6,000 emigrés in the pay of Great Britaia, with a force of artillery from London and arms and clothing for 80,000 men to be raised in France, landed; one corps under command of the Count de Puisaye. From the first this seems to have been an ill-fated expedition. The leaders quarrelled as to which was to have the chief command. On landing at Quiberon Bay, it was found that the force in the interior had received a check, orders were sent from the Royalist Commission in Paris to attempt no movement till the arrival of the fleet.

Notwithstanding the heroic bravery of the emigrants, the royal cause sustained a crushing defeat, and, after the capitulation at Quiberon, the Convention ordered a massacre of the prisoners, which inhuman order was carried out, as told most vividly in Allison's history of Europe. For this defeat De Puisaye was blamed, the absurd charge being believed that he had acted in complicity with the British Government and betrayed the cause of France, and his influence was completely destroyed, and, after attempting unsuccessfully to form another force, we find that in 1797 he applied to the British Government to form a Royalist settlement in Canada. For the description of the part he took in France, we are chiefly indebted to the lucid summary of our accomplished archivist, Dr. Brymner, but a few quotations may be made from European historians. Carlyle speaks of the Count in sneering terms, but we know that the strenuous Chelsea sage was sometimes unjust and intolerant. First, in 1793, when "he was roused from his bed and galloped away without his boots"; "and second, in 1795, at Quiberon, where "war thunder mingled with the war of the mighty main, and such a morning light as has seldom dawned, debarkation hurled back into its boats, or into the devouring billows with wreck and wail; in one word, a ci-devant Puesaye as totally ineffectual here as at Calvados." Lamartine, too, does scant justice, ranking De Puisaye as an adventurer rather than a hero, yet acknowledges that he was at once an orator, a diplomatist, and a soldier, but says that "he spent a whole year concealed in a cavern in the midst of the forests of Brittany," but we recall that many heroes of ancient and modern days have been compelled to hide in caves, whence they sometimes issued to the dismay and loss of their pursuers. Thiers, however, in his history of the French Revolution, does him more justice, as "with great intelligence and extraordinary skill in uniting the elements of a party, he combined extreme activity of mind and vast ambition," and "it was certain that Puisaye had done all that lay in his power." Allison says