

the proportions, and cannot be called deadly. Wherever British troops have sustained a heavy loss, it has, in four cases out of five, been occasioned by some untoward accident, some error of judgment, or some unexpected obstruction. The only instance in which Fraser's Highlanders of the American War gave way before an enemy, was at Cowpens in South Carolina. In this case the loss was treble the amount of that in any other of the severe struggles in which that brave and estimable corps was engaged during the war, and in all which, except at Cowpens, the enemy were defeated. The loss of the 42d at Toulouse was principally occasioned by the inadvertency of occupying a wrong position; and at Quatre Bras the greatest loss was sustained by permitting the enemy's cavalry to come too near, from the impression that they were Belgians, a mistake originating in the similarity of uniform. Both at Quatre Bras and Waterloo, the casualties of the Cameron and Gordon Highlanders, in resisting the most desperate charges of the enemy, and in the rapid advances by which they were driven back, were light. It was from the succeeding desultory and distant firing, a mode of warfare in which the French excel, that the men suffered so much. Had circumstances permitted, and had it been possible to support the corps who fought independently at Quatre Bras, there is not a doubt, that they would have completely repulsed the enemy with very little comparative loss. Hence, while reports of great losses, which are seldom well founded, check recruiting, lower the character of our troops, and raise the confidence of the enemy, the extreme correctness with which our lists of casualties are frequently drawn up may be noticed. It is certainly impossible to object to this correctness, but perhaps it is going beyond the line, to include all trifling scratches and bruises which in no manner disable men from the performance of their duty. Instances have occurred where reported losses were so quickly replaced, as to seem like resurrections, as, indeed, they have been called. Few will be disposed to believe, that our troops fight less desperately at present than sixty or seventy years ago; yet a comparison between the killed and wounded in different battles might lead to such an inference. In many battles of the late war, the wounded have been six to one of the killed, and in some cases ten and twelve to one. At Fontenoy the amount of the killed and wounded was 1269 of the former, and 2141 of the latter, officers included. At Culloden, where there was some desperate fighting, the Athole brigade had 19 officers killed and 4 wounded, and Stewart of Appin's regiment had 14 officers killed and 11 wounded, with men in nearly the same proportion. Now, the difference of the present proportions of wounded to killed may in part be ascribed to the over accuracy of our reports. In distant

sail of the line, with 17,000 men. Of these 281 were killed, that is, in the proportion of nearly 1 to 60. In Lord Bridport's action of the 23d of June 1795, there were 14 sail with about 10,000 men, of whom 113 were killed, or 1 of 87 of those present. In the action off Cape St Vincent's, there were 15 sail, with about 10,000 men, of whom 73 were killed, being 1 to 136. In Lord Duncan's action, on the 11th of October 1797, there were 16 sail, (including two 50's,) with about 8,000 men, of whom 191 were killed, being as 1 to 41 of those in action. In the battle of the Nile there were 14 sail of the line, with about 8,000 men, of whom 218 were killed, or 1 in 36. In Lord Nelson's attack on Copenhagen, 1801, there were 11 sail of the line and 5 frigates engaged, with about 7,000 men, of whom 234 were killed, or 1 in 39. In the battle of Trafalgar, there were 27 sail, with about 17,000 men, of whom 412 were killed, being as 1 to 41; and in this proportion was the loss in almost all other actions. In the last action, that of Algiers, the loss was considerable, but this is more to be attributed to the ships being exposed to the fire of batteries, than to any difference in firmness or manner of fighting.