

No. VII.

I think I cannot close this work, which contains so much about Waterloo, better than by doing so with Southey's "Price of a Victory."

"The Battle of Blenheim, to which this ballad by the poet Southey refers, was fought, in the year 1704, between the English, under the Duke of Marlborough, and French, under Marshal Tallard. The French were totally defeated, with the loss of 27,000 killed and 13,000 prisoners; the French commander and 1200 of his officers were among the latter."

"It was a summer evening,

Old Kasper's work was done,

And he, before his cottage door,

Was sitting in the sun;

And by him sported on the green

His little grandchild, Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin

Roll something large and round,

That he beside the rivulet

In playing there had found;

She ran to ask what he had found,

That was so large, and smooth, and round.

Old Kasper took it from the boy,

Who stood expectant by;

And then the old man shook his head,

And with a natural sigh,

'Tis some poor fellow's skull,' said he,

'Who fell in the great victory.

'I find them in my garden, for

There's many hereabout;

And often when I go to plough,

The ploughshare turns them out;

For many thousand men,' said he,

'Were slain in that great victory.'

'Now tell us what 'twas all about,'

Young Peterkin, he cries;

And little Wilhelmine looks up

With wonder-waiting eyes;

'Now tell us all about the war,

And what they killed each other for.'