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VISIT TO FLANDERS.

Extracts from Simpson's Visit to Flanders.
THE HOSPITALS.

It would be only less insensible than passing them by in the field, to decline an opportunity of visiting in hospital a large body of the men who had purchased with their limbs, the mighty victory with which the world resounded. Nor can any degree of excitement be imagined more intense than that occasioned by the daily presence of so striking a feature of the battle as its wounded. The idea that their sufferings are every day diminishing occurs for the visitor's relief, and that they are reaping the advantages of a system of skill and care not exceeded in any branch of the multifarious economy of the great country which their firmness and valor has made to triumph. Many a zealous, and patient medical labourer in the military hospitals, with perhaps the gratitude of his patients or his own reflections his only reward, has been heard to regret that the country knows so little of, cares so little for those noble monuments of the combination, the genius, and the skill of the professors of the healing art. There is no road more certain to the formation of a just and high estimate of our country, than an introduction to the interior economy of its grander institutions, civil and military. There is a healthy vigour in every branch, which refers all to one sustaining root of freedom, of light, and of energy; nor is there any better foundation for true patriotism, than an extended knowledge of the wonderful detail.

Something if possible, beyond the average care for the sick and hurt appeared to me to animate all ranks of medical men, for the wounded of Waterloo; and their zeal made no distinction between their countrymen and their enemies.

I accompanied my friends to a hospital of 800 British wounded, which they visited in the evening. Nothing could be better fitted for its purpose. One of the finest buildings perhaps in Europe called the Caserne de Facon, built by Bonaparte for the destined plunders of London, was immediately available for the comfortable reception of their wounded countrymen.

The scene was now entirely divested of its more horrifying features. A general air of comfort and comparative ease was apparent in the accommodations & the cloathing of the men; and the satisfactory assurance was superadded, that in general they were doing well. There was therefore nothing to prevent the casual visitor from experiencing the peculiar and rare interest of the scene, and connecting it with the field of battle; nor could any thing be imagined more striking than the sight of the beds and bandages, and crutches of the wounded of Waterloo; except actually that of the graves of the slain, on the honorable field itself. We knew that the intended poet of Waterloo was shortly to visit Antwerp and Brussels; and anticipated much from his seeing the wounded. In the variety of aspects in which the scene would appear to different descriptions of visitors, its poetical features are not the least striking; and combining the affecting spectacle with the field where the ruin was wrought, such a poet could not have failed in a description of the utmost beauty and pathos.

It needed not poetical inspiration, however, to feel intensely the occasion; and hard would his heart be, who could have gone through the ranges of the beds, and seen so many brave men unable to rise, so many limping or creeping about; so many arms in slings, and heads bandaged; and so many, such perfect patients, and glancing in thought at the stupendous scenes of mankind, of which this scene of suffering was the price, without a tribute of emotion almost overpowering.

Beyond the citadel, is La Corderie, a building constructed by Bonaparte, as a promenade, and 1300 feet long, to give space for a cable of that rope ship of war. It is filled up as a hospital for about 1500 of his wounded soldiers, countrymen of war.

A very different feeling from the mingled pity and admiration, with which our own wounded countrymen were visited, — a little hesitation mingling with these ferocious and exasperated men, was not unnatural; but as a moment of reality showed, very unnecessary. Insult was certainly the utmost which a stranger apprehended; but even this had no place, where all were engaged with their own sufferings; humbled in a consciousness of their irretrievable fate; and withal, under excellent surveillance and discipline. The whole immensity of length of the place was open; and the beds were arranged in four rows, from end to end. We walked generally unnoticed by their occupants, up and down the lanes between; and quietly disregarded frequently stepped over a bed, or passed between two, when going from one passage to another. It was impossible to imagine two examples of human lot more strikingly contrasted, more forcibly associated, than the spectacle which these unfortunate enthusiasts presented, and their confidence and fury but yesterday;

their submissive tranquility in their flannel gowns and caps in the hospital, and their noise and cuirasses in the field.

Many cases, however, were such as to chase all the associations now described, and substitute unmingled pity in their stead. Death was at work here, much more manifestly than we had observed among the English wounded; numberless faces, as we passed along, seemed hardly to retain signs of life, a spectacle tenfold aggravated, when the concomitant idea presented itself, that nature had maintained a struggle with anguish for a whole month, to yield in the end, in circumstances compared to which, instant death in the field was happiness. The cases in the French hospital, were almost all worse than those in the British; this was especially true of the sabre wounds, a circumstance which was attributed to the superior physical force of the British arm, nerved by revenge for the cruelties of the enemy, which it may be believed were not hid from the men, and by the death of the man when the day was decided; but in truth, much more naturally resulting from the circumstance, that most of the slightly wounded found means to escape from the field. We chanced to witness, as we passed, the actual termination of one poor soldier's sufferings; a moment delivering him, but impressing the unpractised beholder, in a manner never to be forgotten. — We had observed a very miserable looking priest, with his book, visiting several parts of the ward; and now saw him fixed with folded hands, muttering a prayer at the foot of one of the beds, where the clothes were thrown over the face of the occupier. The latter had that moment breathed his last, after dreadful sufferings.

We stood uncovered to hear, and pay becoming respect to their ceremony of blessing the dead. The hourly report of casualties soon followed us to the bureau of the hospital. In it was the death, at half past 9 o'clock, of Jean Baptiste Bronneur of the young guard, aged twenty two? — a youth who had not doubted either the easy triumph of his emperor, or of his own arrival at the rank of a marshal of France; who but yesterday contributed his utmost strength to the shouts of his camp, and swelled the tide of self devotion at the field of Waterloo; now stretched lifeless on his pallet, for the bad cause of that unworthy chief, who certainly had he seen the last moments, and listened to his own name on the dying lips of his devotee, would have been too much occupied with the means of saving an unwounded remnant of his own life, to have spared other reflections than something about *silence or damage*. No associating principle of the most striking contrast, could more powerfully have prevailed to our minds of the flight and surrender of Napoleon Bonaparte, than the brief and touching of "Jean Baptiste Bronneur, de la jeune garde, age de vingt deux ans."

Yet did the patriotic zeal for the Emperor, in the poor creatures, seem to increase with their sufferings, and in the face of the full knowledge of his sacrifice and dissection of them. One man was pointed out, who had toasted his amputated arm in the air, with a feeble shout of "vive l'Empereur." Another, at the moment of the preparations to take off his leg, declared, that there was something he knew of which would cure him on the spot, and save his limb and the operator's trouble. When asked to explain this strange remark, he said, "a sight of the Emperor!" The indispensable amputation did not save him; he died in the surgeon's arms; and his last words, steadfastly looking on his own blood were, that he would cheerfully shed the last drop in his veins, for the great Napoleon! A singularly wild and almost poetic fancy, was the form in which the third bore his testimony. He was undergoing, with great steadiness the operation of the extraction of a ball from his side; and it happened to be the left. In the moment of his greatest sufferings, he exclaimed, "an inch deeper, and you'll find the Emperor!"

Had the Emperor merited such heroic devotion; — and he gloriously sacrificed himself in the field; — or had his cause been as good as it was profligate, there would have been no allaying scenes in the pathos, and even exultation of these singular effusions. But another reflection unseasonably intrudes, which at once renders the kind of scenes described repulsive and unsuitable. It is to be feared that effusions less a table called forth these unexpected ebullitions. The vain, mortified furious Frenchmen, were preaching themselves at the moment, and not their idol. The latter was too well known, even in the effluence of his power, ever to be personally loved; much more when the blindness of his worshippers could not but know that he had made a very safe and easy retreat in his own person, leaving them to remember him in the honours of the field and the hospital. But every Frenchman, identifying Napoleon's name with his own greatness, had committed himself so entirely, that to cease to cry out "Vive l'Empereur," as long as breath or life lasted; was a thought not to be endured for a moment. A Frenchman, it is well known, lives for effect; and if circumstances only excite him enough, will die for effect too. Mortified vanity and wounded pride will impel him to any thing; and it is therefore that a petulant and unyielding spirit, after defeat in battle, is the last thing to leave, if it ever leaves, the French soldiers, or the French nation. Man and woman of them tell the allied troops, who live as masters in their houses, in Paris itself, that notwithstanding they are not conquered, while retroactively talking of their own days of prosperity, in which the prostration, of their

most humiliating enemy never equalled their own, as it now is, we hear of nothing but French Conquerts and their legitimate fruits. A visit to the French requires a considerable stock of patience, among other requisites.

Political.

FROM THE AURORA.

Among the names used of the Enquirer, are those of Mr. Dallas and Mr. Gallatin. If there be any thing that concerns public men more than another, which we should wish to see minutely investigated, it is this very insinuation; if ever there shall be a congress which knows and is able and willing to pursue its duty, in no manner can they render so much exemplary justice, nor so effectually guard the purity of government, as by a judicial investigation of the conduct of these two men while in office. Had there been an upright representative body to be before the war, to present the investigation should have been put out to them, in regard to one of them; and we solemnly believe that such a scene as the treasury would exhibit, if examined honestly, no government ever yet has surpassed in abuse of public to private ends.

On this point we shall state a truth, which few men in the country suspect, that the accounts of the United States' Treasury are in such a state that should Mr. Sheldon, whom Mr. Gallatin has taken off to Paris, die, it would be utterly impossible for any other man, not interested in their mysteries, to unravel them — an investigation of the northern campaign, and the investigation concerning the city of Washington, and its investigation into the cause of the general post-office, and the reports upon each, show what a state of incapacity or indifference to the public, characterises congress; — above all — it shows in an irrefragable form that the sacred principles of liberty, and the rights of the people of this nation, are not the objects of the party.

The executive was seeking to obtain all the credit of remaining in the eyes of the country, by messages and professions, but as the support was actually relying on the influence of congress, was hoped to be exercised in the senate and house of representatives, to throw the reproach of refusing to make war, upon the members of those bodies, and to claim the credit of a vigorous energy for the executive, by the caucus.

The caucus declared that the two senators from Pennsylvania, whom vote against a declaration of war, because they had excepted to some of the forms, and it had been twice committed on their motion, and the votes were — yeas 17, nays 13; and that was expected to be the vote against the declaration; great was the disappointment, when both voted for the declaration — they have ever since been denounced by the party.

The shameful conduct of the war department & the war committee of the house of representatives in taking only half the amount of the estimates for the support of the war has been referred to; we have heard it asked, how is this base conduct to be accounted for? The matter is to be accounted for in two occurring modes: first, in the preceding exposition, where the executive first labored to prevent a declaration by congress and after war was declared, deceived itself into the expectation of making peace, without commencing operations. The desire of peace was in itself laudable, and it was even commendable from the consciousness of the executive of the unprepared state of the country, & the incapacity of the ministers who must have the conducting of it, to perform their duty. But it was not prudence, but personal views that governed. The public cannot forget that desperates were sent to the English admiral, under the hope that he might possess powers, and even this would have been laudable, had it been conducted with that provident regard to experience, which teaches every man concerned in the government of nations, that the best security for peace is to be prepared to resist it.

It is not in secret intrigues about this was manifest; not in the war department. The correspondence of Mr. Gallatin the Secretary of the Treasury, on the 10th of June, prior to the declaration of war, with Mr. Cheves, then chairman of the ways and means, will show how the operations were conducted, that is called the cabinet, and how the treasury laboured to confound and confuse congress; the answers of Mr. Eustis to the enquiries concerning the military resources, arrearages and public works, are prodigies of inequity, and Gallatin's are not less monstrous, and more despicable.

The sum proposed for the military establishment, on the 17th February, 1812, was 2,581,000, & augmented to 5,125,000 for the additional army; when the actual expenditure of the year exceeded 43,000,000! and the government knew that 20,000,000 was under the estimate prepared by the order of the war department.

An election of president was approaching at the period of the declaration of war; the federalists have with their usual want of discernment, said the war was declared to favor the re-election of Mr. Madison; but this only proves an important truth, that even the federalists believed that a war was the wish of the nation; they, however, grossly mistook the wishes or the fears of the cabinet; for as we have shewn, then it was apprehended that the necessity of laying taxes to support a war, would operate on that occasion, as in John Adams's peace like a war; and that it would throw the ruling party out of power. For this reason, it was that

the estimates were under-rated; and that schemes of delusion were substituted for measures of wisdom — the army was left destitute — and taxes were not suggested adequate to the exigency; while the members of congress connived at the fraud under an apprehension that their constituents would dismiss them for laying taxes, and deprive them of their six dollars a day; a recurrence to the official papers of that period will satisfy any reasonable mind of the facts; and in the report made by Mr. Gallatin as secretary of the treasury, on the application of the committee of ways and means, he declares that to carry on the war a "fixed revenue of nine millions would be adequate with the aid of loans in case of war."

The reply of the secretary to the letter of the same committee, dated 10th January, 1812, is one of the most jesuitical and contemptible that ever assumed an official form; nothing surpasses it in fatuity but the letters of Eustis of the same period. In his reply he asserts to the committee that a "sum of 2,600,000, with an annual loan of 40 millions will be more than is wanted." — These are the very words of Gallatin the financier!

Foreign.

LAT 81 FROM FRANCE.

New-York, Sept. 10 — The editors of the Gazette have received by the Georgia, Paris papers to the 17th of July, and have extracted from them a few articles, not altogether uninteresting.

Letters mention that the vintage will be bad this year in France. The weather is represented to have been very cold, and the rains incessant. [Thus, we find, that in France, as well as in Germany, Holland and England; the season has been destructive and wet.]

Sir Robert Wilson, Capt. Hutchinson and Mr. Bruce, the three gentlemen who assisted Lavalette in making his escape, have been released from prison, and have been ordered to leave France. The former was going immediately to London; Hutchinson to rejoin his corps at Cambrai; and Bruce was to marry Miss Crobie, and depart for Italy.

By a convention, dated the 9th of July, between Mr. de Rohan, on the part of Denmark and Admiral Pakenham, on the part of Sweden, the former orders to the latter all the vessels of war in Norway, for the sum of 95,000 crowns in specie.

A Russian squadron was expected in the Sound which Squadron has in board troops to replace those that are on the frontiers of France. The flag ship has on board and it presents from the Emperor of Russia, his sister the Princess of Orange.

By a decree of Louis, foreign manufactured goods of all kinds and wool, or woollen prohibited from being imported into France.

General Gonton-Duvernay has been condemned to death by the Council of war at Lyons; four which sentence he has appealed.

LONDON, JULY 10.

The most important piece of foreign news we have to day is communicated in private letters from Paris. It is therein stated, that some extraordinary events are passing in the south of France, in the department of Lyons; and that the duke of Angouleme is gone to the Spanish frontier to receive a Spanish army of 30,000 men intended to facilitate some measures at present in contemplation, the nature and object of which are not clearly defined. Fresh troops have also been marched to Lyons, where great disturbances are said to have been excited by the arbitrary measures adopted to levy troops for the royal cause. The conscripts of 1814, who had not joined their corps, have been called into service in several departments. We have before remarked on the activity exerted by the French government to obtain a large military force; and if we had not learnt to distrust professions that are held by the act, and form such a quarter, we would say, that it was still more remarkable that such hostile preparation should be made in the midst of the profound assurance of pacific dispositions, and of actual tranquillity. But such, we learn, are the measures of the government, whilst the papers are, by special instructions, asserting that there is not the slightest ground for apprehending either foreign or intestine war. We doubt much whether these leagues that are forming among the sovereigns, who call themselves legitimate, are for Gospel purposes. We have seen the armed intelligence of marking beating down superstition and tyranny under its feet; we now appear doomed to perceive the armed bigotry of sovereigns, and the minions of despotic power in all countries, leaguing to restore them to strength and power — and this is called a pious war for justice and religion! We have heard that the duke of Wellington, instead of agreeing in the propriety of an intention on the part of ministers to withdraw some of his troops to this country, had represented the necessity of rather sending him a reinforcement. The report of a Spanish army entering France may countenance the statement of the existence of such strong necessity for further military aid in support of the government; but we can scarcely believe that Ferdinand of Spain, from all the accounts we have of his own necessities, has quite such a large army as 30,000 men disposable for the purpose of assisting his neighbors. *Stat. man.*

IMPORTANT NEWS.

NEW-YORK, SEP. 6.

Captain Robert, from Cadix, furnishes the