

LONDON, JUNE 28.
OPERATIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN
THE GREEK ISLANDS.

[In a Letter from an Officer employed on the above service.]

SAINT MAURA, April 17.—On the 22d ultimo in the morning, the troops landed close by where the ships were anchored, and were reinforced by the marines from the Magnificent, Belle Poule, and those taken out of the Montague, at Zante. The troops marched at ten o'clock, accompanied by two field pieces, and at one o'clock arrived at the head of the town. During the time our troops were landing, General Camus, the commander of the French troops, was on the hill reconnoitering us, and when he discovered our numbers he returned to the town, ordered his troops into the fortress or castle, and wrote to the Chief Magistrate, saying, the superiority of the English forces would oblige him and his corps to retire into it; he had previously sent into it, 150 head of cattle. Shortly after our troops arrived at the head of the town, they were ordered off to the left of it, by the side of the Logana, or Inundation; and after marching two miles they arrived at the isthmus, which, at that place, is about 150 yards wide, and distant four miles from the castle. At this spot was a large old battery, but only two guns mounted, which was soon evacuated. The troops then advanced two miles on the isthmus, where it was not above thirty yards wide.—At this place was erected a new battery by the French, mounted with four guns, but which they had not time to complete; behind it was a vineyard, with some olive trees in front.—They had not time to dig a ditch; if they had done it, it would have cost us very dear; and, as it was we did not obtain it at a cheap rate. It was defended by the French Albanians, who, to do them justice behaved well. It was about three o'clock when Brigadier-General Oswald put himself at the head of the Royal Calabrese and Grecian Light Infantry corps (Albanians); and, together with his Staff, led them on to the attack, at which time the Leonidas opened her fire on the battery, which was returned from it, and every shot of which struck her. At this period the battery opened a heavy fire on the troops, and it is reported that the Albanians dropped on the sand, and that the Calabrese appeared very shy. The General seeing what was going on, sent off for the marines and De Roll's who were in the rear, who, coming up, advanced and carried the battery, which obliged the enemy to retire, which they did in good order; and it is thought that they had but one man killed, a Captain of the Albanians. In this attack the killed and wounded were as follow:

35th, Royal Calabrese—8 officers and 20 privates wounded; 3 privates killed.

Grecian Light Infantry, De Roll's—6 officers, and 23 rank and file wounded; 2 men killed.

At this time the Royal Corsican Rangers, in town, marched on the bridge (formerly an aqueduct) which leads from the town to within a quarter of a mile of the castle, and is about a mile in length. It was meant as a feint to draw off the Albanians from their new battery, attacked by General Oswald—they advanced and retreated three times; the last time Lieut. Beauchamp had a musket ball lodged in his shoulder; a serjeant and three privates were wounded, and one killed. The French then advanced on the bridge, which is only three feet wide, and took 24 Corsicans prisoners, on which the business ended. The whole of the Medical Gentlemen were on the other side of the Inundation, with the exception of Surgeon Sanders, of the Corsicans, who was in the town to receive all the wounded men into the hospital. While the Corsicans were on the bridge, the castle opened a heavy fire on them.

SUNDAY, April 8.—Two mortars, two howitzers, and a five gun battery, were opened on the Castle, together with the two gun 32 pounder battery, on the right of the town. The fire was kept up the greatest part of the day by the French and English, but not with much effect. On this day Major Clarke of the 35th was wounded, and a seaman of the Montague. This morning arrived five transports with a reinforcement of 800 men; but unfortunately the *Magnum Bonum*, with 4 mortars and ammunition is missing.

APRIL 9.—The firing commenced at six o'clock, 300 rounds are just landed for the two gun battery. Before our arrival we were told the place would be given up to us, and that the garrison were very dissatisfied, and would come over to us. The citadel is garrisoned by an Italian regiment, consisting of 500 men, and one company of French artillerymen. They all stand firm to their guns, and fire very brisk at our batteries: not one of them have deserted. The mountains in Albania are immensely high, and are covered with snow. The weather here is very mild, and we have showers of rain as in England, in April. This is a pleasant Island, producing olives and bad wine, and has no harbour; it depends on Albania for provisions, the nearest part to which is distant only two stones call. Last night a private of the 35th, an artificer, was killed by a shell from the Castle, while asleep, distant a mile and a half; and a shell fell in our battery, which wounded two seamen. Yesterday and to day the fire continued until twelve o'clock, and as soon as the dinner was over, each party recommenced firing. The fashionable morning lounge is at the Colonel's of the Corsicans, whose house is the last towards the Castle. The French have not yet fired a shot at the town, which contains 1200 inhabitants.

The French have sent into Corfu a regiment of 500 men, and a supply of money. They will now bid us defiance for this summer. This day arrived the *Magnum Bonum* transport, from Messina, with stores, and four large mortars. This evening a bomb entered our battery, killed two artillerymen, wounded three, and three seamen.

APRIL 12.—A second flag of truce was sent into the castle to know if they would surrender.

APRIL 13.—We had in the whole five howitzers, six mortars, and nine guns mounted, which kept up a heavy firing until the 16th, at mid-day, when a flag of truce was sent out of the castle, and in the evening a capitulation took place.

APRIL 17.—Early in the morning our troops took possession of this wretched ruinous castle; the houses are ruined, as there is not one habitable; a shell fell on the 16th in

a church which contained their bread magazine, when the whole was destroyed, which hastened the surrender. Most of the guns were injured or dismounted; they had three mortars which were dismounted, and as the place could not be defended any longer, the French General was perfectly justified in giving it up. Our tars are very sorry for it, as they have now had a month's holiday (as they call it) on shore, and wished to have remained a month longer. The French marched out this day from the fortrefs, having previously grounded their arms, and embarked on board the transports as prisoners of war, with the exception of the General and officers, who are allowed to return to Italy on their parole. The prisoners go to Malta, and are a fine set of good looking soldiers. General Camus did not appear in the square until after the French garrison marched out; the reason assigned for it is, that five months pay was due to his troops. It is said he kept himself mostly in the bomb proof.

APRIL 18.—This day Major Clarke, of the 35th, died of his wounds; he is the only one of the wounded that has died. During the siege the French had one officer and 25 men killed, and 81 wounded. The British had one Quarter-Master and 22 men (sailors, soldiers, and marines) killed, and 130 wounded.

APRIL 19.—The French Officers embarked to-day.

Mrs. M. A. CLARKE.

This celebrated character has just given a publication to the world, under the title of "The Rival Princes," in which one of the Royal Brothers (the Duke of K——) and his late Secretary, Major Dodd, are introduced. She has also diversified her two volumes by anecdotes of various persons, who have fallen under her displeasure; and some of these characteristic episodes are tinged with humour, as well as with resentment. Col. Wardle, however, is the hero of her vengeance, and him she assails without fear or remorse, who, she says, was pulled off to Corri, the Music Master, at Major Dodd's, in Sloane-street, as Mr. Melhish, the Member for Middlesex, and who, on Corri's examination as to the identity of Mr. Melhish, told her, Mrs. Clarke, "that he was much alarmed at the time, lest the witness should have discovered him when looking round the house, and to avoid which he sat down behind several Members who were standing."

Mrs. Wardle also comes in for no small portion of invective under the designation of the *Patriotic Wife*, to whose abilities she ascribes the main conduct of the Colonel's plot. The Colonel she now represents as a partner in a woollen manufactory at Tre Madoc, in Caernarvonshire, and in this line of *privy army taylor*, as a Manufacturer of their great coats, by "Scott and Co."

Lord Falkstone is likewise introduced (truly or falsely we cannot pretend to say) as the writer of a letter to Mrs. M. A. Clarke, dated Colehill House, June 27, 1809, in which are the following curious passages.

I wish I had some news to send you in return for your entertaining letter, but from this sequestered spot you can expect none—indeed, since I came here, I have done nothing but attend Bibury—wander about the fields by myself, and eat strawberries, things which are very entertaining and wholesome, but altogether uninteresting to relate. Your letter, on the contrary, is full of interesting matter, wherein such a Hermit as I am at this place; whether he be of a contemplative turn of mind or not, might chew the cud of reflection for many a day! I think, from what you say, there will be hell to pay, if the matter comes on for trial. The whole affair must out, and the Royal Brother, Dodd, and Wardle, will be exposed. I lament that they do not foresee this, or that they did not foresee this, and prevent the eclat. I do not guess what the latter means to do.—I suppose he will trust to his popularity to bear him through, but that will not do. For, after all, though his part has not been so base as that of the other two, it has been a dirty one, and he has suffered himself to be made an instrument of by them.

I suppose the public prints will endeavour to mix me up with the pre-named trio, but that is quite impossible, Whitbread, Burdett, and myself, can in no degree be involved.

All this to do, I could contemplate with amusement, or at least I could sit by, and observe all these intrigues at work different ways, with philosophical indifference, were I not fearful you would be the sufferer. I tremble for the settlement of your affairs, &c.

Amongst the City Patriots she has thus sketched Mr. Waithman, which we must suppose too highly coloured and over-charged;

"As Mr. Waithman, the linen-draper, is a very noisy Patriot, and always talking about something or the other he does not very well understand, and meddling in all affairs of his neighbours, he appears fair game for me to shoot at, particularly as he has taken such an active part against me. If this chattering black-bird were to die, the Council Chamber at Guildhall would be like a rookery deserted, where a senseless noise had long disturbed the whole neighbourhood; while he and his black brethren were breeding mischief! Of Mr. Waithman I know a great deal, but nothing to claim either my admiration or respect, as he is something like Phillips, and the common description of Liberty Boys, who in their own dwellings are perfect tyrants; which confirms me in opinion that modern patriotism and tyranny are synonymous terms. When I was first introduced to Mr. Waithman, through the immediate Bookseller, he was very anxious for me to assail most of the high Personages about the Court, and he wished me very much to attack his Majesty, from his information: but I gave him the same answer I had given Mr. Glennie, that I felt no inclination to be a republican blunderbuss, to fire out the party malice of any disappointed politician. Mr. Waithman will understand me, I am sure. This intended attack on the aged and good King, I assure the Public, so much disgusted me, that I have ever since considered Mr. Waithman as a very dirty character, but he is a patriot, and therefore must be spotless, as the times go."

The manner in which Mrs. Clarke became acquainted with Colonel Wardle, and the nature of her first interview with him, are thus related by her:—

"It was during one of the unhappy periods of seclusion from the world, that I first acquired a knowledge of Sir ———, who had also occupied part of the same Lady's house, which afforded him an opportunity of learning my name, and something of my misfortunes.

"Through this medium, Colonel Wardle acquired his knowledge of the place of my seclusion, and dispatched his confidant, M^r. Callum, the *American Spy*, to Hampstead, in order to induce me to assist in the great work of his ambition.

"About the latter end of September, 1808, M^r. Callum waited on Mrs. Andrews, said he came to see me on business of great importance, and urged her to favor him with my address, which she declined, under an impression that he was one of the servants of the Sheriff, who are found to be very troublesome visitors in those families they are pleased to honour with their presence.

"In all pursuits of life much is done by perseverance, and as Col. Wardle knew very well that he could not accomplish the object of his wishes without a considerable exertion, his ardour did not abate at the unfavourable answer Mrs. Andrews gave to M^r. Callum, but he frequently sent his confidant to Hampstead, in order to persuade her to entrust him with my place of concealment.

"During the interval of his visits to Mrs. Andrews, she came to Bedford place, Russell square, to acquaint me of all that had been said by M^r. Callum, and also brought me two or three letters, which she received of him, under a promise to forward them to me. The information I collected from the letters, and my friend went to assure me, that the object of M^r. Callum's visit was to suggest something that would prove very beneficial to me, and relieve me from my then embarrassed circumstances.

"Mr. M^r. Callum opened the business of his visit, by saying, that he came from Colonel Wardle, a Member of Parliament, and a man of great integrity and abilities; that he was employed by him to write a pamphlet against the Duke of York, and to convince me of these facts he took from his pocket several proofs sheets of the work, and also some franks with the Colonel's signature. He added, that the principal object of his visit was to solicit permission for Colonel Wardle to have an interview with me, on the following day at one o'clock. Believing then that I was secure from the annoyance of the person I took M^r. Callum to be, I promised him that I would be at home to Colonel Wardle at the appointed time. Accordingly at one, on the succeeding day, I received the *immaculate Patriot*, who, after the customary ceremonies of reciprocal civility, seated himself, and continued with me from one until my dinner time, about six o'clock.

"The Colonel opened the business of his visit, by observing, that he had been endeavouring to find me for some time, and expressed the pleasure and satisfaction he felt at the happy result of his exertions. He enquired of me, whether I had seen his name in the proceedings of the last Session of Parliament, when the eloathing of the army had become a subject of discussion in the House, in consequence of his having discovered abuses in that province of the public expenditure. I told him I recollected the circumstance; when he continued to observe, that it was his intention to proceed to a full exposure of all the abuses in the State which he could possibly discover; but that his *principal and grand aim was directed at the Commander in Chief*, of whom it had been reported, I was in possession of much valuable information, which I acquired while living under his protection.

"He declared, that if I would give him all the information he wished, in order to displace the Duke of York—myself and family should be provided for in any way I thought proper to point out. The subsequent conduct of this sage politician has shewn with what eagerness he determines upon, and carries into execution, any thing that at the moment strikes his heated imagination as *good and political*."

Further Extracts from Mrs. Clarke's Book.

"Returning again to the proceedings in Parliament, I must be allowed to inform the reader, that on the eleventh day of the investigation, being I believe on the 20th of February, I found myself unable to attend the House in consequence of indisposition, and as Dr. Metcalf was then in the habit of meeting Colonel Wardle and his party at my table, I got him to attend the house, and to state my inability to be then examined, which he did, and my attendance was accordingly dispensed with on that evening.—On the forenoon after my last examination in the House, Col. Wardle and Major Dodd called on me, contrary to their promise of not being seen at Westbourneplace till dusk of the day; Lord Falkstone happened to drop in by accident, and on finding them much agitated, began to suspect there was something between us, beyond that which had met the public eye; and though he had nothing of any moment to say or communicate to me, he felt inclined to stay and watch the conduct of the Colonel and Major Dodd.—At this time, I should inform the reader, I was confined to my bed, and, after many entreaties from Dodd and Wardle to see me, I desired (in rather angry terms) to know what it was that occasioned them to urge an interview, when I was so indisposed.

"When Lord Falkstone found they wished to be admitted into my bed-chamber for a private conference, he insisted on being present, as he very properly thought, he had a right to know all the circumstances attending a measure to which he had lent his public support. Finding that nothing I could say or do would excuse me from receiving their visit, I, at last, gave my assent, and the Colonel and Lord Falkstone came up. After some common-place expressions of sorrow at my confinement, the Colonel told me it was highly necessary I should not be again called before the House; and though I might be better in health, I must affect to continue indisposed as another examination might ruin them!—At these remarks Lord Falkstone appeared much surprised, and then observed, that he was of a very contrary opinion, and thought that if I were well, I ought to attend the House whenever called upon. After much altercation upon this point, Lord Falkstone told Colonel