

witness his extraordinary achievements, and to see four of her sons peers of the realm. By her he was sent to Eton, whence after a career never rising above the ordinary level, he was removed to the military seminary of Angiers, in France, where he acquired the rudiments of military knowledge. On the 1st of March, 1787, when in his eighteenth year, he received his first commission as ensign in the 73rd regiment, and before the year closed was promoted to a lieutenancy in the 79th. After a short period of service in the 12th Light Dragoons, he obtained a company in the 58th, on the 30th of June, 1791; but in the course of the next year, again entered the cavalry, exchanging into the 18th Light Dragoons. Thus by a succession of changes, which at the time seemed capricious, but which were probably deliberately weighed and considered, with a view of acquiring a mastery of all the details of his profession, he became versed in the field duties of both infantry and cavalry.

Arthur Wesley obtained his promotion to a majority in 1793, when he was gazetted to the 33rd, a corps with which he was memorably associated, and in which he subsequently succeeded to the grades of both Lieutenant-Colonel and Colonel. With this regiment he embarked, in May, 1794, for the Low Countries, where the army under the Duke of York, after long contending against the imbecility of the Government at home, and the weakness and folly of the allies, was sustaining a succession of disasters, which even now are remembered with humiliation and pain. Colonel Wesley was placed with the 33rd in garrison at Ostend, where he had disembarked; but Lord Moira, who commanded in this portion of the territory, found it necessary to abandon the post, and in this evacuation Colonel Wesley first came in presence of the enemy. He succeeded, however, in safely embarking his regiment, with which he proceeded to Antwerp, and moved rapidly forward to the Duke of York's head quarters at Malines. Much misrepresentation attaches to the events that followed, in consequence of their disastrous termination; but it may boldly be affirmed, that the courage, discipline, and endurance of the British soldier, which Wellington made the instruments of so many triumphs, were never more conspicuously exhibited than in this fatal campaign. Nothing, however, could arrest the tide of mismanagement, treachery, imbecility, and wilfulness in which our impotent allies continually involved us, while, on the other hand, we had to contend with the fertile genius of Pichegru, backed by a powerful and victorious army, an indifferent or hostile population, and all the resources of France. In the sad, though often brilliant affairs in which our army was engaged in the course of this struggle, Lieut. Colonel Wellesley repeatedly distinguished himself, especially at the village of Geldermalsen, from which he expelled the

enemy with great slaughter, and in the retreat under General Walmoden, the successor of the Duke of York, his conduct won the highest encomiums. The army at length reached Bremerleche, where the greater part, including Colonel Wellesley and the 33rd, embarked for England, leaving only a small force under General Dundas and Lord Cathcart, to occupy the town.

On reaching England, the 33rd encamped at Warley, but soon received orders for foreign service, and actually embarked in the fleet of Admiral Christian, at Southampton, for the West Indies, but was driven back by the tempestuous weather, when the despatch of the 33rd was countermanded, and disembarking, they were quartered for some months at Poole. In the spring of 1796, Lieut. Colonel Wellesley was promoted to the rank of Colonel, and the regiment, instead of proceeding to the West Indies, as originally intended, was ordered to the East. Colonel Wellesley was unable, at the time, to accompany the corps, being confined to his bed by illness; but his vigorous constitution soon rallied, and he immediately set sail, and overtook his regiment at the Cape of Good Hope. On the voyage to India, it was remarked by his brother officers, that though he never held himself aloof from society, he passed a great part of the day in his cabin, and it has since transpired that he was then sedulously engaged in studying works on India, and endeavouring to qualify himself for the new and manifold duties which would probably devolve upon him in that country. Nor did he confine his researches to books. In order to extend his knowledge of the East, its people, and its institutions, and acquire a practical acquaintance with Oriental warfare, he eagerly joined an expedition destined for Manila, under the command of General St. Leger; and, on this project being abandoned, in consequence of apprehensions of hostilities with Tippoo Sultan, he paid a visit with the same views to Lord Hobart, the governor of Fort St. George; from whom, during a sojourn of two months, he obtained a mass of information relative to the native governments of the Peninsula, and their relations with the Company. By such methods did he train himself for that career yet veiled in futurity, though its mighty incidents already flung their shadows on the hearts of statesmen.

In May, 1798, the Virginia frigate brought to Calcutta a new Governor-General, possessing a capacity not less brilliant than that of Clive, or Hastings; while it was governed by moderation and forbearance, qualities wholly unknown to those great men. The new Viceroy was the Earl of Mornington, the eldest brother of Colonel Wellesley, whose eminent worth we may well suppose him to have been perfectly sensible of. An opportunity soon presented itself for bringing the rising officer forward, and displaying in a more prominent