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Disembarkation in Maryland.

The moon had set, and there was no light in the sky, except that which a multitude of brilliant stars afforded, when a general stir throughout the fleet gave notice that the moment of disembarkation was at hand. The soldiers, rousing from their sleep, began to assemble upon the decks in the order in which had been previously agreed that they should step into the boats; the seamen, applying sedulously to their tasks, hoisted their barges, launches, gigs, &c. with all dispatch; whilst the few stores deemed essential in the operations of the campaign were so arranged as to be transported at once from the shipping to the beach. All, however, was done in profound silence. No conversation passed from rank to rank, and even the cries of the sailors were repressed; lest being overheard by the parties which, we could not doubt, were watching us from the shore, an alarm might be communicated, and the people of Baltimore apprised of their danger.

Whilst these things were doing in the other vessels, a light gun-brig, which had weighed anchor for the purpose about an hour before, ran in with the tide; and took her station, broad-side on, within cable's length of the beach. There she lay ready, in case of need, to sweep the shore with her fire. Every gun was loaded to the muzzle with grape and cannon shot. But the event proved that no opposition to the landing was contemplated. The leading boat touched the strand in safety; the soldiers contained in it sprang up the slope, and spreading themselves at extended order along the ridge, lay down. Others quickly followed, and in half an hour after the first movement had been made, a thousand men were in line, to cover the arrival of their comrades. All this took place before

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All this took place before the first blush of dawn had shown itself in the eastern horizon. Nor was the remainder of the army tardy in reaching its destination. Exerting themselves to the utmost, our gallant tars, without any intermission of labour for several hours, pulled backwards and forwards, and by seven o'clock, infantry, artillery, baggage, and horses appeared to be all on shore.

It so happened that the transport in which I was embarked lay very near the *land*, by which means our division made good its debarkation among the first; and I shall not readily forget the nature of the scene which was thus brought before me. When we gained the shore only a single small boat, containing about ²⁰ soldiers, had reached it. We leaped from the bow one after another and collecting close to the water's edge, proceeded, at a quick pace, to ascend a sloping sandbank; at the summit of which we found our companions. The officer in command of that small party alone stood upright; the men were flat upon their bellies; but at our suggestion they arose, and advancing about forty yards farther inland, we all lay down again. Let the reader recollect that we ^{never} nothing of the preparations which had been made for our reception; for aught we could tell, a whole army might be in position within a stone's throw of our ground; and he will not be surprised to learn that we held our very breath, in anxious expectation of what the next instant might bring forth. Yet was the excitation very far from being disagreeable. True, we might be called upon to sustain the first shock of a force a great deal too numerous to be long opposed with success; but we were aware that the succour would not be long in arriving; and we could not for a moment doubt as to the final issue. Then there was much

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In rear of the three companies, leaving, however, a sufficient interval between, came the light brigade, now under the command of Major Jones. Next to that corps moved a brigade of seamen, armed with muskets, and amounting to nearly a thousand men; then followed the artillery, of which eight pieces---six guns, and two howitzers---were in the field; and as a sufficient number of horses to drag them had been procured, they bid fair to prove of marked utility.

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in the enterprise. Immediately upon the artillery came the second brigade; and immediately upon the second came the third. Of the exact number of combatants thus brought together, I can hardly venture to offer an opinion. We had lost^x at Bladensburg about five hundred men in all; but of these many were already so far convalescent as to take the field *again*; and our reinforcements from the fleet were considerable. Balancing the one against the other, therefore, I should be disposed to say, that somewhere about five thousand, or five thousand five hundred men, moved from the water's edge this morning.

It fell to the lot of my friend and myself, on *this* present occasion, to form part of the flank patrol. Having cleared the open fields, we soon found ourselves in a country resembling, in many respects, that which we had traversed in our late operations; that is to say, thick woods hemmed us in on every side, and the spots of cultivated soil ~~were~~ few and of small compass. There^{was}/~~was~~, however, one striking difference to be observed. Little lakes, or other large ponds, abounded here; they were equally plentiful on both sides of the way; and being in general deep enough to keep us from fording, they, for the most part, occasioned us no little trouble and some fatigue before we succeeded in passing them. Small streams, likewise, landing in the heads of creeks, more than once interrupted our progress. In a word, the country presented a thousand defensible posts, even to a people so little accustomed as we were^{to}/~~to~~ examine a country with the eye of soldiers; and it surprised us not a little to find, ~~that no attempt~~ was made to defend it.

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Soon after this the bugles of th army sounded a halt, and we, as well as the main body, prepared to obey it; but just as we had fixed upon a convenient spot for the purpose, a soldier came running up with intelligence that the three horsemen were still in the thicket, about musket-shot from our right. Taking with me a dozen men, I instantly plunged into the wood; and here, sure enough, they sat upon the edge of one of the lakes, their horses being fastened by the bridles to a tree hard by. My party preserved a profound silence, and we closed gradually round them; but the crashing of the boughs there was no stifling, and when we reached the spot they were gone. They had *leaped* into a canoe on the first alarm and were now paddling, as fast as they could, to the opposite shore. There was no time to be lost. I called out to them

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to surrender, and by way of enforcing the summons, commanded the whole of my people to level their pieces. The spectacle was too alarming for raw recruits; so they held up a white handkerchief in token of submission, and pulled back again. Immediately upon landing, they were, as may be supposed, disarmed, and then with their three beautiful chargers, conducted to head-quarters.

On coming in with the prisoners, we found the army halted near a farm house, around which were several cleared fields, well adapted, in case of need, for a rapid military formation. The General, himself, attended by Admiral Cockburn, was sitting in the midst of his staff by the way side, and a few orderlies were leading their horses backwards and forwards. Of the soldiers, a few had strayed from the ranks; but blue jackets might be seen in every direction, pursuing pigs, fowls, and other live stock, at full speed, and with much apparent satisfaction. Nor was it possible to refrain from laughing at the singular behavior of these men. All the threats, orders, and entreaties of their officers were set at defiance; they knew nothing about discipline on shore, and they were not going to learn it. At last the very endeavour to bring them back was abandoned, and they continued to amuse themselves, as well as us, till the column again began to move. Nor did anyone appear to enjoy the joke more than General Ross. He was laughing heartily, as were the Admiral and the rest of the group, when we appeared; and he with difficulty suppressed his mirth, even though the presence of the prisoners drew his attention to other grave matters.

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Having put a few questions to the young men, as to the duty on which they had been themselves employed, General Ross proceeded to catechise them respecting the number and position of the force appointed for the defence of Baltimore. Their answers were neither very distinct nor very satisfactory. They spoke of a levy en masse ----- hinted that every male capable of bearing arms was enrolled--- and calculated the strength of the whole, including three thousand regulars, at twenty thousand men. The ~~main~~ cavalry, they said, consisted principally of volunteer troops, to one of which they themselves belonged; and most of it, as well as a large portion of the infantry, had met us in the field of Bladensburg. In artillery, again, they affirmed, that the strength of the Americans was prodigious; upwards of one hundred pieces of cannon were in battery; and these being manned by seamen from the fleet, would, they observed to us, do their duty. The General heard all this with a countenance that never once varied in its expression; and then ordering them to the rear; inspite of many urgent entreaties that he would dismiss them on their parole, he commanded the bugle to sound, and the troops again stood to their arms.

Whilst the column was making ready to prosecute its more orderly advance, we stoutly plunged once more into the thickets, and pressed on. For about half an hour we proceeded without the occurrence of any circumstance calculated to excite in us a more than usual degree of alacrity. There were the same obstacles of brake and brier to overcome, and, from time to time, the same impediments of ponds and

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creeks to be surmounted; but still no enemy, nor any trace of an enemy could be descried. At length, however, the face of affairs underwent a change. A few figures suddenly showed themselves, stealing from tree to tree, and bush to bush; they became more and more numerous as we went on; and, finally, we beheld about four or five hundred riflemen scattered through the wood and prepared to dispute us our farther progress. Nor were many moments wasted in idly gazing at each other. Having warned the column, by the sound of our bugles, that an enemy was in sight; we rushed forward and the forest echoed again to the report of ours and the Americans' muskets.

There is nothing in war more interesting, and, if it be conducted with any science, more entertaining, than a skirmish in the bosom of a deep wood. the cover is generally so abundant, and so excellent in kind, that fewer casualties take place than one unaccustomed to such affairs might expect; whilst, from the very nature of the encounter, your thoughts are never for an instant unemployed, nor your body for an instant at rest. When advancing, you dart from tree to tree, passing with the rapidity of thought over the ~~gama~~ space between, as if you had singled out one or two individuals among the enemy, to overtake whom was the great object of your wishes. Then, again, there is the necessity imposed upon you, of watching that your men keep well up; that they are careful not to expose themselves unnecessarily; that they are cool, take a good and deliberate aim, and abstain from throwing their fire away ^{for} ~~in~~ no purpose. As to preserving a regular line, that is seldom attempted; men rarely carry into the field the niceties of the

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parade-ground; it is enough if you see, that when the right is hard pressed, the left shall not push too far ahead of it; nor, when the left hangs back, that the right pass it by. Above all, the officer must, in such situations, be careful to show his men a becoming example. He ought not, indeed, hurry too far before them, because by so doing, though he may lead some to follow, others taking advantage of the license which his blind impetuosity grants, may keep out of the fire altogether; but still less ought he to lag behind. He is the best director of a skirmish who moves backwards and forwards among his troops; cheers and animates them by his voice and gestures; scruples not to expose himself occasionally more than may be exactly required, and appears to treat his enemies with contempt. The spirit which actuates him never fails to arise among his followers, and when once men despise their enemies, they seldom fail to beat them.

Our skirmish to-day was for a while tolerably hot, and extremely animated. The Americans outnumbered us beyond calculation whilst, as individuals, they were at least our equals in the skill with which they used their weapons; yet, from the very commencement it was on our part a continual advance, on theirs a continual retreat. We drove them from thicket to thicket, and tree to tree, not, indeed, with any heavy loss, for they were no less expert in finding shelter than in taking aim; but occasionally bringing down an individual as he was running from one cover to another. Our own loss, again, was very trifling. Two men killed, and about a dozen wounded, made up the sum of our casualties; and it may with truth be asserted, that every thing was going on as General Ross himself could have wished. But unhappily he was not satisfied of this. The firing struck him as

Death of General Ross.

being more heavy and more continued than it ought to be; he was apprehensive that we had fallen into some serious ambush, and, unwilling to trifle with the safety even of a few companies, he rode forward for the purpose of satisfying himself that they were safe. How bitterly had the whole expedition cause to lament that step! He had scarcely entered the wood when an American rifleman singled him out; he fired, and the ball, true to its mark, pierced his side. When the General received his death-wound I chanced to be standing at no great distance from him: I saw that he was struck, for the reins dropped instantly from his hand, and he leaned forward upon the pommel of his saddle; and though I could not suffer myself to imagine that there was any danger, I hastened towards him, but I arrived ^{too} late. His horse making a movement forward, he lost his seat, and, but for the intervention of his aid-de-camp's arm, must have fallen to the ground. As it was, we could only lay him at length upon the grass, for his limbs could no longer perform their office---it was but too manifest that his race was run.

No language can convey any adequate idea of the sensation which this melancholy event produced in the bosoms of all who were aware of it. It may with truth be asserted, that a general, young in command, has rarely obtained the confidence of his troops in the degree which General Ross had obtained it, or held out more flattering assurances that he would continue to possess and to deserve it to the last. As a colonel of a regiment, a general of brigade in Lord Wellington's army, his name had long stood high; and the brilliant

Death of General Ross. (Continued.)

success which attended his operations against Washington, satisfied his own soldiers, at least, that his fame was not unmerited. It has been said, that in conducting the inroad last alluded to, he exhibited more of hesitation and diffidence in himself than belongs to a really great mind. Perhaps he might hesitate a little; perhaps he did lose an hour or two considering whether, with a mere handful of men, it would be advisable to march upon the capital of a great nation, more especially as he could not but feel that little or no permanent advantage to the cause would accrue even from success. But the praise, at least, has never been denied him, that once his mind came to be made up, no man ever pursued his object more steadily, or with greater vigour. In the present course of operations, this was conspicuously the case. He was in the act of pushing on, cautiously indeed, but with all the celerity of the school in which he had been trained, when, through the absence of a few able supporters, he was led to throw his valuable life away. Peace to his ashes! A braver and better man the British army never produced; nor has it lost an officer of brighter promise or higher character.

His aide-de-camp, (Captain M'Dougal.) having seen the General laid by the road side, left him to the care of Admiral Cockburn, and galloped back for assistance. For myself, my duty called me elsewhere. The firing still went on in front; it was kept up by my own men, and I could not desert them; so I too quitted the mournful group and once more plunged into action.

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All this took place before the first blush of dawn had shown itself in the eastern horizon. Nor was the remainder of the army tardy in reaching its destination. Exerting themselves to the utmost, our gallant tars, without any intermission of labour for several hours, pulled backwards and forwards, and by seven o'clock, infantry, artillery, baggage, and horses appeared to be all on shore.

It so happened that the transport in which I was embarked lay very near the land, by which means our division made good its debarkation among the first; and I shall not readily forget the nature of the scene which was thus brought before me. When we gained the shore only a single small boat, containing about ²⁰ soldiers, had reached it. We leaped from the bow one after another and collecting close to the water's edge, proceeded, at a quick pace, to ascend a sloping sandbank; at the summit of which we found our companions. The officer in command of that small party alone stood upright; the men were flat upon their bellies; but at our suggestion they arose, and advancing about forty yards farther inland, we all lay down again. Let the reader recollect that we ^{knew} nothing of the preparations which had been made for our reception; for aught we could tell, a whole army might be in position within a stone's throw of our ground; and he will not be surprised to learn that we held our very breath, in anxious expectation of what the next instant might bring forth. Yet was the excitation very far from being disagreeable. True, we might be called upon to sustain the first shock of a force a great deal too numerous to be long opposed with success; but we were aware that the succour would not be long in arriving; and we could not for a moment doubt as to the final issue. Then there was much

March Upon Baltimore. (Continued.)

in our very position and attitude in the highest degree imposing. You could not tell that troops were in line beside you, only by an occasional rustle in the long grass among which they couched; for all kept close to the earth, and not a man spoke, even in a whisper, to his nearest neighbor.

As day dawned, however, it became abundantly manifest that so much caution had been quite unnecessary; not a living creature was in sight, nor could the smallest trace that even a picquet had kept guard here, be observed. Before us lay a few open green fields, measuring, perhaps, some three hundred yards across, and then their condition furnished proof enough that neither infantry nor cavalry had traversed them. The grass waved in the breeze, undefiled by horses' tread or human tramp; no track of foragers intersected it; and even upon the road, which ran a little to our right, the dust lay wholly undisturbed. In these fields the army accordingly mustered. The different regiments drew up according to their brigades; the officers took their stations, and the word was given to advance. The following is the order in which the column moved.

Major Brown, the officer who led the advance in the inroad upon Washington, having been severely wounded and left behind at Bladensburg, General Ross saw it fit to dissolve the little corps altogether. Whether this arose from a feeling there was not, in the army, another man capable of guiding it aright, I know not. All that I know is that in Browne he reposed the most unbounded confidence--- that Browne fully deserved that confidence--- and that if he

March Upon Baltimore. (Continued.)

changed his plan from the apprehension that there was no fit successor to him , his judgement was not very erroneous. When I say that this advance was dissolved, I mean not to affirm, that the army began its march with a front entirely uncovered. Three companies were, as formerly, pushed forward; but instead of forming a separate division, placed permanently under the command of a distinct leader, they fell, for the moment, under the guidance of the officer who chanced to be senior in rank among those attached to them. It was to that unfortunate agreement, without doubt, that the country owed the early death of our gallant leader. After the first day's march towards Washington, General Ross gave himself little or no concern about the advanced guard; he saw that the individual to whom he had intrusted it, understood his business perfectly; and to him the business was entirely left. It was not so now. Ignorant of the talents of those on whose sagacity the welfare of the whole column so much depended, the General could not keep behind; he would, in his own person, see that things were going on as he wished them to go on; and he fell in the very first skirmish.

In rear of the three companies, leaving, however, a sufficient interval between, came the light brigade, now under the command of Major Jones. Next to that corps moved a brigade of seamen, armed with muskets, and amounting to nearly a thousand men; then followed the artillery, of which eight pieces---six guns, and two howitzers---were in the field; and as a sufficient number of horses to drag them had been procured, they bid fair to prove of marked utility

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It fell to the lot of my friend and myself, on ~~this~~ present occasion, to form part of the flank patrol. Having cleared the open fields, we soon found ourselves in a country resembling, in many respects, that which we had traversed in our late operations; that is to say, thick woods hemmed us in on every side, and the spots of cultivated soil ~~were~~ few and of small compass. There ^{was} ~~was~~, however, one striking difference to be observed. Little lakes, or other large ponds, abounded here; they were equally plentiful on both sides of the way; and being in general deep enough to keep us from fording, they, for the most part, occasioned us no little trouble and some fatigue before we succeeded in passing them. Small streams, likewise, landing in the heads of creeks, more than once interrupted our progress. In a word, the country presented a thousand defensible posts, even to a people so little accustomed as we were ^{to} examine a country with the eye of soldiers; and it surprised us not a little to find, that no attempt was made to defend it.

We had continued our journey about an hour, when arriving

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suddenly at a space of open ground, three troopers, dressed in dark-green uniforms, were discovered. They occupied the summit of a gentle eminence, and appeared to be anxiously watching the movement of the column along the high road. Instantly the word was passed to be attentive; and instantly we began to steal around the height, keeping just within cover of the wood, for the purpose of surprising them. But scarlet is an inconvenient color, *in* cases where concealment happens to be desirable; --- The Americans soon discovered us, and clapping spurs to their horses, galloped off. Concluding, of course, that they **must** be well acquainted with the different roads that intersected the forest, we very naturally ^{gave} them up as lost, and continued our journey, with the conviction in our minds that more work would be cut for us ere many hours should pass by.

Soon after this the bugles of the army sounded a halt, and we, as well as the main body, prepared to obey it; but just as we had fixed upon a convenient spot for the purpose, a soldier came running up with intelligence that the three horsemen were still in the thicket, about musket-shot from our right. Taking with me a dozen men, I instantly plunged into the wood; and here, sure enough, they sat upon the edge of one of the lakes, their horses being fastened by the bridles to a tree hard by. My party preserved a profound silence, and we closed gradually round them; but the crashing of the boughs there was no stifling, and when we reached the spot they were gone. They had leaped into a canoe on the first alarm and were now paddling, as fast as they could, to the opposite shore. There was no time to be lost. I called out to them

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March Upon Baltimore. (Continued.)

parade-ground; it is enough if you see, that when the right is hard pressed, the left shall not push too far ahead of it; nor, when the left hangs back, that the right pass it by. Above all, the officer must, in such situations, be careful to show his men a becoming example. He ought not, indeed, hurry to far before them, because by so doing, though he may lead some to follow, others taking advantage of the license which his blind impetuosity grants, may keep out of the fire altogether; but still less ought he to lag behind. He is the best director of a skirmish who moves backwards and forwards among his troops; cheers and animates them by his voice and gestures; scruples not to expose himself occasionally more than may be exactly required, and appears to treat his enemies with contempt. The spirit which actuates him never fails to arise among his followers, and when once men despise their enemies, they seldom fail to beat them.

Our skirmish to-day was for a while tolerably hot, and extremely animated. The Americans outnumbered us beyond calculation whilst, as individuals, they were at least our equals in the skill with which they used their weapons; yet, from the very commencement it was on our part a continual advance, on theirs a continual retreat. We drove them from thicket to thicket, and tree to tree, not, indeed, with any heavy loss, for they were no less experts in finding shelter than in taking aim; but occasionally bringing down an individual as he was running from one cover to another. Our own loss, again, was very trifling. Two men killed, and about a dozen wounded, made up the sum of our casualties; and it may with truth be asserted, that every thing was going on as General Ross himself could have wished. But unhappily he was not satisfied of this. The firing struck him as

Death of General Ross.

being more heavy and more continued than it ought to be; he was apprehensive that we had fallen into some serious ambuscade, and, unwilling to trifle with the safety even of a few companies, he rode forward for the purpose of satisfying himself that they were safe. How bitterly had the whole expedition cause to lament that step! He had scarcely entered the wood when an American rifleman singled him out; he fired, and the ball, true to its mark, pierced his side. When the General received his death-wound I chanced to be standing at no great distance from him: I saw that he was struck, for the reins dropped instantly from his hand, and he leaned forward upon the pommel of his saddle; and though I could not suffer myself to imagine that there was any danger, I hastened towards him, but I arrived ^{too} late. His horse making a movement forward, he lost his seat, and, but for the intervention of his aid-de-camp's arm, must have fallen to the ground. As it was, we could only lay him at length upon the grass, for his limbs could no longer perform their office---it was but too manifest that his race was run.

No language can convey any adequate idea of the sensation which this melancholy event produced in the bosoms of all who were aware of it. It may with truth be asserted, that a general, young in command, has rarely obtained the confidence of his troops in the degree which General Ross had obtained it, or held out more flattering assurances that he would continue to possess and to deserve it to the last. As a colonel of a regiment, a general of brigade in Lord Wellington's army, his name had long stood high; and the brilliant

Death of General Ross. (Continued.)

success which attended his operations against Washington, satisfied his own soldiers. at least, that his fame was not unmerited. It has been said, that in conducting the inroad last alluded to, he exhibited more of hesitation and diffidence in himself than belongs to a really great mind. Perhaps he might hesitate a little; perhaps he did lose an hour or two considering whether, with a mere handful of men, it would be advisable to march upon the capital of a great nation, more especially as he could not but feel that little or no permanent advantage to the cause would accrue even from success. But the praise, at least, has never been denied him, that once his mind came to be made up, no man ever pursued his object more steadily, or with greater vigour. In the present course of operations, this was conspicuously the case. He was in the act of pushing on, cautiously indeed, but with all the celerity of the school in which he had been trained, when, through the absence of a few able supporters, he was led to throw his valuable life away. Peace to his ashes! A braver and better man the British army never produced; nor has it lost an officer of brighter promise or higher character.

His aide-de-camp, (Captain M'Dougal.) having seen the General laid by the roadside, left him to the care of Admiral Cockburn, and galloped back for assistance. For myself, my duty called me elsewhere. The firing still went on in front; it was kept up by my own men, and I could not desert them; so I too quitted the mournful group and once more plunged into action.

(R, G. Gleig.)

Action with the Americans.

When I overtook the skirmishers they were in full pursuit of the Americans, now flying with all precipitation before them. The wood was accordingly emptied in a trice; but on reaching its skirts, we found what we had, to say the truth, expected to find, that the riflemen now dislodged were nothing more than the outposts, or rather advanced corps, of a regular army. At the opposite extremity of a few open fields, about six or seven thousand men were drawn up in line. Their left resting upon a lake, and their right extending to the mouth of a creek; their centre was protected by high palings, and a row of lofty trees, whilst all before them was exposed and bare, to the distance of nearly half a mile. Of artillery, they appeared to have some six or eight pieces in the field. These were arranged, two upon the main road, which fell in towards the right of the position, three somewhat farther to the left, and the remaining singly, and at different intervals between the corps of infantry. About half-musket shot in front of them, was a farm house, surrounded by numerous barns, stables, and a stack-yard. Whether or not they had filled it with troops, we had no means of ascertaining; but it occurred to Charlton that it might be worth while to seize it, in case they should have neglected a measure to them of so much importance. With this view we lost no time in rushing on. We sprung over the paling, and having received two discharges of grape from the guns upon the road, reached the house in question, with the loss of only three men. The enemy had not occupied it; we took possession without delay; and rejoicing sincerely in the error of which they had been guilt, determined that no efforts on our parts should be wanting to hinder them from retaking it.

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Action with the Americans.

Established in this snug post, abundant leisure was granted for observing as well the dispositions made by the enemy to receive the attack, as the advance of our own troops to make it; and a most animating spectacle both the one and the other presented. On the side of the Americans, mounted officers could be seen riding backwards and forwards, apparently encouraging their men to do their duty. Some companies moving from its rear, wheeled up into the line; others quitting the line, fell back towards the reserve. But the corps which attracted the chief share of our attention, consisted of the identical riflemen whom we had so lately driven before us out of the wood. They continued for some time to drop in, by sections of eight, six, and ten, and taking post in rear of the line, resumed, as they best could, something like order. Nor were other manifestations of a resolution to keep their ground wanting. Several tumbrils and ammunition wagons arriving, were speedily emptied of their contents; and casks of cartridges, ranged at intervals behind the men, bore testimony to the zeal with which the store-keeper's department had been attended to. Such was the condition of affairs on the right. Away towards the left, again, a good deal of marching and counter-marching went on; but whether it arose from some mismanagement in the original disposition of the force, I cannot tell. It struck me, however, as being highly injudicious to render raw troops thus unsteady at the very moment they were about to come under fire; and I confess that I did not augur very favourably of the determination which, on that flank at least, the Americans would exhibit. Lastly, the heads of two columns appearing in the skirts of the more remote

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Action with the Americans.

thicket, pointed out how the reserve was stationed, and almost told of what numbers it consisted.

How different was the prospect to which a glance towards our rear introduced us! We had taken possession of the farmhouse perhaps ten minutes or a quarter of an hour before the leading divisions of our own troops began to emerge from the forrest. As soon, however, as they showed themselves, a flank movement to the right was made, and the 58th regiment, in beautiful regularity, spread itself at extended order, over the whole of the enemy's front. The seamen, who came next, marched straight forward along the road, till they had arrived within cannon shot of the American line, where they halted. The 4th Regiment arriving after them, wheeled off, as the 85th had done, to the right; but instead of extending itself, filed along in column of half companies, by the rear of the light troops, till it was lost to farther observation in a grove. A similar movement was made by the 44th, and a battalion of Marines, who, forming line in the open field, stood to support the skirmishers; whilst the 21st, taking up its ground on the road, came in on the rear of the column, of which the seamen constituted the front. All these formations were executed with as much coolness and precision as if the whole had been nothing more than a review; and in the eyes of us, who watched it, the spectacle was in the highest degree interesting.

In the meanwhile, neither the American artillery nor our own remained idle. The head of the column no sooner appeared than the

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Action with the Americans.

enemy's pieces which commanded the road opened upon it, and though the range was somewhat long, did considerable execution. To check this, Captain Carmichael, by whom the British artillery was commanded, instantly ordered two guns and a howitzer to the front, and pushing them forward within point-blank distance of the Americans, soon paid them back with interest in their own coin. I do not know that I ever saw shots more accurately thrown. At the first discharge, five American gunners were killed; at the next, one of the pieces was disabled; upon which, turning their attention to the infantry, our artillery-men mowed them down by whole sections. On this occasion, the missile principally used was the Shrapnel. It may, perhaps, be necessary to inform the unmilitary reader, that Shrapnel is a hollow glob of iron, the cavity in which is filled up, not with powder only, but with a quantity of musket-balls. It is discharged from a cannon exactly as a round shot is discharged; and being supplied with a fuse, more or less short, according to the distance to be traversed; it bursts just in front of its object and throws the whole of its murderous contents forward. To-day it did fearful havoc. The Americans durst not stand before it, but shrunk away from each ~~man~~ spot where a shell had fallen, as if there had been something deadly in the very soil.

But it was not upon the road alone that a smart cannonading was kept up. The three guns, of which I have already spoken as being stationed in the fields 'Towards the Americans' left, opened upon the 85th regiment as soon as they had taken their ground.

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Action with the Americans.

The soldiers, however, paid little heed to the salutation. Being ~~commanded~~ commanded to lie down, they did so, and rested for twenty minutes very composedly in defiance of the showers of balls that fell thick and fast about them.

At the expiration of that period, every necessary preparation appearing to be complete, Colonel Brooke, on whom the chief command had devolved, was seen to ride along the rear of the line, followed by his staff. Halting about the centre of the field, the little group turned their glasses, for a few moments, in the direction of the enemy's position, and then, as if satisfied that all things were in order, they began to disperse. An aid-de-camp galloped off to the right, Mr. Evans flew towards the left, and the orderly bugler sounding the charge, the whole army sprung into its ranks. The spirit-stirring notes were echoed back from all quarters, and the line moved forward.

^{of} I have said that our position all this while was among a number of houses and cornstalks, situated about mid-way between the hostile armies. Nothing can be conceived more animated, or more imposing, than the spectacle which now met our gaze. The light troops, in extended order, stretching from one thicket to another, covered the entire open space, and advanced, with the same coolness, and in the same admirable style, as if they had been marching upon a parade. In the rear, though far enough removed to be, in a great measure, secure against the fire of musketry, came a compact line, whose business it was, rather to give support whenever it should be needed, than to take any active part in the battle. On the road again, a dense

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Action with the Americans.

column of blue-jackets pressed forward with the ~~alacrity~~ alacrity and contempt of danger which so eminently distinguish the British sailor; whilst a battalion, likewise in column, marched after it, ready to follow up with advantage whatever success the privileged, undisciplined valour of the seamen might obtain.

On the side of the Americans, again, all was stillness and expectation. The corps which, up to this moment, had been continually changing their ground, now stood fast. The whole were in line, and, with shouldered arms, appeared to watch the progress of their enemies, like men who were determined not to be beaten. I thought, indeed, that I could perceive a little wavering at one particular point. It was a spot towards their extreme left, which, in the course of the cannonade, had received more than its due proportion of salutations; but whether I was ~~correct~~ correct or not, it was impossible for me to say, inasmuch as the vision became almost instantly obscured by columns of smoke. The Americans had in their line several pieces of cannon from which no discharges had yet taken place. What their object was in keeping them so long idle I know not; perhaps they imagined that their fire, when opened unexpectedly, would produce a double effect,--- and on that account reserved it for the attack. ~~But~~ Be this as it may, our infantry had not advanced ten paces when a volley of grape was poured upon them from every gun in the field; and the plunging of balls all along the grass, the crashing of rails, trees, and other objects struck, as well as not a few prostrations among the soldiers themselves, gave proof that the salutation was not less serious than noisy.

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Action with the Americans.

As yet, it may be said, that I and my immediate followers ranked nothing more than spectators of the dispositions and movements of our comrades. Occasionally, indeed, a cannon-shot passing through the window of the house, or lodging in one of the stacks, bore testimony that the enemy were not wholly unmindful of us; but we were already so far in advance, that to push on till the others overtook us, would have been the height of absurdity. Now, however, we began to feel that a state of quiescence was not exactly that which became us. Having ^{waited} till a few of the most forward of the skirmishers began to seek shelter behind our farm-yard, we likewise assumed the offensive, and dashing from our lurking-place pressed onwards.

Immediately in front of the farm house ran a high railing, similar to those of which I have before had occasion to speak, as intersecting almost every field or open spot in this quarter of America. We were in the act of springing over it, when the enemy, directing against us a couple of six-pounders, swept down five or six men out of the company. Among them there was one poor fellow who received from that fire as horrible a wound as I recollect at any period to have seen. A round shot striking him in the shoulder, tore away the whole of the limb, and left his very lungs exposed to the view of the by-stander. The man was a bit of a favorite with his master. By birth a gypsy, he possessed not only ^{to} a high degree the qualities of conviviality and good humor, but he was acknowledged to be by far the most skilful maker of fires, and therefore one of the most useful individuals in the regiment. No rain, however heavy, hindered him from striking a light, and from a light once struck he never failed to

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Action with the Americans.

produce a blaze. The loss of such a personage could not but be deeply and universally lamented. It may not be amiss to add here, that in spite of the severity of his wound the poor fellow lingered many days; he was even removed to the ship before he died. Might not the blowing out of a man's brains, under such circumstances, be not only justifiable but praiseworthy?

Up to this moment, not a single musket had been discharged on either side, and the most perfect silence prevailed throughout the ranks of both armies. The British soldiers moved forward with their accustomed fearlessness, and the Americans, with much apparent coolness, stood to receive them. Now, however, when little more than an hundred paces divided the one line from the other, both parties made ready to bring matters more decidedly to a personal struggle. The Americans were the first to use their small arms. Having rent the air with a shout, they fired a volley, begun upon the right, and carried away regularly to the extreme left; and then loading again, kept up an unintermitted discharge, which soon in a great degree concealed them from our observation. Nor were we backward in returning the salute. A hearty British cheer gave notice of our willingness to meet them; and firing and running, we gradually closed upon them, with the design of bringing the bayonet into play.

I hardly know what language to employ for the purpose of conveying to the mind of a reader, who possesses no practical acquaintance with the subject, something like a clear idea of a battle, at that period in its progress at which we have now arrived. Volley upon volley having been given we were now advanced within

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less than twenty yards of the American line; yet such was the denseness of the smoke that it was when a passing breeze swept away the cloud for a moment that either force became visible to the other. It was not, therefore, at men's persons that the fire of our soldiers was directed. The flashes of the enemy's muskets alone served as an object to aim at, as, without doubt, the flashes of our muskets alone guided the enemy. At last, however, the wind suddenly sprung up. The obscurity in which both parties had been enveloped was cleared away; and there, sure enough, stood our opponents, not as they had stood an hour ago, in close and compact array, but confused by the murderous fire to which they had been exposed. Napoleon Buonaparte has affirmed, that he never witnessed anything more terrific than the fire of a British line of infantry. The ex-emperor was perfectly correct. In the armies of other nations, particularly in those of America, many marksmen, more expert as individuals, may be found; but we may search the world over before we shall discover troops who, as a body, take aim with the same coolness, reserve their fire so well, or, as a necessary consequence, pour it in with such tremendous effect as our own soldiers. Of this the Americans had to-day received the most appalling proofs; numbers lay dead among the feet of their comrades; numbers more had retired maimed or wounded; and those who still kept the field were broken and confused. One thing alone was required to complete the rout. Our gallant fellows, uttering a hearty cheer, threw in their last volley and then rushed forward with the bayonet; but a shock, which the

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flower of European armies had never been able to withstand, the Americans ventured not to receive. They lost in a moment all order, and fled, as every man best could, from the field.

There was but one road along which horses or carriages could move, and it became crowded to excess in a moment. Whilst the infantry, dashing into the forest, thought to conceal themselves among its mazes, the cavalry, of which a few squadrons had been drawn up upon their right, scampered off by the main road; and was immediately followed by guns, tumbrils, ammunition waggons, and the whole materiel of the army. To arrest the progress of all, or some ----- part of that force, became now our great object. " Hurrah for the guns! " was a word of command first uttered by Colonel Brooke; it was repeated, with loud laughter and tumultuous out-cries, from one rank to another; and desperate and unintermitting were the efforts which we made to overtake and cut off such as were hindmost. But unhappily the absence of even the mounted troopers told sorely against us to-day. The truth of it is, the American ordnance, drawn by fleet horses, readily escaped. And out of the whole party, only two guns, and one tumbril alone, fell into our hands. Of prisoners, however, we were fortunate enough to secure a few. The fourth regiment, which had made a detour for the purpose of turning the enemy's left, though it arrived not in time to take much share in the action, succeeded in cutting off about half of a battalion from the high road; and this body, driven back upon its pursuers, saved itself from annihilation by laying down its arms.

Thus ended the affair of the 12th of September, after

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about an hour and a half of pretty severe fighting. On our part, the loss sustained could not exceed two hundred men in all; on the part of the Americans, at least double that number had fallen. The dead, indeed, lay in clusters far more frequent, and far more numerous, than anywhere I at least discovered on the field of Bladensburg; and as the proportion between the killed and wounded in any army is usually as five to one, it was easy to collect that the whole amount of persons rendered hors-de-combat, must have been very considerable. Yet there was not amongst us one man who did not feel that the victory had been purchased at a terrible price,--- it had cost the life of our general, and in so doing, had crippled all our resources.

The day being now considerably advanced, and the troops somewhat fatigued by their exertions, our new leader determined to halt for that night on the field which he had won. With this view, the bugles were directed to sound the recall; whilst the Quarter-Master General proceeded to fix upon a proper spot for the bivouac, and to station the out-posts. Nor were the medical attendants of the army unmindful of their charge. There chanced to be, in the line of the late operations, two houses of some size; these were of course occupied and the smaller and more incommodious being selected as head-quarters, the larger and better was devoted to the accommodation of the wounded. Thither, all who had not been already dressed upon the field, and sent back to the boats, were conveyed; nor was the smallest distinction made between the Americans and the English.

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To say the truth, however, they were but indifferently provided for. The owners having removed every piece of furniture out of the house, the poor soldiers could only be huddled together on the floors of the different apartments; and as our medical officers were few in number, the delay in paying attention to their wounds was in some cases very great. Yet few, either of the English or the Americans complained. A groan or a shriek would, indeed, occasionally strike upon the ear of the by-stander; and even a querulous exclamation, as the moving of another's leg or arm happened to bring it into contact with some unfortunate man's broken limb. But there were no murmurs; no whinings because one or other was not immediately looked to. On the contrary, the instances were not rare in which one wounded man would entreat the surgeon to pass him by for the present, that the wound of another more seriously hurt might be dressed in the first place. It is a great mistake to imagine that war renders men necessarily selfish. In such campaigns as that of the French in Russia, where suffering may be said to have reached its height, the better feelings of human nature become, without doubt, entirely blunted; but in ordinary cases, the inquirer will find as much of real generosity and noble-mindedness among soldiers in the field, as among any class of human society.

The troops being checked, not without some difficulty, in the midst of their ardour, the different regiments collected round their colors, and formed into close column. Fires were then, as usual, lighted; and there, but a short space removed from the bodies of the slain, we prepared to pass the night.

(G. R. Gleig.)

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As there still remained some hours of daylight, my friend and myself having partaken of such slight provision as our commissary could furnish, amused ourselves by wandering over the scene of the last contest, and examining, at our leisure, both the nature of the ground occupied by the Americans, and the dispositions made to dislodge them. We found the enemy's position not, indeed, so commanding, in many respects, as that which they had occupied above Bladensburg, but sufficiently so, in all conscience, to have enabled troops better disciplined, and more habituated to danger, to keep their ground for many hours, even against superior numbers. The left of the line, in particular, struck us as being more strongly posted than frequently falls to the lot of small armies. Not only was the lake which covered it perfectly unforable, but its banks, steep, precipitous, and woody, furnished the very best species of cover for light troops, by the use of which, an hundred resolute men might have checked the approach of a whole army for half a day. On the right, again, all attempts at turning were rendered hopeless by the intervention of the head of a creek which in this direction stretched considerably inland; whilst a close and tangled thicket, intersected here and there by narrow pathways, absolutely invited the American General to push forward a corps, which, making a circuit, might have fallen upon the rear of our army at any moment most convenient for themselves, and most injurious to us. Besides all which, the troops themselves stood at the summit of a gentle slope, and in the heart of a belt of oaks, regular as a row of palisades; whilst the houses, now converted by us to the uses detailed above, were, from their situation, admirably adapted

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to cover the reformation of almost any part of the line which might by accident have been broken. But all these advantages were of no avail. There was wanting that, without which any other superiority will be found useless, a confidence in the troops themselves, which nothing, except repeated successes, and a long acquaintance with warfare, bestows.

In passing from one extremity of the field to another, it unavoidably happened, that ~~on~~ more than one occasion we were compelled to pick our steps among the dead; and it was then that the great disparity between the loss sustained by us and that on the side of the enemy struck us. On the main road, indeed, the number of British bodies was considerable; the seamen and 21st regiment, which occupied that post, ~~had~~ been exposed to a sweeping fire of artillery, and had suffered; but in other directions, for one body clothed in a scarlet uniform, five corpses of slaughtered republicans might be counted. Nor did it appear to us as being the least remarkable feature in the case that not one of all the slain was stripped. They had lain already some hours exposed, yet such was the paucity of our camp-followers, or their unskilfulness in their vocation, that they still lay as they had fallen.

Having in this manner gratified our curiosity, we returned to the spot which we had previously selected as a convenient one for passing the night. It was a bare green mound, apart from the rest of the army, and sheltered by the branches of three spreading trees which surmounted it. There we found our fire brightly blazing, a little straw got together, and a supper of boiled goose and greens ready to be served up. The reader will easily believe that we addressed

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ourselves to the last with a satisfaction by no means the less lively, that we had not anticipated anything of the kind. Our servants, it appeared, intent, as all good servants ought to be, upon their masters' comfort, had instituted a search in every direction after viands; and, in a shed near the hospital, had discovered a flock of some sixteen or eighteen geese. Of these they took care to secure a couple before any other individual was let into the secret; but the birds soon betrayed themselves---their cackling was overheard by the surgeons' attendants, and in five minutes after they all paid the debt of nature. Into the fate of the birds, however, we cared not to inquire; we were pleased with our own share; and having proved this in the most satisfactory of all manners, we drank our grog and lay down. In ten minutes after we were both fast asleep.

For the first half of the night, our repose continued to be as sound and unbroken as we could possibly desire. The air was serene and mild; and the intervention of the boughs overhead, screened us pretty successfully from the dews; but towards midnight we were awakened by a visitation, to guard against which, even the dense foliage of our bower proved wholly insufficient. The rain fell in torrents. There was no thunder, it is true; but the fountains of the great deep seemed for the second time to be broken up, so tremendous was the rush of water upon our lairs. We rose, as may be imagined, not in the best humor possible; yet we soon found out that to repine would be useless, so drawing our cloaks more closely around us, we crept a little nearer to the fire, and sat for half an hour listening to the storm. By and by, however, drowsiness began again to exert its

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influence. The water fell as profusely as ever; our garments were not proof against it; we were thoroughly saturated, but even in that state sleep was precious. We heaped on an additional quantity of fuel, and laying ourselves as close to the blaze as a regard to our personal safety would allow, we were very soon as ignorant of passing events, as we had been before the storm ~~awoke~~ us.

If any judgement may be formed from the condition of our persons when the orderly sergeant roused us, the rain must have continued to fall, without any intermission, from midnight up to the moment of the general muster. For myself, I can only aver, that I got up, absolutely heavy with the load of moisture which hung about me. To say that I was wet to the skin, would be to convey a very feeble picture of my predicament. My very skin was perforated,--- I was wet to the bones and marrow. Yet I rose in the highest possible spirits and took post beside my men, every one of whom was as completely drenched as I, and I firmly believe, as ^{merry}~~many~~ and light-hearted.

We stood in column upon the ground of our encampment, till day-light began to appear; after which we moved down and took our stations on the high road at the head of the column. There we found the other corps and brigades assembling; and I perfectly recollect, to this moment, the degree of mirth which was excited among the soldiers when our gallant allies, the blue-jackets, proceeded to take up their ground. Even the unmilitary reader will probably understand that when a column forms, the different companies of the

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battalion or brigade draw up, as nearly as may be, at regular distances from each other. No men ever set this technical arrangement so completely at defiance, as the sailors. To them it appeared to be a matter of the most perfect indifference how or where they stood; whilst their garrulity exceeded all conceivable bounds, and their laughter made the very woods ring. Jack is certainly not in his element, when brought to act with a regular land force. In storming a battery, or making a sudden dash for any purpose, he is, perhaps, the most efficient animal you could employ; but in a series of operations, where patience no less than courage, and regularity no less than daring, are required, he is certainly not the being whom we would select as most efficient. He had done his duty, however, in the affair of yesterday, and done it nobly; and **if** we did smile a little at his ignorance of tactics, there was not, in the feeling which produced it, the most remote assimilation to disrespect or the most distant disposition to deny to him the full meed of praise which his gallantry had already merited, and, we were aware, would merit again.

I know not whence it came about, but the company to which I was attached, had again the good fortune to be employed as a flank patrol. The column having formed in marching order, we, who stood at its head, were ordered to cast off our blankets, and dash into the woods; and we had hardly done so when a bugle from the rear, sounding the advance, warned us to go on. We delayed not one moment in obeying the signal. The rain had ceased, but the branches of the trees, the underwood, and long grass, were all loaded with water. These, however, were circumstances which we never dreamed of taking into consideration---we pushed on. Wet enough we were already---every step

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that we took made us more so; for the grass reaching to our middles, had all the influence of a mire equally deep; yet we contrived to keep our arms dry, and doing that, we cared for little besides. A brush of a few minutes put our blood in rapid circulation; no leisure was granted in which it could again become stagnant; and it was speedily apparent enough that our minds would receive to the full as much employment in this excursion as our bodies. We had not proceeded a quarter of a mile before we fell in with about twenty armed men. They were stragglers from yesterday's battle, and submitted immediately; but they informed us that the whole of the wood was filled with riflemen; and that our progress, if we made any progress at all, would be effected by dint of hard fighting.

It will be readily imagined, that, with such a prospect before us, we pushed on eagerly and rapidly, but with extreme caution. The face of the country was even more wild than any which, on the present excursion at least, we had yet passed. The high road wound for many miles through the ~~mountain~~ centre of a dark forest; and the course of the flankers was rarely indeed diversified with any ^{other} prospect, besides that of an apparently interminable wilderness of trees. At last, however, a few open and cultivated spots burst upon us. Sweeping along, at the distance of not less than a quarter of a mile from the column, the section which I commanded arrived suddenly at a hamlet, completely embosomed in the woods, and to all appearance cut off from intercourse with every other part of the world. It consisted, as far as my memory may be trusted, of five houses, each of which stood about a stone's throw apart from the rest, and was surrounded by a little

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enclosure, in the highest state of cultivation, and even of beauty. But the circumstance which delighted us most of all, was to find that not one cottage out of the whole cluster was deserted by its inhabitants. There they were, males and females, young men and maidens, old men and children; and they scrupled not to assure us that our own proclamations had kept them there, because they believed the British soldiers were incapable of violating their promises. I need scarcely add, that both their persons and property were treated with the same respect as would have been shown to the persons and property of the inhabitants of an English village. The milk, bread, cheese, and whiskey, which they were good enough to offer, we, of course, made no scruple to accept; but ^{not} one among them had occasion to complain of a solitary act of violence committed. Our stay ^{among} ~~among~~ them, indeed, exceeded not five minutes; and we left them as we found them.

We had quitted the village about a quarter of an hour, when pushing my way through the middle of a copse more than ordinarily close, I suddenly found myself opposite to two American soldiers. I was alone; that is to say, my men, though following the same track, had diverged to the right and left of this thicket, whilst I forced myself, with some difficulty, through its centre. Whether I felt in any degree alarmed by the vision, is a problem which, at this distance of time, I cannot undertake to solve; all that I remember is, that, holding a cocked pistol in my hand, I ran towards them, and commanded them, on pain of death, to surrender. When I first caught sight of them, the one was lying at length upon the grass,---the other, in a kneeling position,

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was hanging over him; but the latter, as soon as he observed my approach, sprung upon his feet, and levelling a short rifle at me, demanded a parley. I could not, under such circumstances, grant his request; but rushing forward, knocked up the muzzle of the piece, which he, not through any deficiency in courage, clearly enough, but from motives of proper prudence, abstained from discharging; and then required that both he and his companion, who still remained motionless, should regard themselves as prisoners of war. The reader will guess my surprise when I beheld the individual to whom I was addressing myself, burst into tears. "Do with me", said he, "what you will; my life is of little value, you may take it now if you choose; but I beseech you, by all the ties of kindred, if such you acknowledge, have mercy upon my father. He was wounded in the battle of yesterday; I bore him so far on my back, but my strength failed me, and I could bear him no ~~farther~~ farther." I was much affected by this appeal; and stooping down, looked anxiously to ascertain in what plight the wounded man lay. He was perfectly motionless. Not a muscle quivered,--- not a breath heaved his chest; he was dead; and the state of his skin, which was warm and clammy, indicated, that life must have gone out only a few minutes ago. "My poor fellow," I said, "your piety has, I fear, been of little avail; but God forbid that I should do injury either to a father or a son under such circumstances. There is but one duty now which you can perform; go and perform it." So saying, I dashed on, leaving the youth, (for a mere youth he was,) at perfect liberty to do with the corpse of his parent what he chose.

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I have no recollection that any other adventure worthy of record befell us during the remainder of our march. We passed, indeed, one or two houses in addition to those already mentioned, and it may be observed, that they were all inhabited by German emigrants; but nothing occurred, either there or elsewhere, calculated to excite an interest at the time, or to make an impression upon the memory. Towards four or five o'clock in the afternoon, however, the face of affairs underwent a change. We then began to perceive, by a thousand palpable signs, that we were drawing near to the outskirts of a large city; at all events, that we were approaching a more populous district than any which we had passed. The woods suddenly ceasing, we found ourselves in the midst of open corn fields, and well cleared meadows; hedgerows and long lines of paling impeded our progress; and farm-houses, with their barns, steadings, stack-yards, and other offices, met us at almost every step. There was no room for doubt as to the cause of this change in the aspect of external nature; Baltimore could not be far off,--- indeed we had not proceeded above half a mile through this district, when our guides, pointing to a range of hills immediately in our front, informed us, that behind them lay the city devoted by us to destruction. A moment's survey of these hills served, however, to convince us that something more than a mere continuance of our march would be required to make the prize our own. The heights in question were occupied by an army of Americans; and such were their numbers, as well as the formidable nature of the preparations which

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they had made for our reception, that the least skilful amongst us became instantly aware, that some hard fighting, as well as judicious management, must be displayed, before we could hope to force this position.

Few of my readers can be ignorant that Baltimore, a city containing about forty thousand inhabitants, stands upon both banks of the Patapsco, about twenty miles from the point where that river falls into the Chesapeake. On the right bank of the stream, that by which we now approached, it is girdled by a range of hills, which, beginning at the edge of the water, sweeps round almost in a circle about the town. To such, therefore, as advance upon it in this direction, it is accordingly quite invisible, till they gain the summit of the heights; and as we were not permitted to attain that eminence, it continued to us invisible to the last. Under such circumstances it is of course impossible for me to attempt any description of its streets, squares, or public buildings; all of which are, I doubt not, worthy of the most minute delineation which the pen of a finished traveller could draw out; but I can say something of the defences, by means of which this greatest of all the ports of the Chesapeake was protected; and as an account of these may prove not uninteresting to my readers, I propose to give it.

The approach to Baltimore by water is defended by two forts, one on each side of the river. The fort on the right bank, which mounts some twenty guns, formed, on the present occasion, the extreme left of the enemy's position, which extended along the face of

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the hills, directly across the road, and ended at a redoubt, thrown up for the purpose, just where the hills bend back upon the town. In the centre, between these two covering redoubts, batteries, breast-works, fleches, and traverses were thrown up; where time had not been ----- granted for this, deep ditches were dug--- and stakes and palisadoes completed the entrenchments, ^{which} ~~which~~ mud-banks and parapets had begun. In the range of these works were mounted one hundred and twenty pieces of ordnance, many of them twenty-four and thirty-two pounders, and all were manned by the choicest seamen from the fleet. To support this powerful artillery, some twenty thousand infantry were under arms; and of these ^{as} the greater numbers were, as might be expected, militiamen; but /far as we could learn, there were full five thousand troops of the line who had been called in, but had arrived too late for the defence of the capital. Of cavalry, I never happened to hear what force was before us. without doubt, the squadrons which showed themselves at Bladensburg were here, and perhaps they were reinforced by some local troops; but I will not venture a conjecture as to their number, because I possess no ground upon which to frame it. I do not think, however, that I shall err greatly from the truth, if I conclude that two-and-twenty thousand men, with upwards of a hundred heavy cannon, now stood in a position naturally strong, and rendered doubly so by entrenchments, to oppose the efforts of five thousand infantry, with eight pieces of light artillery. The odds were unquestionably tremendous; yet ~~sure~~ I am that I speak the sentiments of the whole army when I ~~aver~~ that the order to halt and take up ground for the night, which was issued almost as soon as the enemy

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became visible, was received with one feeling, and one feeling only, that of bitter, **L** had almost said indignant regret.

The march of the column this day had been more deliberate than usual. The enemy, by felling trees across the road at various points, had contrived to render the progress of the artillery somewhat difficult; and hence, though we began our journey as early as seven o'clock in the morning, it was found, at five in the afternoon, that little more than ten or twelve miles ^{had} been compassed. To us, however, who had forced our way through brake and brier, diverging, in a multitude of instances, from the straight direction, the march appeared sufficiently long; and seeing that we were not about to be led into action, no man regretted the order which consigned him to repose. But in the rest which was granted to our comrades, Charlton and I took no part. It again fell to our lot to be put in charge of a picquet; and hence we had no sooner rejoined the main body with our followers, than we were directed to move off towards the right where our station for the night was assigned us.

(G. R. Gleig.)

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We had hardly taken possession of the post allotted to us, when the rain, which during the whole of the day had ceased, began again to fall with renewed violence; it unfortunately happened, too, that there was nothing within our reach which we could oppose to it. Our station was at the edge of a belt of oaks that cut off one portion of a large field from ~~them~~ another, and our advanced sentinels were planted about half-musket-shot in front of us. But the branches of the trees were not sufficiently close to afford the slightest shelter ~~not~~ was there a hovel or shed of any kind, under which we could retire. To add to our miseries, both the officers' cloaks and the men's blankets, having been kept behind, we were denied the means of keeping ourselves ordinarily warm; whilst it was not without much difficulty that we succeeded in getting a fire to blaze. The wood within our reach was all green, the rain of last night had completely soaked it and it more than once occurred that the sheets of water which poured down from the clouds, extinguished in a moment the spark which we had wasted a full quarter of an hour in coaxing into life. At last, however, our patience received its reward, and a couple of fires, roaring and crackling beneath the green wood, had the double effect of increasing our bodily ease, and elevating our spirits.

About a couple of hundred yards ~~in~~ front of our videttes, stood a mansion of considerable size, and genteel exterior, upon which we cast many a longing look, without venturing for some time to approach it. That a place so neat in all its arrangements, and so well supplied with out-houses of every description, could be wholly devoid of the necessaries and comforts of life, was a matter which we were

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very unwilling to believe. Without doubt, the pens that stood at its western gable contained their due quantity of pigs,--- the hen-roosts could not be all tenantless,--- and the flights of pigeons, which went and came, gave decisive proof that the dovecot had not been built for purposes of empty show. Neither was it probable that the larder would be absolutely cleared out, or the cellars totally empty. Our very mouths watered as these reflections occurred to us; and at last it was determined that, at all hazards, the mansion in question should be examined.

The charge of conducting the search fell, as it was proper that it should fall, upon me, as the junior; and I set off, attended by four men, to effect it. Being assured by the sentries that no Americans had shown themselves there since they assumed their posts, we pushed on without much apprehension, and our satisfaction was far from being slight when we found that the house was empty. But the satisfaction arising from that source, suffered a very considerable diminution when, on proceeding to look round for the viands, in quest of which we had come, nothing of the kind could be found. There was not a pig, fowl, or other living creature about the place. The pigeons alone, of all the stock upon the farm, remained, and they were a great deal to wary not to baffle every effort which was made to surprise them. Disappointed and chagrined at an event so little anticipated, we were preparing to quit the inhospitable domicile, when a whole crowd of stragglers, artillerymen, sappers, sailors, and soldiers of the line, rushed into the hall. In a moment the walls of the building re-echoed with oaths and exclamations, and tables, chairs,

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windows, and even doors, were dashed to pieces, in revenge for the absence of food. By and by, however, a shout of joy was heard. Like those about us, we ran in the direction of the sound, and beheld, through a chasm in a brick wall under ground, the interior of a wine cellar, set round in magnificent array, with bottles of all shapes and dimensions. The wily Yankee to whom this house belonged, unable or unwilling to remove his wine, had adopted the common precaution of blocking up the entrance to his vaults with brick-work. But the absence of all uniformity between the old and the new masonry failed not to strike one of our soldiers who passed by it; and applying the but-end of his musket to the portion which seemed to have been last thrown up, he easily forced a few bricks out of their places. An exclamation indicative of the highest degree of pleasure, instantly gave notice that some great discovery had been effected; it drew the whole of us to the spot, and in five minutes, the cellar was crowded with men, filling, in the first place, their own haversacks and bosoms, and then handing out bottles, with the utmost liberality, to their comrades. In less than a quarter of an hour, not a single pint, either of wine or spirits, remained out of all this magnificent stock.

Well pleased with the issue of our undertaking, we retreated our steps to the picquet, where we were received with the cordiality which our burden was calculated to produce. There the spirits were equally divided, and the men receiving their due proportion, there fell to the share of Charlton and myself a flask of exquisite cognac, with two magnums of superior Bourdeaux. With the help of these, we

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ventrived to make a very comfortable meal upon salt pork and biscuit, which alone remained to us, and then lighting our pipes, we sat down by the side of the fire, in a state of excessive moisture, it is true, but still of considerable enjoyment.

By this time darkness began rapidly to set in, and the scene acquired every moment more and more of interest and sublimity. The rain still fell, though not with so much violence as it had fallen a little while ago; whilst the wind rising by fits and starts, waved over the flat, and whistled through the wood in violent gusts. The clouds rushed before it, and totally obscured from time to time, a young moon, which seemed to struggle against their supremacy, and then dividing into their gray fleeces, suffered her for a moment to smile out upon the storm. But it was not in the operation of nature alone that we found much to admire. Our outposts, extending in a sort of curve, permitted us, who occupied one of the extreme flanks, to look at once upon the fires, both of the British and American armies, and the effect of these, in a dark and tempestuous night like the present, was in the highest degree striking. Our troops lay all along the plain; in part among the wood which skirted the open country, in part upon the open country itself; and their order, probably through motives of policy, was as loose and scattered as a due regard to safety would permit. The consequence was, that their fires stretched out in a single line, presented an appearance far more imposing, than if they had been confined, as usual, to one or two spots. On the part of the Americans again there was no need for any artificial extension. Their fires ran along the whole face of the hill. Like our own, they were arranged in a

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sort of semicircle, only the horns of their crescent, instead of advancing, fell back, on both sides from the centre. It was impossible not to feel the contrast, which the dense arrangement of their bivouac presented, to the scattered and somewhat irregular disposition of ours. That they surpassed us in numbers, at least three-fold, we had all along been aware; the very nature and extent of their works were, of themselves, sufficient to prove this; but I am not sure that the knowledge of that superiority produced its full effect, till after the establishment of the two camps for the night had brought it completely home to us. Yet there was not a man amongst us who entertained a doubt as to the issue of the battle, let it begin when it might. We despised the Yankees from our hearts, and only longed for an opportunity to show them how easily they could be beaten.

Not was this eager desire to engage the mere offspring of an impetuosity, which British soldiers always experience when in the presence of the enemy. It had been explained to us that as soon as a communication could be opened between the army and the fleet, of which all the bombs, and many of the lighter frigates, were in the river, and attack upon the American lines would be made. This was to begin with a heavy fire on the right, for the purpose of drawing to that part the principal share of Jonathan's attack; after which, the 85th regiment, and the seamen, supported by the 4th and 44th, were to penetrate the left silently, and with the bayonet. Having overcome all opposition, the column was to wheel up upon the summit of the ridge, to remain stationary till dawn; and then taking the whole of the works *in flank*, to carry them one by one in detail. But everything, it was understood, must depend upon the

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ability of the fleet to co-operate. There was, upon the extreme right of the American position, a strong post, well supplied with heavy ordnance. To pass it by unheeded, would be, our leaders conceived, to expose the attacking column, even though it should succeed in the dark, to certain destruction, as ~~mmmm~~ soon as daylight enabled the artillery to play; whilst to attempt it by escalade, was esteemed a project too hazardous. To the fleet it was accordingly left, which, by bombardment, would, it was presumed, reduce it to ruins in a few hours; and the commencement of a serious cannonade from the river, was to be the signal for a general movement in line.

Thus instructed, the reader will easily believe, that as hour after hour stole on, we turned our gaze, with feverish anxiety, towards the river. All, however, continued as it had been before. No flash told that the shipping had taken their stations; the noise of firing was unheard, and the most serious apprehensions began to be entertained, that the plan had, for some cause or another, miscarried. At last, when midnight was close at hand, a solitary report, accompanied by the ascension of a small bright spark in the sky, gave notice that the bombardment had begun. Another and another followed in quick succession; and now every man instinctively sprung from the earth, and grasped his arms. The point to be passed was, we well knew, in our immediate front. We were aware, that in forcing it, our detachment would take the lead; and we listened, in breathless attention, for the coming up of the column which had been appointed to support us. Our ears, too, were on the stretch for the musketry which ought soon to be heard in the opposite direction; in a word, we stood in our ranks for a full hour, under the influence

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of that state of excitation, which, while it locks up the faculty of speech, renders the senses, both of sight and hearing, acute to an almost unnatural degree.

Such was our situation, both of body and mind, from midnight, when the ships began to open their fire, up to the hour of two. That all things went not prosperously, was manifest enough. The precious time, at least, was escaping us; and for that loss we all felt that nothing could make amends; but we were far from anticipating the total change of resolution which ~~had~~ occurred, and of which we were so soon to receive proofs the most decisive. At last, when murmurs, "not loud but deep," began to pass from man to man, an aid-de-camp arrived, and our sentries were ordered to be called in. This being effected, we proceeded, under his guidance, towards the left; till, being arrived at the high road, we found the whole army in marching order, and, to our inexpressible astonishment, preparing to withdraw. The column was formed, as soldiers express themselves, left in front; and the men's faces were then towards the shipping.

It is impossible for me to convey any idea of the disappointment, or rather humiliation, experienced and expressed by ~~many~~ persons of all ranks, when it became apparent that a retreat was determined upon. It was no consolation to us to be told that the frigates had been unable to force their way within cannon-shot of the enemy's works, and that even the bombardment of which we had been spectators, proved all but harmless to those against whom it was directed. We could not believe that our success depended, in any essential degree, upon the operations of the navy. What were the

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American entrenchments to us? In the first place, the most unpractised eye could not fail to perceive, that of the fieldworks begun, not one had arrived at completion; and the most ignorant in the art of war is aware, that in works only half defensible troops repose very little confidence. In the next place, no truth can be more apparent than that in all night-operations, a compact body of veterans, well-disciplined and orderly, are at all times an overmatch for whole crowds of raw levies. Perhaps our leaders acted prudently in deferring the moment of attack till after nightfall. By doing so, they at all events rendered the enemy's superiority in artillery of no avail; but why the plan of a night-attack should be given up because a single redoubt escaped cannonading from the river we could not devine. Our business, however, was a simple one; we had only to obey; not, indeed, with the same satisfaction which would have marked our obedience of other orders, but promptly, and in good spirits.

It fell to the lot of the companies which had furnished the picquets, to perform, on the present occasion, the office of a rear-guard. Among these our company took its station; and as we were commanded not to move till daylight began to break, we no sooner saw the column fairly set out, than we gathered round a large fire by the road-side and sat down. There still remained in our flask some portion of the cogniac, a few crumbs of biscuit lay about the recesses of our wallets; and upon them, early as it was, we proceeded to make our rude meal, lest an opportunity of doing so should not occur again.

At last a few faint streaks of dawn showing themselves in the eastern sky, our sentries were called in, our men took their stations, and the retreat began. To guard against surprisal, two

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files, each at the distance of thirty or forty paces from each other, were commanded to move about fifty or sixty yards in the rear of the company. Six other files, three on each side of the way, swept the woods as a sort of flank patrol; whilst the body of the company, amounting to exactly twenty-four men, proceeded in column. Of the rest of the army we saw nothing; it had set out a full hour and a half before us; although it necessarily moved more ~~more~~ slowly than us, we could hardly expect to overtake it till it should halt. But so little were we apprehensive of pursuit, that the idea of being cut off never once occurred to us; and hence we were not altogether so careful in providing against such an accident as we ought to have been. We were, however, taught, before the day's journey came to a close, that things do occasionally happen which have not been anticipated.

The storm of wind and rain having died away, our march became, before long, exceedingly agreeable. Of the country through which we now travelled, none of us during the advance had seen anything; the scenery accordingly possessed all the attractions which novelty bestows. The road, too, though sandy, was a good one, and the late moisture rendered it better than it had been before, by hardening it; whilst the trees, bending over from both sides, afforded an agreeable shelter from the sun's rays, which soon began to beat upon us somewhat powerfully. With all these pleasant circumstances about us, it was but natural that we should trudge on in excellent humour. But the carelessness to which, as our distance from the enemy's lines increased, we began to give way, suddenly received its chastisement, and our attention was drawn from lighter topics to the important business of our duty.

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It might be noon, or a little past it, and we were approaching the scene of the action of the 12th, when a shout from the files in the rear, followed by the discharge of a couple of muskets, attracted our attention. We halted instantly, and looked back; but no time was allowed for any regular formation, ere a troop of some twenty or thirty horsemen dashed round an angle of the road, and sword in hand, galloped towards us. "To the right and left", was the only word of command that we could give; the men understood it; and springing, some to the right, and others to the left of the way, they threw themselves into the wood, where the cavalry could not reach them. Then was a fire opened which in a trice brought men and horses to the ground. The cavalry paused; one or two attempted, with great bravery, to force their horses into the thickets, and two of our people, who chanced to be more exposed than their companions were sabred. But the alarm having spread to the main body, now not far ahead of us, a howitzer and a field-gun came at full speed to our assistance. The Americans did not wait for the guns to open. Instantly that they appeared every man turned his head; and as they rode for life and death our gunners had only an opportunity of firing two shots.

Ignorant, as we necessarily were, whether the corps which had just charged, formed part of the advanced guard of the whole American army, or was a mere patrol, sent to track our steps and ascertain our plans, we broke not at once into marching-order as soon as it had disappeared. On the contrary, the whole force drew up in two lines; the artillery took its station, and every arrangement was made for fighting a general action on the spot. But nothing farther being seen or heard of, all hope of bringing matters to that desirable issue was

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laid aside, and the brigades, one by one, took the road, as they had done before. A recognisance was, indeed, instituted; that is to say, the rear-guard, supported by two pieces of cannon, and four additional companies of infantry, retraced its steps about a mile, for the purpose of ascertaining with accuracy how matters stood; but they meeting with nothing to excite their interest, they turned back, and followed their comrades unmolested.

The rest of our journey was performed without the occurrence of any remarkable incident. We passed, as we were necessitated to pass, our yesterday's position, where men and officers recovered the cloaks and blankets which had been left behind; and we saw the dead lying as they lay on the evening of the action, still unburied. Many had, however, undergone the process of stripping, though by whom it was impossible for us to guess; and all were beginning to emit an odour the reverse of acceptable to delicate organs; but we could not pause to give them sepulture; and both the sight and smell were too familiar to affect us very deeply. We pushed on, and arriving about four o'clock in the afternoon at a convenient piece of ground, a halt was ordered. There all the customary arrangements of lighting fires, piling arms, and planting outposts, were gone through; and here, under the shelter of gipsy-tents, composed of blankets and the ramrods of muskets, we passed the night.

It is not necessary that I should continue the detail of our subsequent operations very minutely. Enough is done when I state, that on the following morning, as soon as broad daylight came in, the retreat was resumed and that we arrived about nine o'clock A. M., at a position which promised to furnish every facility for a safe re-

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Re-embarkation.

embarkation. The boats were already on the beach in great numbers; a couple of gun-brigs were moored, as before, within cable's length of the shore; and the sailors, in crowds, were waiting to receive us, and to convey us to our respective vessels. No hearty cheering, however, gave notice this time of the satisfaction of these brave fellows with the results of the expedition. On the contrary, a solemn silence prevailed among them; and even the congratulations, on the safe return of their individual acquaintances, were accompanied by an expression of deep sorrow for the loss of General Ross, and the profitless issue of the inroad. In this humour, they conducted us, regiment by regiment to the boats; and the evening was ^{as} yet very little advanced, when the whole army, with all its material and stores, found itself again lodged on board of ship.