

Beresford with his wing commenced operations by marching over some most difficult ground to the attack, and by carrying the village of Montblanc. Freyre then moved forward with his Spaniards under a very heavy fire of both musketry and cannon, and soon gained the heights of Pugade, where his men lodged themselves under some banks, close to the enemy's entrenchments. They then attempted the heights of Calvinct, but were driven back with great loss. They rallied, but as soon as they approached a hollow road which lay in their path, the French opened upon them such a tremendous fire that they fled in the utmost panic. Lord Wellington immediately covered them with Ponsonby's cavalry, and a heavy fire of reserve artillery, which, joined to a threatened movement of the light division, soon compelled their pursuers to retire. Meanwhile Picton had been ordered to make a false attack on the bridge of Juneau, but rashly leading his men across ground on which they were exposed to a most awful fire, to reach works which could only be taken by escalade, he suffered a loss of 400 men, and a decisive repulse. Soult had now only to improve the advantage thrown in his way, to have secured a brilliant victory. In the interim, however, Beresford having left his artillery at Montblanc, had been making with the fourth and sixth divisions a flank movement of two miles over marshy ground, never out of cannon range, and often within musket shot; and having now completed his dangerous and difficult march, he formed at the foot of the French position, a height crowned by 14,000 infantry. Scarcely were his preliminaries arranged when he was furiously attacked, but a shower of rockets threw the French troops into disorder; a gallant charge, and the hill was mounted, and two redoubts carried at the bayonet's point. The combat was now suspended; and, during the truce, Soult reinforced his right with his reserves, and Beresford received his artillery. About two o'clock, a Highland and a Portuguese brigade, which in the failure of Freyre's opening attack had maintained their ground under cover of a hill, suddenly assaulted and won the redoubts of Colombette and Calvinct, with the other defences there. The French retorted by a murderous fire and a tremendous onslaught, but though they regained Colombette, they could not drive the Highlanders from the hill. The sixth division now advanced, and forced the enemy back, so that the whole hill was once more in the hands of the allies. Beresford had also gained the greatest part of Mont Rave, and the battle was won—for Soult the next night abandoned the town, now open to fire from the heights, and made a forced march of twenty-two miles to Ville Franche. The losses on both sides were very great. On the English 595 were killed, 4,016 (including Generals Pack, Mendizabel, and Espelette) wounded, and eighteen

missing. Soult's loss might be a thousand less; but he left in the hands of the allies three generals (Harispe, St. Hilaire, and Baurot), 1600 prisoners, eight cannons (one of which was taken in the fight), and an immense magazine of stores of every description. He had, in all, five generals disabled.

With this battle terminated the Peninsular war—for the fatal sortie from Bayonne cannot be included in the struggle; and Lord Wellington had now only to reap the rewards of his glorious and unequalled services. From all the powers of Europe he received the most gratifying marks of respect. The King of Spain addressed a letter to him, couched in the warmest terms of gratitude. The Emperor of Austria conferred on him the order of Maria Theresa; the King of Prussia, that of the Black Eagle; the Crown Prince of Sweden, the military order of the Sword. He was raised to a Dukedom in England, and received the thanks of Parliament; and on the 10th of May the House of Commons, in compliance with a message from the Prince Regent, voted him the interest of £100,000 consols, to be at any time commuted for that sum, and invested in the purchase of an estate to support his rank. His Grace took his seat in the House of Lords, and received the thanks of the assembled Peers in an eulogistic speech from the Lord Chancellor. On the 1st of July, the Duke personally thanked the House of Commons for the liberal provision they had made for him, and was received with the greatest honour and respect. In fact, the whole kingdom regarded him with the deepest feelings of veneration and gratitude.

The escape of Napoleon from Elba once more called the Duke into the field, and led to the crowning victory of Waterloo. That battle has been so often described that it is unnecessary to enter upon it here. We all know that it was, perhaps, the most signal battle that was ever fought, and made England the arbitress of the destinies of the world.

The loss of the British and German legion alone was computed at 11,000 and 700 officers in killed and wounded, and almost every officer of the Duke's staff had been struck down. The entire loss of the allied army was estimated at the lowest at 15,000 men, and might, with killed, wounded, and missing, be even reckoned at 20,000. The French loss was so enormous as almost to defy calculation.

The Duke himself has described the battle in a few words, in a letter to Marshal Beresford, dated 2nd July, 1815:—

"You will have heard of our battle of the 18th. Never did I see such a pounding match. Both were what the boxers call 'gluttons.' Napoleon did not manoeuvre at all. He just moved forward in the old style, in columns, and was driven off in the old style. The only difference was, that he mixed cavalry with his