

by personal intercourse to make myself acquainted with every officer employed on the staff of the army. There is not one of them whom I could wish to see removed. They are, almost without exception, men of very considerable abilities, well thought of by their generals, active in their duties, zealous, willing, and attentive to orders, or to any suggestions for the good of the service. I have delayed making this report, in order that a little time might enable me to be certain of the correctness of my opinion, and because I confess myself to have come amongst these officers, many of them strangers to me, with some degree of prejudice against them, created in my mind by the gross misrepresentations current in England respecting them. I do not think a better selection of staff officers could be made; and therefore have no reason to recommend any changes to your Lordship.

Prejudiced by the sturdy confidence with which the false asseverations were circulated in England, the chosen arbitrator of the government yet pronounced them on inquiry to be 'gross misrepresentations'; and no impartial person after this will ever believe them to have been anything else. Even the most candid and careful investigators must be sometimes misled, especially if they are at a distance from the scene of the events as England from the Crimea; but though our countrymen may be deceived by erroneous or imperfect information, they are far too upright to pronounce a verdict against the evidence when it is once fully before them. 'I know,' said Admiral Stewart, when speaking of Lord Raglan at the dinner at Greenock, 'that justice will sooner or later be done to that great man.' The result has already vindicated his faith in the fairness of an English public. In consequence of the new information contained in the 'Letters of the Staff,' and 'beginning to know Lord Raglan for what he was. There were minor imputations raised at the time which are almost forgotten now, but to every one of which he gave an unanswerable reply—unanswerable even in the estimation of his Government—at least in the main—for after accusing him, to use his own expression, 'of every species of neglect,' they continued him in his command, and their guilt would have been infinite unless they had been persuaded of his innocence. Had they made him the open reparation which was his due, he might probably have survived to share the triumph he prepared. In operations of such appalling magnitude, commenced and continued with such slender means, it would have been only natural if a scrutinizing eye, judging him by a standard of theoretical perfection, had found something to condemn. The conduct of men must be viewed as a whole, and according to the measure of human infirmity; and though we are aware that he must stand in need of an allowance which is needed by all, it is remarkable that his accusers have not hitherto proved against him one solitary error or one piece of neglect. In the opinion of Sir William Napier, the Duke himself committed a fault in advancing to Talavera; and the reflection with which he accompanied his criticism should be kept in memory for ever:—'The subsequent retreat, with the terrible loss by sickness of Lord Raglan and Elbas, had given the troops a mean opinion of his generalship; he was called a mere favourite of power, rash and unskilful. The deep design, the strong resolution, the far-seeing sagacity, the sure judgment, destined to amaze the world, were then unknown, and, with the usual leniency of the English public, one error was taken as a basis for generalisation. Wellington was pronounced a bad general!'

A wise man places his happiness as little as possible at the mercy of other people's breath. His own conscience, and the opinion of his friends, which become with the high-minded a sort of second conscience, are the sole tribunals for whose temporary verdict he in general cares. Lord Raglan in this respect resembled the Duke, and no one could have adopted with more perfect truth the fine lines of Churchill—

'Tis not the babbling of an idle world,  
Where praise and censure are at random hurled,  
That governs the motions of my thought or control,  
Or shake one settled purpose of my soul.'

But with his ordinary indifference to the 'random censure' of which in his own person he was such a conspicuous example, there was coupled a just sensitiveness to the good opinion of his employers, without which no one can continue to serve in comfort. The peculiar circumstances of his case rendered their support of unusual moment; and it ever man had a right to look for the uncompromising countenance of a government, it was the commander of the English army in the East. It was entirely in obedience to their pressing instructions that he had embarked in the adventure. It was under difficulties most trying to mind and body that he had gallantly persevered in it. He found himself now, with a divided command which had thwarted his schemes and cut short his triumphs, encamped upon a bleak and barren ridge, with soldiers sickly, dying, and dead, while those who continued to stand at their posts were overtasked, ill-sheltered, ill-clothed, and ill-fed. An enemy superior in number, who had lately engaged with him in a terrible battle, the inferior consequences of which compassed him round, perpetually harassed his troops, and threatened to fall at every moment upon the remnant of his army, which grew daily less. Many a time in that anxious interval officers hastened down to headquarters full of consternation at some rumour that the Russians were about to attack our lines, and returned reassured from the sole influence of his calm demeanour and cheerful words. In the worst troubles he continued to speak a soldier's language and wear a soldier's countenance, and, in the forcible language of Sir Richard Airey, 'threw upon those who conversed with him the spell of his own undaunted nature.' He might not unreasonably have murmured, as a less exalted disposition would have done, at the many shortcomings of the English Government, and the fearful straits in which they had placed him. But, no; he would not, even while stating his wants, speak the language of lamentation, because he knew that it would raise undue apprehension among the civilians in power. 'that their fears would rapidly spread panic and that panic in England would be injurious to the efficiency of his forces. He was accustomed to say, with a touching in-

\* Sir William Napier, after relating that Lord Grenville pronounced an attack upon Brest to be impracticable during a particular period of the war with France, says that the arrogant ignorance as to military affairs which was then displayed by the Ministry would be incredible if it had not descended with full darkness upon the persons in power during the recent contest. 'Formerly,' continues this great authority, 'it excited the disgust of Simcoe, Lord Moira, Abercrombie, Sir Charles Stewart, Moore, and Wellington; in the present time the disgust of the whole world. At both periods War! War! has been shouted with the ferocity and violence of savages, and yet conducted with more than the ignorance of barbarians so far as the governments have been concerned.'

dulgence for the difficulties of others, that it was not possible for the home authorities to do much, but he knew they would do all they could, and then, disarding vain words and regrets, he bent his vast powers of business to the object of saving his gallant soldiers from suffering and destruction.\*—He who showed such magnanimous forbearance, and bore such a heavy load with such undeviating fortitude, had a claim for some support in return. He might have calculated with confidence that, if he was attacked, an equitable, not to say a grateful, Government would have surrounded themselves in counting every species of enmity for his sake, as Burke says he and his son did for Admiral Keppel when that gallant sailor was unjustly accused. The more generous a nature the more bitterly it feels the ungenerous treatment of which it is incapable itself. It would be hard to say whether amazement or sorrow most predominated in Lord Raglan's mind when he found his daring perseverance in executing the wishes of the Crown, the parliament, and the country, his uniform success in the field, his untiring exertions, his tremendous difficulties, all forgotten at the first sound of popular discontent, and, instead of receiving thanks, and consolation, and promises of unflinching support, he was harassed with complaints, and to a burthen which would have been intolerable to a spirit less resolute than his own, had this superadded, that the very employers whom he was so signally serving were ready to desert him. Often and often in that dreary time, as he forced his way over the desolate ridge, and witnessed the physical suffering which met him at every turn, he felt the sentiment, if not the words, of a pathetic song:—

'Blow, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude.'

Lord John Russell, it will be remembered, and we rejoice to repeat it to his honour, stood forth in the crisis of the obloquy which sprang up against the Commander-in-chief, asserted his merits, and rebuked his assailants. Lord Raglan was proud to have retained his confidence, and, after expressing the deep satisfaction he derived from it to the friend whose affection and wisdom were among his highest consolations in this 'agony of his glory,' to use the expression of Burke, he thus continued:—'I have deeply felt the desertion of others, and I have been as much astonished as chagrined to discover that, from the moment the press turned against me, no sympathy was evinced for me whose compliments and approbation had been showered upon me before; and cholera, sickness, temp. st, inclement weather, want of rest, were all laid, if not at my door, at that of the officers executing my orders, and that I was not believed when I defended them against false aspersions. Other officers in situations of responsibility have been blamed by the public, but there never was, I believe, an instance before where a General was blamed by his employers for endeavouring to carry out their instructions, and made answerable for the duty which in conformity therewith I was obliged to impose upon the troops.'—The same friend had sent him for his consolation an old journal which appeared during the earlier part of the Peninsular War, containing the usual scurrilous invectives then current against the Duke for his military incapacity, and his inhumanity to his troops. 'I can even now,' said Lord Raglan, in his reply, 'hardly comprehend the

\* Sir Richard Airey's Addresses, p. 171.