

firing, wounds may be more numerous, but they will in general be less severe, and, as has been already stated, the fewer killed the more honourable the victory. If a race horse gain the stakes with ease, his superiority is greatly enhanced. If a cool and scientific boxer repels every blow of his opponent, and covers him with blood and bruises, while he suffers little himself, his prowess is established.

When the British lost 41 men killed at Maida, and the enemy more than 1,300 buried in the field, both armies consisting of disciplined troops, (and there being a great superiority of numbers on the part of the enemy,) on a fair field, without any natural advantage on either side, to whom should the palm of superiority be given? And would this superiority be so conspicuous had the British had 1,300 killed, and wounded in proportion? Their victory would have been so dearly bought, that another such would have been their ruin, * whereas they were quite ready, the same evening, to follow up the blow, while the enemy were entirely scattered, cowed, and totally unable to show themselves. So completely was their spirit broken, that whenever a man with a red coat appeared, they fled with precipitation and terror. † These were the consequences of the heavy loss they sustained in battle.

But let it not be believed that I argue in this manner from any apprehension of diminished courage. If our soldiers are commanded by men who understand their character, and can work upon their feelings, they will prove, that, if placed in front of an enemy on equal terms, they will conquer, as their predecessors have frequently done, with a loss so small, as not to lessen their strength in any material degree, or to disable them from pursuing their future operations.

NOTE to Page xci. of the Appendix.

General Statement of the Number of Men that belonged to the 43d, now the 42d, or Royal Highland Regiment, from the 2th of April 1740, to the 24th of June 1815.

In the year 1740, when the regiment was embodied at Aberfeldy, in Perthshire, and quartered near Tay Bridge and the Point of Lyon, these being their places for exercise, the ten companies consisted of 5 serjeants, 2 pipers or drummers, and 80 men each,	870
In 1745, three companies, of 5 serjeants and 100 men each, were added,	315
These companies remained at home, and sent reinforcements to the regiment when required.	
Recruits raised from 1746 to 1748,	90
Total from 1740 to the peace of 1748,	1,275
In 1748, the three additional companies were reduced, and about 500 men were discharged.	
Carry forward,	1,275

* After the battle of Malplaquet, Villars, in his dispatch, consoles his sovereign, that, by six more such victories as the enemy had gained, they would be destroyed.

† Several instances of this occurred. Two days after the action, a corporal and three soldiers escorting General Stuart's luggage, mistook their road, and, instead of taking that to Monte Leone, followed the road to Cotrone, on which a corps of the enemy had retreated, and were resting themselves in a field near a rising ground. When the corporal was seen advancing on the summit, a cry of "the English are coming," "the English are coming," was passed, and without waiting to see their number or strength, the enemy instantly fled. The corporal, seeing his mistake, and perhaps equally alarmed, retired by the road he had advanced, and followed the proper route.