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COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

If there were any act of graciousness, by which, above all others, it would be suitable to distinguish, acknowledge and record that most important effect, which British prowess, now under the guidance of British skill, has wrought for us in Spain and Portugal; if there were any mode more cordial, and therefore more fit than another for testifying our gratitude, that mode, we are sure, it would be popular, as well as honest, to recommend to the nation. With pride, as to the motive, though with humility, as to the weakness of our influence, we do, therefore, suggest, that the author of that discipline, of which we are now enjoying the result, should be recalled to the honour of directing it and to an opportunity for being farther useful to his country. This is due from that country, in the mere course of those interested recompences, by which we endeavour to incite other exertions for the public service; but it is also due in the flow of those better feelings, with which, after any eminent good has been achieved, we force a way by our gratitude to some degree of association with the human author of it.

THE DUKE OF YORK is the author of the present discipline and constitution of the Army. This is so true and so undisputed a truth, that, if it were our purpose to deliver the tritest of all opinions, formed upon present facts, this would be it. He is the author of that system of discipline, not by any mere sudden conception, such as has often made the life of a humble individual ever after easy, but by a toilsome attention to the formation and progress of it, and by laborious personal attendance from morning till night, for the greater part of many years, at the desk, on which every document concerning it had his immediate inspection. It is well known, that, as the diligence of his Royal Highness commanded, of course, some degree of similar exertion from his inferiors, his Office was held to be the least eligible, as to stations in it, of all the departments of Government. His clerks had, we believe, at last some addition to their salaries for the extra hours, in which he detained them, but none, except those, who enjoyed the higher places, were tolerably contented. An instance is within our knowledge of a Gentleman of no mean talents, or diligence, who left it because he could not keep pace with the persevering industry of his Royal Highness. That, at one time, the Duke did, after these exertions, pass some hours in dissipation we all know, and it is not our wish, nor is it necessary to our purpose, to diminish the reproach, to which his errors, in that respect, made him liable. It is not our wish, because, even if we were writing upon a question of morality, and not upon the business of the world, it would be admitted, without our suggestion, that the odium, just and unjust, which those errors brought upon him;—the conspiracy, to which they exposed him;—the humiliating imputations of pecuniary wrong, under which he suffered, until, that conspiracy being unmasked, those, who had be-

fore given their inconsiderate belief against him, without proof, could not refuse a generous retraction, or at least a silent assent to the proofs produced in his behalf;—the distractions of that period, in which there was, on one side, the mistaken censure of a large part of the Public (mistaken as to the extent of his error), on another, the base ill-will and deliberate purpose of the disaffected, urging that censure into its extreme, on another, the sufferings of his family, and, after these, the consciousness that all this mass of evil was the wide-spread result of one undeniable fault;—we say, that, if the present were a question of morality alone, this punishment, this course of punishments, followed by loss of office and of honourable power, would be held by all an abundant expiation of that, which was the true and sole offence of the Duke. But, treating, as we are, of an important part of the business of the world, these considerations are exterior to the question. The nation is to consider its own interests, and is not desert these, for the sake of adjusting the balance—unfit for human hands—between the deviations and the retributions of the Duke of YORK, in a matter not national. Some person must conduct the military arrangements of the Empire. The voice of the Public has, in this truly free country—sometimes usefully, sometimes otherwise—a considerable influence upon decisions, which are constitutionally mere matter of PREROGATIVE. For our own immediate interests, shall we not shew, that we know the Commander in Chief of the Army ought to be that man, who has made the Army what it is; who has re-constituted almost all the means of its formation, from the process of choosing recruits and training them into soldiers, to that of educating Officers and regulating the course of their promotions? The Duke of YORK, all know, has done this; and the latter part of those services he has effected, in contradiction to his own personal interests, for what was before subject to the will of the Commander in Chief he has submitted to regulations, which controul both the Commander in Chief and the inferior Officer. To the Duke of YORK we owe it, that companies, battalions and regiments cannot now be commanded, except by Officers, who, being of certain degrees of standing in their profession, have had opportunities for acquiring the qualifications suitable to each rank. Till his Royal Highness established this rule, it was possible for a lad, by the mere impulse of money and connections, to obtain the command of a battalion, within a few weeks after his first seeing a regiment. Such an excess of the abuse was not often known, but less degrees of it were common. We had, of course, an army, which could be valuable for no one quality, but courage. Nineteen out of twenty of our Officers had scarcely another qualification. In any moment of difficulty, they cheerfully tendered their lives in useless expiation of their inexperience, and won the regrets of their country, but could not serve

The report of the resignation of Sir DAVID DUNDAS, we find, is without foundation. No such intention has ever been expressed by him.

Our Gazettes were melancholy records of this truth. There are now in our Army great numbers of Officers, qualified above their rank. The Gazettes shew this also; and out of many instances we will repeat one. At the battle of Maida, a Captain Ross,* leading his company of foot from the sea shore, on which he had just been landed, to join the main corps, saw some troops of French horse in movement. General STEWART, we believe, had no information concerning them, and Captain Ross, of course, could have no orders. But he judged, in an instant, what the enemy ought to aim at, and he resolved to oppose himself to it. He took a position, for this purpose. The enemy did as he expected, and he did as he wished. He poured such a fire upon these troops, that they shewed themselves no more, in that battle. If he had not done this, they would have come upon the rear of the British infantry; and, when our gallant fellows were bringing up their bayonets to the French line, these cavalry would, perhaps, have prevented, or lessened, the achievement of that glorious day. Here was an Officer duly bred to his rank. If, instead of him, an Officer, had commanded this company, with no more experience than might have entitled one to the same post, before the regulations of the Duke of YORK, could we have expected the same conduct? Without dwelling upon more instances, let us ask whether the whole of the campaign in Portugal does not shew, next to the high merit of Lord WELLINGTON, the general merit of the regimental Officers? Could the retreat from Almeida to Torres Vedras and the pursuit from Santarem to Almeida have been conducted, as they were, unless the regimental Officers had been men fully qualified for their stations by experience? We speak not of battles, because there it may be held that courage may, in some degree, remedy the want of other qualifications, but of movements, which are impracticable without them.

This condition of the Army is the result of the patient labour and of the honourable self-denial, as to patronage, of the Duke of YORK, supported to be sure by the advantages of his rank, which prevented the thwarting of jealousies, but much more by his manners, which proscribed them. The strictest Commander in Chief which a long age has known, was from these latter circumstances the most popular in the army. Substantial kindness of heart did, however, more than the best manners, which are but the shew and semblance of kindness, could have done, upon any long trial, without it. But the Duke of YORK has this in an eminent degree; no Officer ever left him, with any diminution of his own value of himself, as a Gentleman; no soldier ever came nigh him, in field or road, without feeling the just value of his condition fully acknowledged; not the humblest of his fellow-creatures, unknown otherwise than as a fellow-creature, ever accosted him, without some return, such as any wrong pride never pays to misery.

Would that something more than has yet passed in Parliament, good as that was, might call for his restoration! The REGENT, we need not say, is gratefully acknowledged by all parties to have shewn that mind and that disposition to the Public, which those only knew before, who had the honour of some intercourse with him. Now, the Prince is so constituted, that the highest reward, of which he is capable, is the opportunity for doing kind deeds to others; we can not alter this, if we would; it is his nature. If amongst others he would make his own family partakers, in the instance, which interests them most, of the few opportunities he has, shall this be thought unreasonable? If he would promote the happiness and meet the returning judgment of his VENERABLE FATHER; if he would shew a brother, almost of his own age, that political strife never separated their hearts, should we not encourage him—should we not ask him to take this benevolent reward of his labours? Ungracious restrictions one party have imposed upon him, because he is not theirs; others were added by a second party, chiefly in opposition to the former, but, perhaps, not without some suspicion, that he would not either be devotedly theirs. He can not make GRAHAM a Peer, though the Duke of YORK made him a General: he can not advance Lord WELLINGTON. Of all Governors he is the most unfit to receive services, without being able to reward them; yet by this condition, in many respects, is he distinguished from all Governors. He may, however, make the Duke of YORK Commander in Chief. And we hope, that the same Party, which would have withheld from Lord WELLINGTON the thanks of the Houses for the battle of Talavera, which would have forbidden him to lead the army in Portugal, which would have even recalled that army, will not add to their other endeavours against the country, by striving to prevent the restoration of the Duke of YORK.

* We solemnly declare, that we have not the honour of the slightest acquaintance with Captain Ross, or any of his family; nor do we even know, that he is alive.

We have authority to state, that the public days at Lambeth Palace will not commence until further notice.

The Bill to repeal the Irish Stage Coach Act of the last Session, is appointed for committal this day in the House of Commons. The numerous Petitions against its enactment, and consequently for continuing to assimilate the number of passengers conveyed by public carriages in that country with those in Great Britain, when taken into consideration, will doubtless materially operate in favour of the still infant intercourse of that country. The mail coach trade in Ireland is a new establishment, which, like every rising trade, likely to prove beneficial to the community, ought to be liberally encouraged.

Yesterday evening, about six o'clock, as the Duchess of YORK was passing in her chariot through Baker-street, Portman-square, one of the hind wheels of the vehicle broke down. Two Gentlemen, who observed the accident, however, immediately stopped the horses, and handed her Royal Highness and an attendant Lady out of the carriage, fortunately without sustaining the slightest injury.

