letter to be laid before gen. Cuesta, of which I enclose a copy.

The British army marched on the 3d to Prospesa, general Bassecourt's Spanish corps being at Centinello, where I desired that it might halt the next day, in order that I might be nearer it.

About five o'clock in the evening, I heard that the French had arrived from Placentia, at Navalmodal, whereby they were between us & the bridge of Almarez.

About an hour afterwards I received from general O'Donnoghue the letter and its enclosures of, which I enclose copies, announcing to me the intention of general Cuesta to march from Talavera in the evening, and to leave there my hospital, except such men as could be moved by the means he already had, on the ground of his apprehension that I was not strong enough for the corps coming from Placentia, and that the enemy was moving upon his flank, and had returned to Santa Ollala in his front.

I acknowlege that these reasons did not appear to me sufficient for giving up so important a post as Talavera, for exposing the combined armies to an attack in front and rear at the same time, and for abandoning my hospital; and I wrote the letter of which I inclose a copy.

This unfortunately reached the General after he had marched, and he arrived at Oropesa shortly after day light, on the morning of the 4th.

The question what was to done was then to be considered. The enemy, stated to be 50,000 strong, but at all events consisting of the corps of Soult and Ney, either united or not very distant from each other, and supposed by Marshal Jourdan and Joseph Bonaparte to be sufficiently strong to attack the British army, stated to be 25 000 strong, were on one side, in possession of the hight road to the passage of the Tagus at Almaraz, the bridge at which place we knew had been removed, although the boats still necessarily remained in the river.

On the other side, we had reason to expect the advance of Victor's corps to Talavera, as soon as General Cuesta's march should be known, and after leaving 12,000 men to watch Venegas, and allowing from 10 to 11 000 killed and wounded in the late action, this corps would have amounted to 25 000. We could extricate ourselves from this difficult situation only by great celerity of movement (to which the troops were unequal, as they had not had their allowance of provisions for several days) and by success in two battles. If unsuccessful in either, we should have been without a retreat; and if Soult and Ney avoiding an action, had retired before us and waited the arrival of Victor, we should have been exposed to a general action with 50,000 men equally without a retreat.

We had reason to expect that, as the Marquis de la Reyna could not remove the boats from the river Almarez, Soult would have destroyed them.

Our only retreat was, therefore, by the bridge of Arco Bispo; and if we had moved on, the enemy by breaking that bridge while the army should be engaged with Soult and Ney, would have deprived us of that only resource.

We could not take a position at Oropesa, as we thereby left open the road to the bridge of Arco Bispo from Talavera by Calera; and after considering the whole subject maturely, I was of opinion that it was advisable to retire to the bridge of Arco Bispo, and to take up a defensive position upon the Tagus.

I was induced to adopt this last opinion, because the French have now at least 50 000 men disposable to oppose to the combined armies and a corps of 12,000 to watch Venegas; and was likewise of opinion that the sooner the defensive line should be taken up, the more likely were the troops to be able to defend it.

Accordingly I marched on the 4th, and I crossed the Tagus by the bridge of Arco Bispo, and have continued my course to this place, in which I am well situated to defend the passage of Amaraz and the lower parts of the Tagus. General Cuesta crossed the river on the night of the 5th, and he is still at the bridge of the Arco Bispo.

About two thousand of the wounded have been brought away from Talavera; the remaining 1500 are there; and I doubt whether under any circumstances, it would have been possible or consistent with humanity to attempt to remove any more of them.

From the treatment which some of the soldiers wounded on the 27th & who fell into hands of the enemy, experienced from them, and from the manner in which I have always treated the wounded, who have fallen into my hands, I expect that these men will be well treated; and I have only to lament that a new concurrence of events, over which, from circumstances, I had and could have no control, should have placed the army in a situation to be obliged to leave any of them behind.

I have the honor to be,
(Signed)
ARTHUR WELLESLEY.

From the London Gazette of Sept. 2.

A Dispatch, of which the following is a Copy, was yesterday morning received at the Office of Lord Viscount Castlereagh, from Lieut General the Earl of Chatham, dated head quarters, Bathz, August 29, 1806.

My Lord—Major Bradford delivered to me your Lordship's dispatch of the 21st inst. signifying to me his Majesty's commands that I should convey to Lieut Gen Sir E. Coote, the General and other officers and troops employed before Flushing, and particulary to those of the artillery and engineer departments, his Majesty's most gracious approbation of their conduct; and which I have obeyed with the most entire satisfaction. I had the honor in my last dispatch of acquainting your Lordship with my intention of proceeding to this place & I should have been most happy to have been enabled to have announced to your Lordship the further progress of this army. Unfortunately, however, it becomes my duty to state to your Lordship that, from the concurrent testimony from so many quarters, as to leave no doubt of the truth of the information, the enemy appears to have collected so formidable a force as so convinced me that the period was arrived, at which my instructions would have directed me to withdasw the army under my command, even if engaged in actual operations. I had certainly early understood on my arrival at Walcheren that the enemy were assembling in considerable force on all points but I was unwilling to give too much credit to these reports and I was determined to persevere until I was satisfied, upon the fullest information, that all further attempts would be unavailable.

From all our intelligence it appears that the force of the enemy in this quarter, distributed between the environs of Bergen-op-Zoom, Breda, Lillo, and Antwerp, and cantoned on the opposite coast, is not less than 35,000 men, and by some statements is estimated higher. Though a landing on the Continent might, I have no doubt, have been forced, yet, as the siege of Antwerp, the possession of which could alone have secured to us any of the ulterior objects of the Expedition, was by this state of things rendered utterly impracticable, such a measure, if successful, could have led to no solid advantage; and the retreat of the army which must at an early period have been inevitable would have been exposed to much hazard. The utmost force (and that daily decreasing) that I could have brought into the field, after providing for the occupation of Walcheren and South Beveland would have amounted to about 23 000 infantry and 2000 cavalry. Your Lordship must at once see, even if the enemy's force had been less numerous than represented, after the necessary detachments to observe the garrisons of Bergen-op-Zoom and Breda, and securing our communications, however inadequate, a force must have remained for operations against Lillo, Liefkenshoeik and ultimately against Antwerp; which town so far from being in the state which had been reported, is, from very correct accounts, represented to be in a complete state of defence; & the enemy's ships had been brought up and placed in security, under the guns of the citadel.

Under these circumstances, however mortifying to me to see the progress arrested of an army, from whose good conduct and valor I had every thing to hope, I feel that my duty left me no other course than to close my operations here; and it will always be a satisfaction to me to think that I have not been induced lightly to commit the safety of the army confided to me, or the reputation of his Majesty's arms. It was an additional satisfaction to me to find that the unanimous opinion of the Lieutenant-Generals of this army whom I thought it right to consult, more out of respect to them, than that I thought a doubt could be entertained on the subject, concurred entirely in the sentiments I have submitted to your Lordship. I am concerned to to say, that the effect of the climate at this unhealthy period of the year is felt most seriously, and that the number of sick already is little short of 3000 men. It is is my intention to withdraw gradually from the advanced position in this island, and, sending into Walcheren such an additional force as may be necessary to secure that important possession, to embark the remainder of the troops, and to hold them in readiness to avail his Majesty's further commands which I shall most anxiously expect. I have the honor to be, &c. (Signed) CHATHAM.

[The Copy of a Dispatch from Rear-Admiral Sir R. Strachan dated on board the St. Domingo off Bathz, the 27th ult. follows. The Rear-Admirable states, that having made the necessary naval arrangements of landing the army near Santfleet, without hearing from Lord Chatham, communicated with his Lordship on the 24th, & found him undecided. On the 26th attended with Rear-Admiral Sir R. Keates a meeting of the Lieutenant-Generals of the army, when for the reasons already stated in lordChatham's dispatch, the ulterior objects of the Expedition were abandoned. Having offered every naval assistance in reducing the fortress, and conceiving the subject of the deliberation to be purely military, he withdrew with Sir. R. Keates. The Rear Amiral then states, that the enemy's ships, which were five miles above Antwerp, have come down & are extended in a line fronting it, except two of the line, which are in the reach obove Kiefkenshoeik, & four frigates gone to Lillo. An immense number of small gun-boats are on the boom, behind them a crescent of 60 guns and mortar brigs, and the battery of 10 guns between forts Lillo & Hendrich is finished, though that on the Doel side is abandoned.]

The Expedition.—The delay of the British Expedition in the Scheldt, to proceed to the accomplishment of its final objects, has at length been unhappily accounted for, by the arrival of dispatches from the Earl of Chatham, stating that, from the information he had received of the increasing force of the enemy for the defence of Antwerp, and the extensive inundations which had been effected, his lordship, in concurrence with the opinion of the lieutenant-generals, and other well informed professional men, had finally decided to abandon the meditated enterprize against the arsenal and the French ships altogether.

Such is the issue of an armament, the largest that ever left the British shores, and to whose operations so much importance has been attached, that it was considered nothing in comparison of the objects it was to accomplish; that the campaign in Spain was suffered to languish for want of troops, and the last opportunity afforded us of effectually aiding that country was permitted to pass by unimproved.

Disapproving, as we from the first did, of the assignment of this formidable force to the Scheldt, we yet felt most anxious for its glory and success; and its failure has excited in us the bitterest regret. Again our military character is held up to the ridicule of the powers of Europe, and the jeers and tauntings of the enemy again fill the continental journals. Nor are we to suppose that they will fail of producing their effect. No concurrence more unfavorable than the failure of this expedition could possibly have taken place at the present crisis.

NEW EXPEDITION!

Sept. 3.—We are enabled to state, that our army is immediately to be employed on a fresh, and we trust, a more successful expedition. Orders were last night dispatched from the Admiralty to Sir R. Strachan, and from Lord Castlereagh's office, addressed "to the commander in chief of the British troops in Zealand;" containing instructions on the subject of this new enterprize. We likewise find, that orders were yesterday given for providing provisions, &c. for 25,000 men for one month; so that we may conclude that the service in question is not very remote.

Of peace between France and Austria.

Vienna, August 6.—Among other points which are to serve as the basis of the treaties now negociating, one is, that the Emperor Francis shall cede the kingdom of Bohemia to his eldest brother the duke of Wurzburg. The intelligence that the Archduke Charles has resigned the command of the army, has made a great impression on the public; he possesses the love and confidence of the soldiers in a very high degree. It is understood that the armistice has been prolonged for 28 days.

August 9.—M. M. Champagny and marshal Duroc are named plenipotentiaries for France, and count Metternich and count St. Vincent for Austria.

August 19.—We witness at present some arrangements which seem to indicate, that the emperor of Austria means in future to reside at Buda, in Hungary. All the officers of the different public departments have received orders to proceed thither, and the public archives are also to be removed to that place. This circumstance, and the resignation of the Archduke Charles, have made here the most painful impression; the latter is generally considered as an event of the utmost importance for the Austrian empire.—[*Royal Amsterdam Gazette.*]

Paris, August 24.—Letters from Vienna afford us reason to hope that peace will be speedily concluded. It is said that all the leading points were agreed upon between Austria and France, before the negociations at Altenburgh commenced. The party which so strenuously and absurdly asserted the necessity of continuing a ruinous war, is now, since the disgrace of the Archduke Charles, generally despised. The report of Russia having sent a minister plenipotentiary to the Congress in Altenburgh, is confirmed; and the best understanding still prevails between the emperors Napoleon and Alexander.—The ministers of justice, war, finances, general of police, and for foreign affairs, and marshals Oudinot and Macdonald, have been created dukes. The duke of Auerstadt has obtained the title of prince of Eckmuhl; the duke of Rivoli, that of prince of Essling; and the prince of Neufchatel has been nominated prince of Wagram.—*Royal Amsterdam Gazette of August* 30.

August 22.—Her majesty the empress continues in private since her return from the baths of Malmaison, and it is believed that she will not make her appearance before the arrival of the emperor, who, according to the last advices from Vienna, is not expected to be long delayed. In fact, we learn that the House of Austria, after many tergiversations and much repugnance, seems at length to acquiesce in all the conditions on which the emperor Napoleon consents to grant peace. The last obstacles to peace being thus removed, the plenipotentiaries reciprocally appointed to conclude the treaty, have repaired to Altenburgh, and not to Raab, as was first said, where they will open their conferences. The official journal announces this event in the following terms:—"M. de Champagny, minister for foreign relations, has set out from Vienna for Altenburgh, in Hungary, where he will arrive on the 11th in the evening. On the 15th, the negociations for peace will be opened. The emperor of Austria has appointed count Metternich and count Nugent for his plenipotentiaries."

Santa Olalla, August 9.—We received this moment intelligence, that the enemy's artillery, which bombarded Toledo, has, on a sudden ceased firing, and that the English and insurgents are retreating in the utmost confusion to the left bank of the Tagus. Thus a few days have been sufficient to confound and disconcert the absurd projects of people who carried the suggestions of insanity so far as to conceive that they should speedily render themselves masters of the capital, and now deem it extremely prudent to place the Tagus between them and the French army.—[*Royal Amsterdam Gazette of August* 23.]

The general of division Verdier, having the command of the troops employed in the siege of Gerona, has addressed the following dispatches, dated St. Madir, Aug. 12, to the minister of war, count de Huneburg:

"I have the honor to send your excellency reports of the operations of the siege of Gerona, from the 7th inst. to this day; from which your excellency may judge of the patience and valor displayed by the troops which his majesty was pleased to put under my command.

"The fortress Mont-Jouij fell into our hands at six this evening. This important conquest of a position difficult to attack, and against an obstinate enemy, whose blindness is so lamentable, gives us almost complete assurance, that eight or nine days more will suffice in order to subdue the remaining part of the town, as the outside is surrounded only by a weak wall, which may be destroyed with great facility. Within a short time Gerona shall be subdued.

"The fort Mont-Jouij, formerly one of the strongest and best situated forts in Europe, is now nothing but a heap of ruins; and it was not till after we had been obliged to go to the covered way, taken by storm the half-moon on the side on which we made the attack, and made several breaches, that the enemy resolved to abandon that side, and retire into the town, on which side it was not in our power to cut off his retreat.

"Your excellency will bear in mind, that this is the first time within fifteen years in the course of the war, so dangerous and laborious an enterprise has been undertaken. What rendered this more difficult was, that we were obliged to raise our works of art; and that the intrenchments were to be made in the presence of an embittered adversary. Generals Sanson and Tawel commanded the engineers and artillery, and conducted their operations with zeal, foresight and courage.

"We have found in Mont-Jouij 14 pieces of cannon, which are for the greater part unserviceable, and some ammunition; the remains of their artillery had been carried away, after having been rendered useless by our fire."

PROCLAMATION
Of the King.

"*Soldiers!*—It is scarcely 15 days since 120,000 enemies, consisting of English, Portuguese and Spaniards, who marched from different points, rendezvoused under the walls of my capital; but united on the 26th of July at the bridge of Guadarama, the first and 4th corps, and the reserve, defeated on that day the enemy. On the 27th, he repassed in great haste the Alberche. On the 28th, attacked in a position judged inattackable, 80,000 men have not been able to contend against 40,000 French. From that time, renouncing their chimerical project of conquest, they have thought but of safety, and have abandoned the field of battle. More than 6,000 English, wounded, are in our hospitals.

"The last of our corps, the 1st, was judged sufficient to observe, and keep in check this army, still so numerous in spite of its losses. It remained upon the Alberche whilst our corps and the reserve set out on the 29th to seize on Toledo, besieged by the army of La Mancha, and that of Madrid, menaced by the same army, already within four leagues of the capital, to relinquish its prey. It has passed the Tagus in the greatest haste, and flies towards the Sierra Morena after having abandoned some thousands of killed, wounded, and prisoners. The 2d, 5th, and 6th corps are following the rear guard of the enemy's army. These corps formed a junction with the 1st corps of Orepason the 7th Aug.

"The English fly in every way in disorder, and by roads hitherto judged impracticable to artillery The 2d and 5th corps are pursuing them.

"Soldiers you have saved my capital, the king of Spain thanks you; you have done more, the brother of your Emperor sees fly before your eagles the eternal enemy of the French name.

"The Emperor will know all that you have done, he will acknowlege the brave who have made themselves conspicuous among the brave, those who have received honorable wounds; *and if he says to us, I am content with you,* we shall be sufficiently recompensed.

JOSEPH.

H. Q. Toledo, Aug 9, 1809."

Paris, Aug. 16.—The English Col. Markell attempted on the 6th of July to throw 1400 troops into Girona; but but they were surrounded by General Pino, and the corps was taken.

Sept. 3.—Yesterday we received, via Heligoland, Hamburg Correspondentens to the 24th ult. and Paris papers to the 16th. The former state that a report prevailed at Vienna on the 6th, that the Armistice between Austria and France had been prolonged for 28 days; but there are, in the same journals, accounts of three days later date from Vienna, and from Olmutz to the 15th, which are wholly silent on the subject.

The circumstance of the conquered parts of Gallicia, having been occupied in the name of Napoleon, and the substitution of the French eagles for for those of Austria, appears, as we anticipated, to have given offence to the Russians, who, in those districts occupied by their arms, maintain the Austrian eagles in opposition to the orders of Bonaparte, as declared in the proclamations of the Polish generals Poniatowsky and Kamienski, and it is even stated in the Correspondenten of the 23d, that the whole of the Russian troops in Gallicia were about to retire from that province.

The French papers do not furnish any information, their contents having been anticipated by the Dutch journals previously received. They give the addresses of the Prefects of Brussels, Jemappe, the Seine, and some other districts, on the occasion of calling out the National Guards to oppose the invasion of the English; but there is nothing in these addresses worthy of remark, further than as they shew, that Bonaparte had carried into action either on the Danube or Spain, the entire of his regular troops, leaving even his capital to the defence of its citizens.

The Emperor Napoleon has given to the Duke of Abrantes the military command of all the countries between the Rhine and Bohemia and Saxony. His authority extends over the circle of the Maine, the Grand Duchy of Wurtzburg, & the territories of Hanau, Baireuth, Fulda and Erfurth.

The Austrian corps of the Prince of Rosenberg which suffered much in the late battle, has been disbanded and distributed among the other corps.