge to the royal penitent.

These serious thoughts were quickly interrupted by an application from Morton Pitt, Esq., M.P. for Dorsetshire. I was engaged through the recommendation of Mr. Smith Wright, to cater for, and superintend his establishment. This brought me more in contact with the world, which necessarily engrossed much of my time; but still there was now something within my heart, which gave me a distaste for worldly society, and drew me often into retirement.

You christian! you only can truly discern that something. I applied myself more closely than ever to reading, and the more I read, the more desirous I was to read. You who have been nursed from your infancy as it were, under the discipline of the gospel, can scarcely have a fellow-feeling

with one who had had no other instructions but the five books of Moses, and the Hebrew prayer book. I had never read the Prophets, much less the New Testament, as it was considered an offence even to pronounce the name of Jesus.

On Christmas day I went to church, where I was forcibly struck by that notable text from Isaiah ix. 6, 7. This led me to compare the corresponding passages with the New Testament, where I met with such a chain of references back to the Prophets; every sentence was new to me. Judge then what must have been my feeling, when I read for the first time the promises of God to Israel, my own nation, and their future restoration and redemption! The doctrine and the parables of our Lord astonished me with the wonderful combination of evidences, particularly the 53rd chapter of Isaiah, with the Gospels. Will it be believed, I

sat up, night after night, till one or two in the morning, for two months, digging as it were in the mines of Scripture, for treasure more valuable than the gold found in California or Peru, so that my sleep went from me, weeping and lamenting for the misery of myself and my people. I perceived something supernatural in me, but could not tell what it was, neither could I account for it. I asked myself, have I lost my senses? I was ashamed to discover the state of my mind to strangers, lest I should become an object of their ridicule. I was a wonder also to my companions, for I had forsaken them, not by any effort or compulsion on my part, but their company was irksome to me. I felt no pleasure in their amusements; their sensual conversation became intolerable.

Thinking I had a friend in the son of the landlord at the hotel where we stayed on

our arrival, I thought I might confide to him the uneasy operation of my mind, and ask his advice. He listened to me with seeming patient attention, when I told him, under such a conviction, I could no longer remain a Jew, but felt bound to embrace christianity by a public profession.

His reply was far from encouraging. He thought I should disgrace myself in the eyes of the world, and bring dishonour on my parents, and on the whole Jewish community. "You will be pointed at with the finger of scorn in the public streets. Have you never read, said he, the writings of those great men, such as Voltaire, Rousseau, and Mirabeau? These learned philosophers have recorded what they thought of all religions. It is a delusion of your bewildered mind; you must endeavour to shake it off, otherwise it will turn your brains."

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I was surprised to hear this staggering reply from a Protestant, for such I understood him to be, I had thought that all Protestants must have experienced something similar to myself, but I was woefully mistaken. However, I went back to our lodgings, disappointed and discouraged; not that this conversation had any influence on my mind, for I had read these authors long before, but I never placed any confidence in their writings; yet my feelings were disturbed by the foregoing declaration respecting my public profession.

That night I went to bed hesitating, but could by no means sleep. I thought on the mysterious birth of the Saviour, his life, miracles, and doctrines. Then again, his disciples chosen by himself, not from the rich and noble, but a set of poor illiterate fishermen and tent makers; and that they should have attained so surprisingly



and so suddenly, to such exalted gifts of knowledge, so as to confront the haughtiness of tyrants, and perplex and confound philosophers and sages. I thought, surely if this has been the operation of the Holy Spirit in those days, the christian religion must be undoubtedly the most sublime.

Another thought came forcibly to my recollection. I had read Voltaire's sophistical comparisons of the life and death of Socrates, with the life and death of Jesus. But Rousseau took up the subject, and made a noble defence in favour of christianity, (although simply I believe for the sake of opposition.) Rousseau replied, "the comparison of the one with the other, can have no affinity. The life and death of the Son of Mary, with the life and death of the son of Sophroniscus. The one astonished the world by his intellectual discoveries, and died blessing the hand which pre-

sented to him the cup of poison. But Jesus was a living divinity, and died praying for his murderers." And then in rapture he breaks out, saying, "In the midst of the most furious fanaticism, the highest wisdom He made known, and the simplicity of the most heroic virtue conferred the highest honour on the lowest of all the people. Yes, if the life and death of Socrates was that of a sage, the life and death of Jesus was that of a God!"

These reflections led me to fervent prayer, and my petition was, how I should address the Almighty. Having my Bible by my bed side, I opened it suddenly, when my attention was directed to the following part. "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John xiv. 6. These words filled me with ecstasy of joy. I laid hold of them like a drowning man grasping

at an object within his reach, to save his life. And now I asked in the name of Jesus, to be taught what I ought to do.

Finding Mr. Pitt still in his study, and knowing him to be a worthy character, I took up my Bible, and knocked at his door. Apologizing for the lateness of the night, I told him the state of my mind for the last two months, and that I had thoroughly investigated the subject of christianity, and being convinced by the force of truth, I could no longer restrain my feeling, without doing violence to my conscience; I had therefore made up my mind to join the christian church by baptism. To which he replied, he thought a man might live a good christian life, without being baptized. (This observation was probably made, in order to hear what I thought on that subject.)

In reply to this, I observed, " Christ said

he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved, consequently it is a command which ought not to be omitted." "Well then, you want me to speak to the officiating minister for you?" I replied that if he would be so obliging, it would greatly facilitate my resolution. Here our conversation dropped, and I wished him a good night.

In a day or two the minister called on me. I felt happy in having an opportunity to open my mind, and tell all my past experience, and my present joy in having fixed my hope on the once rejected, but now exalted Messiah, the Saviour of sinners; and that being convinced of the truth of my convictions, I felt constrained to yield to them. I was therefore anxious to join the church by baptism, which service I thought might be performed privately, in the presence of fifteen or twenty members of the Church of England.

To this he objected; saying, he could not think of performing such a solemn service in private; "there is nothing in the christian religion one need to hide from the world; if you are sincere in your profession, you ought not to object to the avowal of your sentiments before the public."

To this I replied, "I appeal to your own judgment. Situated as I am, in a Roman Catholic country, might not my motive be misconstrued, and expose me to unnecessary scorn and derision? Besides, have we not scripture proofs, of persons being admitted into the church by private baptism, such as the eunuch, Cornelius, and the jailor of Philippi?" He admitted my proofs, but would not administer the rite without the advice of his brother ministers; he would let me know their united opinion in a few days.

After waiting a fortnight and hearing

nothing of their decision, I appealed once more to Mr. Pitt, who so far succeeded, as to fix the day when it should take place ; leaving me to choose from the English residents such number as I thought proper.

The 2nd March, 1818, was the memorable day when that most important service took place, Mr. and Mrs. Pitt being my sponsors. It was an affecting season ; the whole assembly, consisting of eighteen persons, including three ministers, were all in tears. The state of my mind was such, I could with difficulty give utterance to the solemn responses. (I fear to express my feelings, lest it may be construed into enthusiasm, although many of my readers can sympathize with my position.)

But here I cannot help remarking, that neither of those three ministers ever came to inquire about my spiritual welfare. They must have thought as I was baptized, I had

no farther need of instruction; whereas, I was but a babe, and although I had tasted the sincere milk of the Word, which indeed filled me with love and joy in believing, yet I was without experience. Unacquainted with the wiles of the common enemy, I might have fallen into many snares, had it not been for the care of the good and watchful Shepherd.

But there happened to be at that time at Villa Franca, a short distance from Nice, a lady, one of the excellent of the earth, and one whose praise is in all the churches, who was in deep affliction, having recently lost her only son in consumption; she was accompanied by a man of God, the Rev. A. Obins, a relative. This minister called occasionally on Mr. Pitt, who informed him of my recent change; he was desirous to see me, and to impart some christian advice. His language was so spiritual and kind, I

felt I could have spent my life in his society. He could enter into all my feelings; sympathized with my weakness, and listened to me with great courtesy of manner; his frequent visits were always accompanied with some instructive book, or suitable tract. It was about that time when the Rev. Legh Richmond published the "Dairyman's Daughter," the "Young Cottager," and the "Negro Servant." These narratives gave me many moments of spiritual enjoyment and instruction. Thus he became the instrument in the hand of God, in gradually leading me on in christian experience. How different was my reception by the minister who first called on me. I had promised myself the pleasure of giving utterance to the fervency of my feeling, but every avenue was closed, and every approach was as it were to an iceberg, stiff and repulsive.

I was privileged to spend Easter day at



Villa Franca, where I partook for the first time, the ordinance of the Lord's supper, with the before mentioned family, Mr. Obins being the officiating minister. It was a refreshing time from the presence of the Lord; and although the lady was so far above my station in life, yet her condescension was such, as to stoop from her dignity to take notice of a reclaimed prodigal; imitating the example of the meek and lowly Jesus, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor. I experienced now that peace and happiness of mind, which some of our forefathers must have enjoyed, when in full possession of the land of Canaan, with all their enemies subdued; with this difference, my internal enemies were unsubdued, and I could not engage them with carnal weapons. I felt my strength was in an earthen vessel. Like Gideon's warriors, who had their lamps

concealed in earthen pitchers, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Having now obtained mercy through the redemption of Christ Jesus, it was natural I should communicate to my relatives and friends, the same glad tidings which brought life and immortality to light in me. I saw the Gospel invitation and promises so clearly, that I thought they could not but see with the same eye of faith; my zealous faith led me to think I might be the instrument of converting the whole Sanhedrim, but it was a zeal without knowledge.

I told Mr. Pitt of my anxiety respecting my friends, knowing they were still kept captive by Jewish superstitions. I felt it therefore my duty to go and tell them what the Lord had done for me, if by any means I might provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Mr. Pitt expressed his sorrow for my leaving him, but as my motive was founded on a just cause, he would not be an obstacle in my way, nor oppose my intention; but hoped I might realize my sanguine expectation. Mr. Obins on the other hand gave me every encouragement, and even assisted me with a letter of recommendation to the Rev. C. Malan, D.D. at Geneva.

Having now made all necessary arrangements, I took leave of all my kind friends, followed by their good wishes for the accomplishment of my object. It was natural to expect I should meet with opposition in delivering the message of salvation, yet I thought if I could be made the honoured instrument of convincing but one of them, I should be amply repaid, and would willingly submit to adverse circumstances.

With this prospect I left for Geneva, where I arrived after a few days. Having

taken a private lodging, my first enquiry was for the Rev. C. Malan ; I was not long in finding him. He received me with true christian kindness ; I was much struck with his serious deportment, and there was something so heavenly in his manner and address. After having read the letter, he cordially took me by the hand, and asked what led me first to enquire into the christian truths. I gave a brief account of the change of my sentiments and belief. "And now," said he, "you are on your journey to tell your friends of the pearl of great price you have found." "Yes, sir, I feel it a duty and privilege to go and tell my brethren, beginning with my own kindred, the salvation of our God ;" to which he added, "the Lord be your refuge and strength."

He took me now to an adjoining room, where he introduced me to a number of

theologians, who having left the college for conscientious motives, were full of love and zeal. These young men have been subjects of great trials and persecutions; some have been obliged to leave their homes, others had their property confiscated on account of professing and preaching evangelical doctrine. Mr. Malan himself, that noble champion for the truth, had seceded from the national church, on account of the Socinian tenets which were then taught and professed in the college, and preached nearly in all the churches.

During my stay here I had the privilege of meeting these young students in their different houses, for reading the Scriptures and prayer; and our mutual consolation, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, was such, that I found the allotted time of my sojourning here had passed, before I was aware of it. Thus I spent a fortnight

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among these christian people. In taking leave of them, Mr. Malan gave me a letter for Professor Steinkopff at Basle.

In the evening I left for Lausanne, where I stayed a week with a christian friend. During this brief sojourn I had a further opportunity of enjoying christian intercourse. These were new days to me, but days of trial and sorrow to the truly pious and sincere souls who were harassed by their government with repeated acts of oppression. They were prohibited from assembling together for prayer; their places of worship closed by magisterial orders; yet they met secretly once or twice a week in private houses; whilst they were scornfully pointed at by their ungodly neighbours, they patiently bore the reproaches of their adversaries. I have met with them in their secret assembly, and cast in my lot with theirs; with what pleasure I beheld

them greeting each other when they met in the streets. These were also days of refining; no dross could stand the test of the crucible. Can this be believed by christians in England, who dwell as it were under their own vine and fig tree, none daring to make them afraid. I might have spent months with these good people, but was anxious to get home.

At five o'clock in the evening I left, in the company of two excellent young men; one was a missionary going to the colonies, the other a native of Strasburg; we took our three places in the coupè of the diligence to Strasburg. I did not make any stay at Basle, not liking to part with my travelling companions; I therefore posted the letter addressed to Professor Steinkopff. We had sweet communion with Jesus, and fellowship with each other.

At Mulhouse we breakfasted; our lug-

gage and passports were examined as we entered the French territory. The appearance of this town is very pretty ; it is now one of the most important manufacturing towns in all France, from its rich manufactories, and the great spread of its trade. From this we proceeded without stopping, to Strasburg. Here I was loath to part with my good travelling companions, probably never to meet again in this life ; such is the uncertainty and fluctuation of this pilgrimage.

The repose of one clear day was very refreshing. I started again the next morning with the diligence. I took my place in the interior, where, besides myself, two elderly ladies and a gentleman had previously taken their seats ; but I perceived they were as much strangers to each other as I was to them. But having no serious travelling companion to cheer me by the way ; I



was determined to seek for an opportunity to speak a good word for my Master.

Those who have travelled in Alsace and Germany, must have noticed here and there on the margin of the high roads, either wooden or stone crosses, and sometimes images of favoured saints, or the Virgin Mary, rudely carved. This led to the enquiry, what might have been the origin of these monuments? Each one gave their own version<sup>m</sup> of it. The gentleman now addressed the question to me; when I told him, "I cannot be positive of the correctness of my opinion, but I should say they were signs to call to the recollection what the Saviour had suffered for sinners."

"Oh! we all know that," replied the gentleman. "True, but we want to be reminded of it; whilst we are engaged with the busy scenes of life, we are apt to forget the most important."

“Can we not think on those things, without having crosses to bring them to our recollection?” interrupted one of the ladies. “Very true; God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him, must worship Him in spirit and in truth. But all men have not that faith to seek after God; God is not in all their thoughts. No doubt but the origin of erecting these public signs was from a pure intention, but like all other things, in time it became abused by innovations. Instead of simple crosses, they have been transformed into ghastly figures of representation, and changed the glory of God into an image made like to corruptible man, so that what originally was intended for a blessing, is turned into an idolatrous curse.”

Here our dialogue was interrupted, having arrived at Landau, where I stayed for the night, and whence I proceeded next day by another conveyance, to my native

place. I surprised my friends by my unexpected arrival. After the excitement of our first meeting had subsided, I related my dismal adventure in London, particularly my disappointment at the war office, and respecting the disappointment of the introductory letters; yet the gracious Providence of God contrived a way by which I was sustained, and not left to despair. That same Providence has directed me to embrace the revealed truth as it is set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

I then related to them briefly some of the circumstances and trials I had experienced, from the time I had left them, to the present; yet notwithstanding these trials, I had derived great consolation from a German Bible which has been presented to me by a much esteemed gentleman, who exhorted me to read it with serious attention, and to pray for the Holy Spirit's teaching.

I was therefore resolved to comply with his request, and now began to investigate the Scriptures, comparing the Prophets with the New Testament; which so convinced me of the truth of christianity, that the result had been the embracing of christianity. This subject requires a little further explanation. All the ideas I had formerly entertained on this important subject centered in this; that I must live and die a Jew, professing and observing what my parents did, without ever expressing a doubt respecting the truth of their creed. Often have I been told by Christians as well as Jews, that a man who changes from the religion of his fathers, ought to be looked upon like an outcast of society, or a deserter to an enemy, and that the change is a sure evidence that he is an unworthy subject.

Now what have you to say of our father Abraham, who was desired by the express

command of God, to leave his father's house, and worship Jehovah. If a Jew or a Gentile, for renouncing the religion of his fathers, and believing in Jesus Christ, be blamable, blame not the individual; for he makes the Word of God the rule of life, which tells him, "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear, forget also thine own people, and thy father's house. So shall the King greatly desire thy beauty, for he is thy Lord, and worship thou him." There are but few who can assign a better reason why they are Jews or Christians, than that their forefathers had been of the same persuasion.

To this my father replied, "Surely you do not mean to assert, that we all have been deceived by our forefathers?" "Excuse me, dear father, while I cannot doubt the sincerity of our ancestors, as it respects their religious creed, yet surely there was a

possibility of their being mistaken. Now suppose I had discovered that they had been really and radically mistaken in their religious views, would it not have been as much my duty to renounce error, and to embrace the truth, as it was the duty of our venerable father Abraham to leave the religion of his parents." "Oh! but Abraham had an express command from God." "This is true, and so had I. Not indeed in the same mode of communication, yet no less clear and certain, 'For we have a more sure word of prophecy, for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.'

Thus I went on from day to day, endeavouring to persuade them to search after truth, and comparing scripture with scripture, and used every persuasive means of directing them to the Lamb of God, who

was typified to our forefathers, but was in this last time manifested in flesh, and came to his own, but his own received him not, but as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.

Having now faithfully and affectionately declared my belief, and the truth as it is in Jesus, I left the remainder with the disposer of all hearts; to Him have I committed them, that He would dispose them to receive the engrafted word, in a true and faithful heart, which can make them wise unto salvation.

My sojourning at home among my relatives was about six weeks; during that time I felt the loss of having communion with Christian friends, such as I had left in Switzerland, who by their kind instruction and advice were the means of helping me forward in my christian course. Not an individual could I find in the place like-mind-

ed, consequently I could not think of remaining, although I did not experience the opposition which is usually the case among the Jews, whenever an individual leaves their communion ; on the contrary, their usual affection towards me has never abated ; I have seen them since several times, and have proved that instead of having lost their affection by my change of sentiments, I have reason to believe it is increased.

I now once more took leave of them, and left by the diligence for Ostend, from thence by packet to London, where I soon obtained another situation as courier, to accompany a family to Italy. Thus I have and still continue from year to year, being recommended from one family to another.

I have settled at Clevedon, a small but pretty watering place, in the West of England, fertile and luxuriant as the land of Goshen, where the Lord has blessed me and



my dear wife with health and strength, and supplied all our wants. And where we are waiting to be called to join Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in that heavenly Canaan, wherein Jesus our forerunner has entered, having obtained eternal redemption, for all who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

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