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Edited by John Gurwood

Excerpt

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THE
OFFICIAL AND OTHER DISPATCHES
OF
FIELD MARSHAL THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

THE PENINSULA.

To Brig. Gen. R. Craufurd.

Viseu, 4th April, 1810.

I received last night your letter of the 1st, which ought to have reached me on the evening of the 2d.

The enemy's corps south of the Tagus have occupied Caceres, and extended themselves along the Salor in front of Hill's corps. I suspect that they have occupied this position only because Caceres is the part of Estremadura which has been least exhausted since the last harvest, and that they can find subsistence there; and they are in tolerable security, as it is not easy to attack them. It must be observed, however, that this is the position which they would take with the corps in Estremadura, if they intended to undertake any operation on this side, and were desirous of

G. O.

Viseu, 4th April, 1810.

2. The Commander of the Forces requests that the attention of the troops may be drawn to this additional example of the consequences of the bad conduct of the soldiers; the soldiers must see that it is impossible for them to commit these outrages without being discovered, and that conviction and punishment are the certain consequences of their crimes: indeed it has rarely happened that one of those who have conspired to commit these crimes (for they are all the result of conspiracy) has not offered himself as an evidence to convict the other criminals. The Commander of the Forces is obliged to observe that these crimes could not be so frequently committed, these conspiracies could not be formed, a robbery of the description of that for which these prisoners are now ordered for execution could not have been known to the soldiers of almost the whole company, if the non-commissioned officers did their duty, and remained at all times among the soldiers.

His Excellency also observes that the non-commissioned officers can do their duty, and can maintain the authority of their situation, only by having the support of the officers belonging to their company given to them upon all occasions, by constantly visiting the soldiers' quarters, and by invariable attendance upon the parade, from the moment the soldiers are under arms. The Commander of the Forces draws the attention of the General and superior officers of the army, and of all the other officers, to his Orders of the 29th May, 1809 (*see* vol. iii. p. 258), to which he desires a strict attention may be paid in future: it is impossible that the time of the officers of the army can be employed to so much advantage to the service, or with so much satisfaction to themselves, whilst the troops are in cantonments, as in giving their attention to support the authority of the non-commissioned officers, to instil into them a just sense of their situation and of their duties, and thus to prevent these conspiracies and crimes, of which the Commander of the Forces finds himself under the necessity of making such frequent examples.

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preventing us from availing ourselves of the assistance of Hill's corps. However, I believe that they have very little communication between one of their corps and the others, less intelligence of our strength and situation, and no combination.

The Austrian marriage is a terrible event, and must prevent any great movement on the Continent for the present. Still, I do not despair of seeing at some time or other a check to the Buonaparte system. Recent transactions in Holland show that it is all hollow within, and that it is so inconsistent with the wishes, the interests, and the existence of civilised society, that he cannot trust even his brothers to carry it into execution. If the Spaniards had acted with common prudence, we should be in a very different situation in the Peninsula, but I fear there are now no hopes.

The government are terribly weak, and I think it probable will be beaten upon the Walcheren question. It is impossible to say what will be the consequence. I think the King may be able to form a government without having recourse to Lord Grenville; but there will be no strength in that government, and the members will have no satisfaction in conducting public affairs.

As Gen. Cox sends information to the Portuguese government, as well as to me, I beg you to send him Ruman's letters, and any others that may go through your hands addressed to him or to me. I write to him not to delay the departure of the dragoon with your communication.

To Brig. Gen. R. Craufurd.

Viseu, 5th April, 1810.

I informed you yesterday of the position the French had taken up on the Salor; I have now to inform you that they quitted it again on the 31st. These people are in motion perpetually! They marched towards Merida, probably because the Marques de la Romana had taken the position in the Conventual at Merida, which I recommended to him to seize, by which the communication between the French corps in Lower Estremadura was cut off with the corps on the other side of the Guadiana.

To Col. Peacocke.

Viseu, 5th April, 1810.

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 2d April, and I am much obliged to you for the report which it contains. I beg that the 3d batt. of the Royals, the 1st batt. of the 9th, and 2d batt. of the 38th

G. O.

Viseu, 5th April, 1810.

The Commander of the Forces calls the attention of the officers of the army to the G. O. 4th May, Nos. 5 and 6, and of the 7th Oct., Nos. 8, 9, 10, and 11, also of the 8th Dec., No. 5; their inattention to these Orders is the greatest inconvenience to the service, increases the detail of business in the public departments, renders necessary references to themselves and to the Commander of the Forces, on every article which they receive from the magistrates of the country upon irregular vouchers: the whole of this might be avoided, if the officers would attend to the Orders which have been issued upon this subject.

Irregular receipts and vouchers given by [*the following officers*] are now before the Commander of the Forces.

It will give the Commander of the Forces much concern to be under the necessity of requiring officers who give irregular vouchers to the magistrates of the country, to pay for the articles which they have received; but the frequent occurrence of inattention to these Orders which can be obeyed with so much facility, and the extent of the business which so much inattention throws upon all the departments, will render this measure necessary.

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regts., may be equipped in the usual manner, and prepared to march when orders shall be dispatched from head quarters for that purpose.

These corps are in the mean time to be quartered either in barracks or in convents, or encamped in the most healthy situations in the town or the neighbourhood of Lisbon; and the commanding and other officers of regiments must adopt all means to prevent irregularities, which will only tend to augment the number of sick, and aggravate the disorders of those already sick, or in a state of convalescence.

Great care must be taken to prevent the ophthalmia from spreading, from which disorder the army in Portugal has hitherto been quite free.

It is impossible for me to allow any men to join the army without arms and accoutrements. It is very proper that the officers commanding regiments should fix upon those men to be officers' servants and bāt men who are least capable of bearing the ordinary fatigues of the service; but they must all have their arms, and all obey the standing orders of the army upon this subject. After all, I believe it will be found, that if attention be paid by the officers to the food of the soldiers; if they prevented them from straggling from their corps on a march, or from their quarters or camp, in search of wine or plunder after the march is made; and if the soldiers are regularly organised and told off into the several parties to be sent for those articles of food, fuel, &c., which they require; and that the officers superintend the execution of these duties, it will be found that but few soldiers are so young, and still fewer so old and infirm, that they cannot make those marches and perform those duties which the service requires from them.

I beg that, upon the receipt of this letter, one squadron of the 13th light dragoons, and 4 corporals belonging to the 3 other squadrons of the same regiment, with their horses, &c., may be embarked to go to Cadiz, as soon as the Agent of transports shall have prepared vessels to receive them. The 4 corporals must be good horsemen, and men well acquainted with the sword exercise; and these men, on their arrival at Cadiz, are to be put under the direction of Major Gen. Whittingham. The other 3 squadrons of the 13th light dragoons are to be equipped, and in readiness to take the field, but are to remain at Lisbon till further orders.

To Vice Adm. the Hon. G. Berkeley.

Viseu, 5th April, 1810.

Having occasion to send to Cadiz one squadron of the 13th light dragoons, with their horses, and 4 corporals of the same regiment, with their horses, belonging to the other 3 squadrons of the same regiment, which will remain at Lisbon, I shall be much obliged to you if you will direct the Agent of transports to provide transports for their conveyance, and if you will send them to Cadiz under convoy as soon as they shall be embarked.

To Major Gen. the Hon. W. Stewart.

Viseu, 5th April, 1810.

Although I have received intimation from England that Lieut. Gen. Graham has been appointed to command the troops at Cadiz, I continue to address myself to you, as I have not heard of his arrival; and you will of course deliver this letter to him, if he should have arrived. Accord-

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ing to your desire, I have directed that one squadron of the 13th light dragoons may proceed to Cadiz. With this squadron, I have directed that 4 corporals, belonging to the other 3 squadrons of the same regiment remaining in Portugal, and selected for their skill in horsemanship and in the sword exercise, may be sent, with their horses, &c., according to the request of Major Gen. Whittingham, to assist him in forming the Spanish cavalry of the army of the Duque de Alburquerque.

I beg that these 4 men may be put under the direction of Major Gen. Whittingham.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Viscu, 5th April, 1810.

I have received your letter of the 2d, and I am glad to find that the government intend to issue a proclamation, as well as circulate the letter which you before sent me; as the inhabitants and inferior order of magistrates and officers require to be reminded of their duties, as well as their superiors.

I do not believe the estimate of August, 1809, is the first estimate which was sent home to the British government, and which I saw in the Sec. of State's office. It was framed either in January or February, shortly after Mr. Villiers arrived in Portugal.

The 30,000 stand of arms and Picton's rifles, &c., are for the Portuguese troops, and I have given them over to Marshal Beresford. I only hope that we shall get them issued in time.

I enclose a letter from Mr. O'Meara to the Commissary Gen., regarding pay for the Portuguese troops in Cadiz. The best mode of settling for this pay would be for me to order the issue monthly to the commanding officer of the regiment, and the sum issued would be so much paid to you by the Commissary Gen., and to the Portuguese government by you; and so much subtracted from the amount of their subsidy, and from your demand upon the Commissary Gen. for the two sevenths. The commanding officer of the regiment would then settle his accounts for the sum he received in the usual manner with the Portuguese government.

Let me know if this mode of settlement will suit you and the Portuguese government, and I will give directions accordingly.

The A.G. to Ensign —.

5th April, 1810.

In acknowledging your letter of the 26th ult., I have to convey the Commander of the Forces' commands that you proceed without loss of time to join the 2d batt. of the 3d or Buffs, where his Excellency fully expects that the same accuracy of conduct which authorised your promotion will further secure the approbation and consequent attention of the Commanding officer of your corps.

To the Adjutant General of the Forces.

Viscu, 6th April, 1810.

I have had the honor of receiving your letters of the 2d March, relative to the desertion in the 2d batt. —th regt., appearing on the return of that regiment, to the 25th Jan.; and I enclose the reports which I have received from Major Gen. Picton and Major Young upon that subject.

The desertion from nearly all the regiments in this army must have appeared extraordinary to the Commander in Chief, and must have given him as much concern as it has to me. Till lately, desertion from a British

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army on service was a crime almost unknown; and I am concerned to add, that I have reason to believe that many of those who have deserted have been guilty of the worst description of that offence, and have gone over to the enemy. I attribute the prevalence of this crime in a great measure to the bad description of men, of which many of the regiments are composed almost entirely, and who have been received principally from the Irish militia. A sufficient time has not elapsed, since these men have entered the regiments of the line, to form their habits to regularity and discipline; the non-commissioned officers, in the 2d battalions principally, are very bad; and I am sorry to add that the subaltern officers are not of the best description; and that I do not think so much attention has been given by them as might have been expected, to form either the non-commissioned officers or the soldiers to those habits of regularity which a soldier ought to have.

I attribute the desertion from this army likewise, in some degree, to the irregular and predatory habits which those soldiers had acquired, who, having straggled from their regiments during the late service under the command of Sir J. Moore, were some of them taken prisoners by the French, and have since escaped from them; and others, after having wandered in different parts of Portugal and Spain, have returned to the army. All these men have shifted for themselves in the country, by rapine and plunder, since they quitted their regiments in 1808; and they have informed others of their modes of proceeding, and have instilled a desire in others to follow their example, and live in the same mode and by the same means, free from the restraints of discipline and regularity.

I can assure the Commander in Chief that I know of no cause for the desertion of the soldiers from this army, excepting those to which I have above referred. They have in general but little duty, and since the month of August no fatigue. Their quarters are, without exception, good; the inhabitants of the country are invariably kind to them; and not only has there been no distress for provisions since the month of August, but I really believe that there is not a soldier in the army who is not as well fed, and does not receive his food as regularly as he could in barracks in England. Their pay is also regularly given to them, and their accounts regularly settled, and the balances paid, although one month later than the period fixed by His Majesty's regulations, on account of the difficulty of procuring money in this country for the army.

While writing upon this subject, it is proper that I should inform the Commander in Chief, that desertion is not the only crime of which the soldiers of this army have been guilty to an extraordinary degree. A detachment seldom marches, particularly if under the command of a non-commissioned officer only (which rarely happens), that a murder or a highway robbery, or some act of outrage, is not committed by the British soldiers composing it. They have killed 8 people since the army returned to Portugal in December; and I am sorry to add that a convoy has seldom arrived with money that the chests have not been broken open, and some of the money stolen by the soldiers in whose charge it was placed, although invariably under the command of an officer; and they have never brought up either shoes or other necessaries which could be of use to them, or

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which they could sell, that they have not stolen some of the articles committed to their charge.

The orders to the army, and the Provost's establishment, which is larger than was ever known with any British army, will show the pains which the General officers, the commanding officers of regiments, and I, have taken to prevent the commission of these crimes, which, indeed, are not very frequent at the regiments, although they are committed sometimes even there: and the General Courts Martial which have been assembled, and sitting almost constantly while the army has been halted, and sometimes as many as three sitting at the same time in the different cantonments of the army, will show the pains which have been taken to convict and punish those who have been guilty of these crimes. But the inhabitants of the country have such a respect and affection for the British nation, and particularly for the military qualities of the soldier, (who presumes upon his military reputation to commit many of the crimes of which he is guilty,) that it is most difficult to prevail upon the inhabitants to give testimony of the injuries they have received, and they will rarely point out the person who has committed the offence; and the soldiers themselves will rarely tell the truth before a Court Martial. The sentences of the Courts Martial are also carried into execution; so that every thing that precaution and discipline could do to prevent crimes, and that trial and execution of sentences could do to punish those who have been guilty of them, has been done, but hitherto without much success.

I am concerned to be obliged to make to the Commander in Chief so unfavorable a report of an army which has shown that it possesses many excellent qualities; but it contains facts which ought not to be concealed from his knowledge.

To the Earl of Liverpool.

Viseu, 6th April, 1810.

I enclose letters which I have received from the Commanding officers of the 3d batt. of the Royals, and of the 1st batt. of the 9th foot, relative to the subsistence of their regiments to the 25th April.

It is impossible for me either to order the issue of subsistence to those regiments for the months for which they have already received it, or to direct the Commissary Gen. to discount the private bills of the Paymasters of the regiments drawn upon the regimental agents; nor would it be convenient to encourage the negotiation of these bills in the market at Lisbon, by allowing the Paymasters of the regiments to charge the discount upon their bills upon the regimental agents in their accounts.

The only mode which occurs to me of settling this business is, that the agents should send out to these regiments respectively the balances of their *bât* and forage and subsistence to the 25th April, in cash, if possible; if not possible, that the balances should be sent out in bank notes, which I will then direct the Commissary Gen. to exchange for cash; or that the whole of the subsistence and *bât* and forage advanced to these regiments in England should be returned to the Pay office; and that it should be paid to them by the Paymaster Gen. in this country.

I beg that your Lordship will give the directions which you may think proper on this subject.

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To the Earl of Liverpool.

Viseu, 6th April, 1810.

I have had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 6th Feb., in answer to mine of the 17th Dec., respecting the subsistence of officers and soldiers of this army who have been prisoners, and have made their escape from the French, from which I understand that His Majesty's government intend that the officers, as well as the soldiers, shall receive their subsistence during the period they were prisoners. A question has arisen respecting the latter, including the non-commissioned officers, which is founded on the letter from the late Sec. at War of the 5th Dec. 1798, to the Commanding officers of regiments, whether that which the non-commissioned officers and soldiers are to receive is the full subsistence allowed them by His Majesty's regulations, or their net subsistence, after deducting *6d. per diem* for each man for his rations. I am inclined to believe that it was intended to give the soldiers their full subsistence, as I have not heard that any arrangement had been made with the French government during this war for the support of prisoners. But I am desirous of having the directions of His Majesty's government upon this point.

To the Earl of Liverpool.

Viseu, 6th April, 1810.

No material alteration has been made in the enemy's positions since I addressed you on the 28th March. The corps of Marshal Mortier was followed through the passes as far as Ronquillo, by the divisions of the Marques de la Romana's corps, under Gen. Ballesteros, which by the last accounts were still there. The corps of Soult, under Gen. Regnier, which had retired to Truxillo, advanced again in the end of March to Caceres, and had their posts upon the Salor, in front of the left of the Marques de la Romana's corps, and of the troops under Lieut. Gen. Hill.

The Marques de la Romana moved a detachment on the 30th, from Badajoz to Merida, which however did not arrive in time to establish itself there; and Soult's corps again broke up from the Salor on the 31st, and marched to Merida, which place it reached on the 1st inst., and the Spanish detachment retired again to Badajoz. The delay in the occupation of Merida, and this movement by the French, have placed Gen. Ballesteros's corps in a state of risk, unless he should have moved out of the passes in the mountains in time.

A detachment from the corps of Ney also moved in the end of the month of March, by the pass of Baños into Estremadura, but returned again immediately. The object of this movement was probably to oblige Gen. Carrera's division to retire from Coria, and to confine Ciudad Rodrigo on that side.

Nothing of importance had occurred at Astorga as late as the 24th March. I have had no accounts from Cadiz since the 17th of last month.

To Vice Adm. the Hon. G. Berkeley.

Viseu, 7th April, 1810.

I am much obliged to you for fitting up the hospital ships. It will be a great convenience to us if you will be so kind as to send the smallest occasionally to Figueira. That which you sent there last got in and out of the Mondego with tolerable facility; and as we may soon expect settled weather, I should hope that we might use that harbour with certainty.

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I have not yet returned you an answer respecting the distribution of the troops in the transports; there is no doubt a very material error, which shall be rectified, and I will take care that Lieut. Fleetwood shall get such a return as will answer pretty nearly for an embarkation state at any time, notwithstanding that the exact numbers of each regiment in the army are varying every day. We have very nearly as many rank and file fit for duty as have been stated to Lieut. Fleetwood as the whole number to be embarked. The troops are becoming again very healthy and very strong, and the army is more efficient than it has ever been yet.

The government are terribly afraid that I shall get them, and myself, into a scrape. But what can be expected from men who are beaten in the House of Commons three times a week? A great deal might be done now, if there existed in England less party, and more public sentiment, and if there was any government.

The Duke* will like the command in Ireland, which I am sure has been given to him (as it was always intended), if Lord Harrington has relinquished it. But I should have thought that Lord Harrington, who has always kept clear of politics, would not have meddled with them in these troublesome times, and that the Duke would have gone to the Ordnance, which he would have liked also.

The A.G. to Capt. Cotton, D.A.A.G.

7th April, 1810.

On the purport of your communication of the 4th inst. I am commanded to refer you to the original order attaching the 60th companies to the different brigades of the army, and the recent orders of the 22d Feb. on the same subject. In transmitting this answer, which you will be pleased to make known to the senior officer of the 5th batt. 60th, with the 2d division, I am further required to observe that my Lord Wellington has ever manifested a good opinion, and has taken every opportunity of being of service to that corps.

His Lordship is willing to believe that Capt. — is equally deserving with many other of his brother officers; yet it is but due to add, that till lately he has done but little duty with the army, and that, in consequence, he is the last officer for whose benefit or suggestion his Lordship would feel inclined to commit an irregularity, or alter an arrangement and organization which has proved itself eminently beneficial to the service.

Be pleased to report to Lieut. Gen. Hill that Capt. — is only required to attend to the duties of his own company.

The A.G. to the Officer commng. —th light dragoons.

7th April, 1810.

I have to apprise you a Medical board has given an opinion that Paymaster —, of the corps under your command, is unequal to support the fatigues of active service. It is necessary, however, previous to that officer's departure for England, that you should recommend that indulgence, at the same time nominating an eligible officer to conduct the public duties in Mr. —'s absence, for whose accuracy Mr. — must, in an official letter, acknowledge the continuance of his responsibility, till his return, or the appointment of a successor.

On your forwarding these documents, I have no doubt the leave desired will be granted by his Excellency.

To Brig. Gen. Alex. Campbell.

Viseu, 8th April, 1810.

I sent you a warrant for £150, for bounty for your recruits, 3 or 4 days ago; but are you aware that your recruiting officer takes men (Frenchmen) from the prisons, who were made prisoners of war, some of them

* The Duke of Richmond.

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under a capitulation? No wonder that he has enlisted 150 men, and that Col. Peacocke has approved of them. This positively must not be done. I write by this post to Col. Peacocke upon the subject, and I beg you to lose no time in writing to the officer whom you employ.

To Lieut. Gen. Graham.

Viseu, 8th April, 1810.

I have received your letters of the 21st and 26th March, for which I am much obliged to you. I had already received from Lord Liverpool a copy of his instructions to you of the 19th Feb.; from which I doubted whether the corps at Cadiz was intended to form part of this army. The instructions from the Commander in Chief, of the 21st Feb., would show that it was not so intended. If it is not so intended, you will of course put such officers as you think proper at the head of the several departments; if it is so intended, Col. Macdonald,* and Major Cathcart,† and Mr. —, should be taken upon the strength of the departments of the Adj. Gen., and of the Q. M. Gen., and of the Commissary Gen. with this army, and shall be at the head of those departments with the corps under your command; and in either case I shall be happy to give you any other assistance of any description which this army can afford.

I am happy to find that you approve of the measures and arrangements of Major Gen. the Hon. W. Stewart, with whom I have had every reason to be satisfied. At this distance from the scene of action, and having but a general knowledge of Cadiz and the Isla de Leon, it is impossible for me to do more than to give you my opinion very generally upon the measures to be adopted. I beg leave to refer you to my several letters to Major Gen. Stewart, and those to Mr. Frere, to which he was referred for my sentiments on the several points to which they relate.

I am convinced that the enemy cannot at present make a serious attack upon Cadiz: indeed, their force is so much separated that, until it is concentrated, they cannot make an effectual effort any where; and I do not think it probable that they will begin by assembling in Andalusia such an army as they must have, in order to make any impression on your position at Cadiz.

I have no doubt, however, that they will take and secure possession of the peninsula of Trocadero, by which they will cut off the communication between the outer and inner harbour, and will probably affect, to a certain degree, the anchorage in the outer harbour, and a part of the town. I fear that this cannot be avoided; and the only measure to be adopted is to place at once in the inner harbour the boats and vessels which may be deemed necessary for the naval operations to be eventually carried on there; and to secure, as far as may be possible, the landing places between Puntales and the town; and to form a communication with the Isla, from the right of the Cortadura, and along the right of the existing road.

I observe that the Sec. of State has referred to your consideration the measures to be adopted for the supply of Cadiz with water and provisions: water will not be scarce, I believe, so long as the Isla can be held. When the French, however, have it in their power to direct all their

* Lieut. Gen. Sir J. Macdonald, K.C.B., Adj. Gen.

† Lieut. Gen. Earl Cathcart, K.C.B.

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efforts against Cadiz, the state of the provisions will be a subject of serious consideration.

Malta could supply all the grain that would be required for Cadiz ; and the coast of Barbary, cattle. For the former, ready money will be required, and victuallers. His Majesty's minister at Cadiz will have to exert his influence with the Spanish government, to induce them to consider well the nature of their situation ; to prepare beforehand for the serious attack which will be made upon them, and for the difficulties which will then exist ; and to make the advances of money which will be necessary to purchase at Malta the grain which will be required. The King's minister at Cadiz should also apply to the ministers in England to have victuallers sent to Cadiz to import grain from Malta.

The influence of the King's minister, indeed, probably that of His Majesty's government, must be exerted to prevail upon the Barbary states to allow the purchase of cattle for the supply of Cadiz. For this purpose also, the Regency will have to advance and disburse large sums of money. If they should not have vessels fit to bring over the cattle which they have purchased, I believe that I shall be able to give them the use of some horse transports.

It does not occur to me that there is any other point in your instructions on which it can be of any use to you to be assisted with any further opinions from me, than what are contained in my letters to Gen. Stewart and Mr. Frere, to which I have referred you. You will always find me disposed to assist you with my opinions upon any subject which you may think proper to refer to me ; and in any other manner that may be in my power.

I beg leave to refer you to my letter to my brother of this date for an account of the state of affairs in this part of the Peninsula.

P.S. Lord Liverpool has mentioned to me his apprehensions that the Spanish troops and people would not agree with the Portuguese regiment which I have sent to Cadiz. I entertain no such apprehensions ; and so I have informed his Lordship. But if you should have reason to think that any inconvenience will result from their remaining at Cadiz, I beg you to send them back to Lisbon. I can easily reconcile their return to the Portuguese Regency, who had voluntarily offered them for this service.

To Charles Stuart, Esq.

Viseu, 8th April, 1810.

I have received your letter of the 5th. I was aware that the Patriarch and Forjaz hated each other ; but I did not think it possible that either of them could imagine that you, or I, or Villiers, had any thing to say to any of the intrigues of S^r de Sousa in London, or those of his brother at Brazil against them. I think that the line of conduct you have adopted is most judicious and proper.

The Patriarch and Forjaz have their faults as well as other men, but I am convinced that we cannot change either excepting for the worse ; and if you should have any opportunity, I shall be obliged to you if you will assure either or both, not only that I will not be any party to the promotion of any change in the government, but that I shall do every thing in my power to prevent it, and to support their authority and the continu-