

would have been plundered, famine would follow the following year, and which England would have had to pay dearly for.

His Grace the late Duke of Wellington advised the Government at the time (1838) to send out an expedition of 50,000 men, which could not be done until the following spring. See what such an expedition would cost the country, and which England is indebted to my humble exertions for saving!

In conclusion, I have only to say that I have conducted the matter as stated in my Memorial without consulting the opinion of *any other person*. Had I done so, I should have done no good, if I had been under the necessity of conforming with the notions of others. I have gained great advantage over a large armed force, when we were *totally destitute* of everything to defend the country, because in the persuasion that I was serving the interests of England, and that I should not be degraded for so doing, or that utter ruin would not be the result of my efforts.

Having gone thus far, I beg leave to call your attention to my Memorial in its *present shape*, and which I am of opinion has not been fully laid before you by the subordinates in your office, and which I hope you will be pleased to peruse. I am sorry to be compelled to publish it, situated as the country is at the present moment, and when my own feelings are, as they ever were, truly loyal. Still I have only one object in view, *namely*, to succeed in extricating myself out of the many difficulties in which I am involved, consequent upon my loyalty and my scientific pursuits.

I have said in my Memorial that my father was killed at the battle of Salamanca, 22nd June, 1812. I ought to have said that he belonged to the storming party, who were allowed the privilege of plundering the place after its capture. In the afternoon of the same day he found nearly 400 doubloons in gold, which he put into his knapsack; and shortly after he received a slight flesh wound, which compelled him to go into hospital, taking his gold with him at the same time. Early on the following morning he was taken to the burying-ground, to repose with the dead who were killed the day previously. I can only add, that the doubloons were never heard of afterwards; and I should be grateful and happy if the Government would give me any information on this subject, if in their power to do so.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

With much respect,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) W. P. SMITH.