

*Wellington a Corn Merchant.*—If the American Commander-in-chief could only keep his troops alive and hold them together, by hiring ships to go many thousands of miles into the outer world for grain to feed them, and that without the sanction of his government, which did not otherwise provide for them, there would be a theme fruitful of "sarcastic editorials" from England about the Army of the Potomac. The American Continent is overflowing with grain. At the opening of navigation, April, 1862, fourteen million bushels, or the equivalent in flour, awaited shipment at Lake ports; and two and a half million bushels in Canada. Indian Corn had been burned for fuel in the Western States, though close to railways, for want of buyers. To provide for the emergency which the British Government was financially unequal to meet, Wellington had recourse to an expedient which exemplifies that true military genius will be found in alliance with an aptitude to acquire knowledge of things non-military. He freighted ships, and by a paper money of his own, drafts at four or six months on the British treasury, made purchases of grain in the Brazils, America, and Egypt, by which he not only fed the army, and saved the people of Portugal from starvation, during a year of invasion and another of famine, but replenished the military chest with large sums of money. English merchants and army contractors decried that mercantile operation and, Tories as most of them were, alarmed the Tory ministry. The Whig opposition, because Wellington had infringed the abstract laws of Political Economy, also assailed him and the Government. The Ministry desired him to desist. He replied in a despatch, showing the necessity of his mercantile operations, and continued them. It was then he encountered an Enemy more formidable than the Emperor or Marshals of France in battle—that was

*Nathan Meyer Rothschild.*—Having bought the Duke of Wellington's bills at a discount, [Francis' Hist. Stock Exchange,] his next operation was to buy the gold which was necessary to pay them, and, when he had purchased it, he was as he expected, informed that the government required it. Government had it, and paid for the accommodation. "It was the best business I ever did," he exclaimed; "for, when the Government had got it, it was of no service to them until I had undertaken to convey it to Portugal." He had first, through his agents, depreciated the value of the bills in America, Brazil, and Egypt, where Wellington's ships had gone for grain. As also among the Portuguese and Spanish peasantry who sold country produce, or performed services to the army. Having depreciated the bills, they were purchased and held by his agents abroad;