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Libert, Fr.
Waterloo (the centenary
of the battle)

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WATERLOO

(THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE)

A relation of the famous fight of the 18th of June 1815,
after impartial documents, with numerous illustrations
and explanatory notes,

BY
Fr. LIBERT,
Head-master in Waterloo.
English translation by
Lucian LEBEAU.

HONOURED WITH A SUBSCRIPTION OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF SCIENCES AND ARTS



ET CENT ans sont passés, et ce coin de la terre,
WATERLOO, ce plateau funèbre et solitaire,
Ce champ sinistre où Dieu mêla tant de néants,
Tremble encor d'avoir vu la fuite des géants !
(LES CHATIMENTS, V. HUGO)

ALBERT CAMUZET,
PRINTER - ÉDITOR
WATERLOO



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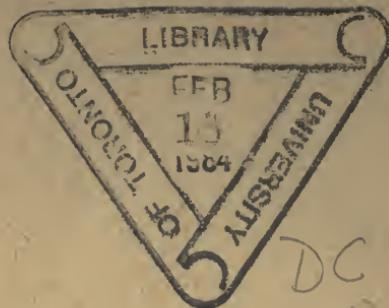
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RELATION OF THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF THE 18th OF JUNE 1815.

PREFACE

A hundred years separate us from the memorable day of the 18th of June 1815 which, decided the fate of the European nations, but the battle of Waterloo has been always an event of actuality.

Strategists, historians, admirers of the warlike heroes, curious travellers continually come in great numbers to the « mournful plain ».

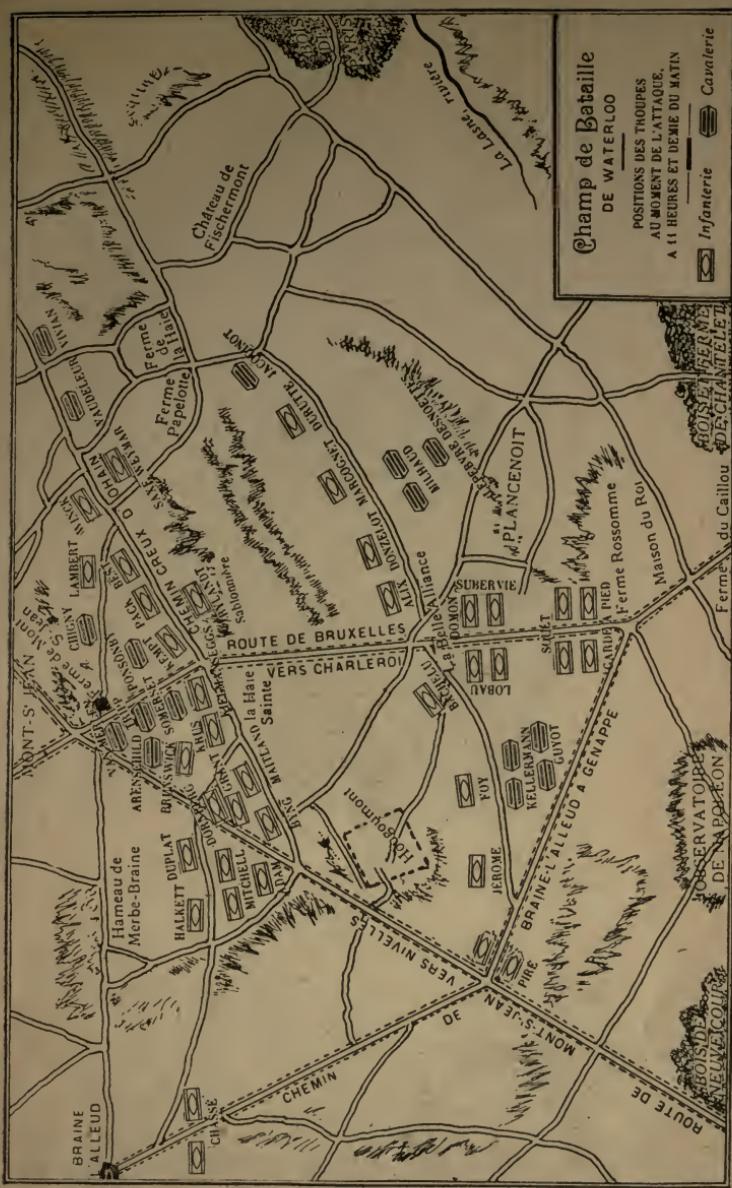
Many authors have celebrated the glory of the conquerors and the bravery of the vanquished, and appreciated the part played by the belligerent powers; but partiality has often delivered wrong judgments!

We are not intended to discuss with high competences nor is deep erudition our aim : we are simply desirous to give an impartial and well documented relation of the famous epopee, an illustrated guide to the visitors of Waterloo, such as to enable them to understand in a few moments the tragical events recollected by the spot.

F. L.

MAP PERMITTING TO FOLLOW THE OPERATIONS
CARTE PERMETTANT DE SUIVRE LES OPÉRATIONS.





Before the battle

CAUSES

Napoleon the First had escaped from the Isle of Elbe. Cheered by his ancient soldiers, he soon entered Paris, followed by a large army.



NAPOLEON, by Paul De la Roche.

THE ALLIES

To put down Bonaparte the Allies formed against him six armies : the English and Dutch-Belgian army commanded by Wellington marched to Maubeuge; the Prussian army under Blücher marched to Givet, that of Schwarzenberg threatened Sarreguemines; the Russian army under Barclay de Tilly had in view Saarbrück; the Austrian army under Frimont marched towards Lyon, and finally the Austro-Piedmontese army under Brachi,

destined to invade La Provence. That made in all a force of 630.000 men against which Napoleon could hardly bring forward more than 125.000 men.

THE PLAN OF THE ALLIES

The allied armies had to march at once upon Paris as arranged by a plan made in the month of April, but of which the execution had to be put back to the first days of July.



WELLINGTON, by Thomas Lawrance.

AIM OF NAPOLEON

The aim of Napoleon was to prevent the concentration of the English and the Prussians by directing his first efforts upon the north frontier.

MILITARY OPERATIONS BEFORE WATERLOO

With disconcerting speed, Napoleon was at Laon on the 12th of June, at Avesnes on the 13th, at Beaumont on the 14th and on the 15th at 3 o'clock in the morning his

vanguard crossed the boundary on three different spots and marched toward Charleroi.

At that moment, the Allies did not expect any hostilities before the end of the month, and even proposed amongst themselves to take the offensive. Wellington



BLUCHER, by Leslie.

was at Brussels, his cantonments were scattered about at Lens, Audenaerde, Alost, Ath, Ghent, Mons, Soignies, Genappe, Braine-le-Comte, Enghien, Ninove.

Blücher was at Namur with his camps at Marchienne, Fleurus, Moustier, Charleroi, Sombrefe and Gembloux.

On the 15th the French vanguards drive on the enemy from Gosselies and from Frasnes. The next morning Wellington hastens to Brussels to converse with Blücher near Ligny, whilst the general Gérard attacks the latter locality and takes it after a terrible fight; Vandam chases the Prussians from St-Amand and the army of Reille marches to Quatre-Bras.

So the Allies are forced to give up every idea of an immediate meeting.

Blücher is repulsed to the east followed up by mar-

shall Grouchy and Wellington is forced to retreat to Mont-St-Jean (Waterloo). There it is where he was going to wait for the shock of Napoleon : he has already seen the opportunity of a favourable retreat by the proximity of the great forest of Soignes and of a new concentration at the other side of the Escaut (Scheldt), but he hopes to be able to be rejoined by Blücher in order to prevent the French army from marching to Brussels.

On his side, Bonaparte has not lost his time and the 17th, after having chased near Quatre-Bras the last squadrons of the English cavalry he camps opposite Mont-St-Jean (Waterloo).



Napoleon

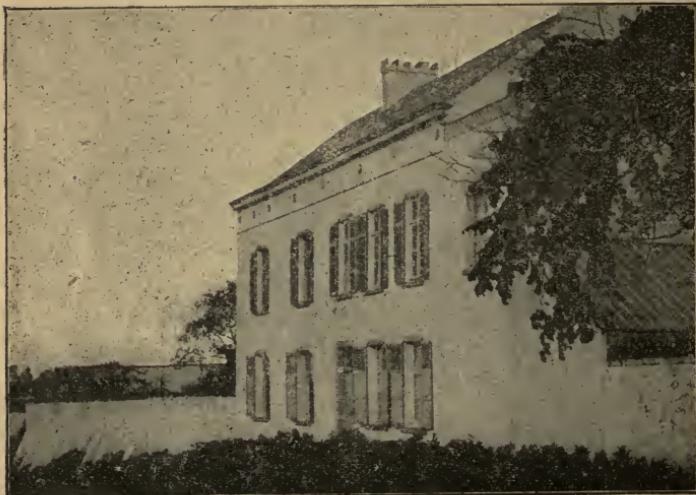
THE FRENCH POSITIONS

It is night. Napoleon's sleep is often interrupted by the arrival of messengers. At 1 o'clock in the morning, he mounts on horseback and under heavy rain, he reconnoitres his outposts, accompanied by general Bertrand.

From the hill of Belle-Alliance he explores the horizon with his spy-glass, where the fires of the English bivouacs glitter at a ball's distance.

Appreciating the excellent position of Wellington he is of opinion that the English general will expect his attack there. At daybreak, when coming back to the farm of Caillou, he finds tidings from Grouchy.

« The retreating army of Blücher has been divided into two columns : one directing towards Liege and the other in disorder towards Wavre; the marshall takes it upon himself to separate the Prussians from the English. » So



Farm of the CAILLOU (Actual sight) where Napoleon established his head-quarters. He received there his reports and gave his orders



Napoleon reviewing his troops, by Raffet.

the events correspond to the Emperor's previsions. All is right! At 4 o'clock it rains no more. He orders the troops to be in battle-order at 9 o'clock, on the fixed spots, then he goes to bed and sleeps till seven. At eight he has breakfast at the Caillou with Soult, the Duke of Bassano, Lobau, Reille and his brother Jérôme; his guests are in full-dress and under his gray riding-coat the Emperor wears the uniform of Colonel of his guard chasseurs with the badge of the Legion of Honour.

Napoleon is good-humoured and self-conceited. In July 1794, Soult had already participated in the attack of Mont-St-Jean as a chief of Lefèvre's staff. « So he knew the position very well, but he was not ignorant of the solidity of the English artillery »; « Ney thought that Wellington would have retreated at daybreak to rally Blücher. » But Napoleon encourages them; he does not doubt of the victory; and yet he puts off the attack, the movements of the troops being performed slowly on account of the rain of the day before; he does not care to undertake anything without disposing of everybody. Ne-

vertheless he gives his last instructions to his lieutenants and at 9 o'clock mounts on horseback.

As he wants to avoid any error, Bonaparte has asked for a guide and an inn-keeper of the route to Charleroi, called Decoster, is brought to him. He has him tied upon a horse and conducted at the thong by a man of his escort.

Then the staff trots over the battle-line, disposed as follows :

« The French army extends over a line of about five miles ,supported to the left by the road to Nivelles, crossing the road to Charleroi near Belle-Alliance and reaching to about 500 metres off the village of Ohain.

The left wing comprehends the bodies of foot of Jérôme, of Count Foy and of Baron Bachely; the right wing : the bodies of Soult and Ney, composed of the divisions of Allix ,Donzelot, Marcognet and Duruette. The flanks are occupied by the cavalry of Jacquinot and Piré.

Behind the left wing, the hussars of Kellermann, the dragoons of Guyot; behind the right wing, the guides of Lefèvre-Desnouettes and the cuirassiers of Milhaud. The centre is formidable : in the first line, near the inn of Decoster, marshall Lobau has massed enormous powers of infantry and at the other side of the road to Charleroi, the cavalry of Donon and Subervie commands the plain.

Finally the whole infantry of the Guards is kept in reserve under the command of marshall Soult ».

Napoleon however was crossed by the slowness with which those sites were occupied and which decided him to retard the attack; Drouot's artillery was late, the troops of the deserter Bourmont, placed under the command of Cambronne, had lost their time by erroneous instructions .

But Napoleon was impatient and at 35 m. past eleven o'clock, he decided for the action. Moreover, the enemy had maintained his positions.

At any rate, Bonaparte was sure to succeed. His plan was : staggering the English at first by a false attack, darting upon the centre with all his men, throwing the enemy into disorder and pushing them back beyond Mont-St-Jean.

Wellington

THE POSITIONS OF THE ALLIES

The rain of the day before had perhaps saved Wellington from a complete disaster in permitting him to save his cavalry surprised and straggered at Quatre Bras by the hussars under Ney. On receiving the last cannon balls of the French army, the English general made his headquarters between the farm of Mont-St-Jean and the road to Ohain. The position was certainly well protected by the twilight and the ravin ; he camped there with haste.

At midnight, Wellington had not yet closed his eyes ! He lay on a bed in the farm of Mont-St-Jean, dressed and with his boots on ; at the first light of day at half past three, he rose and changed clothes. He was wearing a coat of dark blue cloth, under a cape of the same material, white breeches made of buck-skin, high boots ornemanted



Farm of MONT-SAINT-JEAN where Wellington slept some hours the day before the battle. This farm was also used as a field hospital.



Wellington passing before the front of his troops, by Hillingford.

with tassels in gold and white tie that went four times round his neck ; he wore a hat with two points to which he had fixed four cockades, a black cockade of England, another blue and white of Portugal, another red and white of Spain and another blue and red of Holland. About 5 o'clock he breakfasted in the farm with the generals Byng and Maitland of the English guards, Chassé of the Dutch-Belgian division, Brest of the Hanovrian brigade. Then he mounted his horse Copenhagen, the same that he had ridden at Badajoz and at Cindad-Rodrigo, and trotted along the front of his army which he had arranged in the following way :

Along the road from Ohain to Braine-l'Alleud that hemmed in the plain of Mont-St-Jean and cut at right angles the road to Brussels, which the Emperor wished to take, he had placed 67,000 men and 184 cannons. His right wing protected Braine-l'Alleud, where Chassé had spread out his men, ready to fall upon the left wing of the enemy by attacking the cavalry under Piré and the first divisions under Reille by the road to Genappe. Then, behind the excavated road, Wellington had placed the

English brigades under Adam and Mitchel, in steps dominating Hougoumont, the Anglo-German divisions commanded by Halkett and Duplat, the strong infantry under Byng and Maitland by keeping them in reserve the army under Brunswick, the Anglo-German brigades of cavalry under Dornberg, Arenschild and Grant, the horse guards under the Duke of Somerset, the Dutch-Belgian rifles and hussars under Van Merlen and Trip. Beyond the road to Brussels, towards the left wing extended the armies of Kempt, Best, Wincke, Pack and more in front, in a way so as to protect the road to Ohain against a surprise, the Belgians under Bylans, the foot-soldiers of the Grand-Duke of Saxe-Weimar and the cavalry of Vivian.

The centre was strengthened by a great number of infantry, that which had conquered in Spain and Portugal, and that which was formed in a great part of brigands recruited in the English prisons. It comprised also the three divisions of cavalry under Ponsonby and the Dutch-Belgian dragoons under Ghigny.

The commander-in-chief had profited by the darkness to throw up passing fortifications, he had disposed of four batteries on each side of the road to Brussels, in the middle; two at each wing, six in reserve upon the heights. At the beginning of day this army was in readiness and already moving, for the chief had given orders to make the enemy uneasy by continual charges of cavalry.

In the mean time, Napoleon proceeded by strategy. Wellington had no plan, he trusted to his own tactics, his only aim being to resist and to protect Brussels. He hoped to be rejoined by Blücher from whom he had been separated two days and the whereabouts of whom he had no knowledge. He was not sure of the aim of Napoleon either, that was why he had left 17.000 men in the hands of the Prince of Holland thinking perhaps to be able to stop the French army between Hal and Enghien. But he showed not the slightest uneasiness even daring to go so far as Hougoumont with general Muffling after having reviewed the battle-line. « Let them come, he cried, those who do come shall stay! »

And when the first discharges of the English artillery burst forth he was in the centre on horse-back only accompanied by four officers.

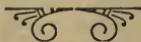
What Blücher and Grouchy have become

Grouchy had stopped at Walhain and when the battle began, was taking breakfast in the garden of the notary of the district : he was eating strawberries. Much has been said about those strawberries : historians having even been known to say that Grouchy did not do his duty through greediness. A thing beyond contestation is that general Gérard and his chief of the staff came and told him that cannons could be heard to the west. Other generals came up, but the question degenerated into a quarrel between Grouchy and Gérard. « Gérard begged his chief to change his marching orders and to go to the cannonade like Dessaix at Marengo. The country people unanimously declared that the battle had begun at Mont-St-Jean. The generals insisted but Grouchy refused, showing the orders of the Emperor; he was certain that Blücher had retired to the Chyse and by pursuing him would keep him from joining the English army.

Gérard asked for the authorisation to march to the battle with his own troops but his chief remained inflexible and ... asked for another portion of strawberries, abusing Gérard who went off in tears ! »

Where was Blücher ? After passing the bridge of Wavre, he wrote to general Muffling the following letter that Wellington received about 2 o'clock :

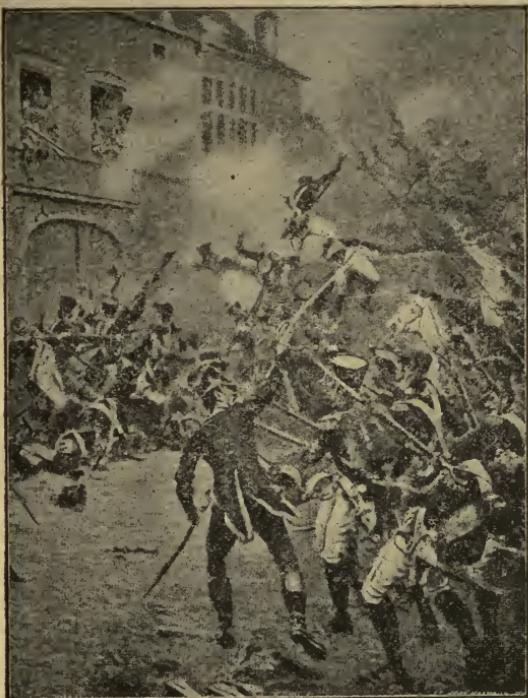
« I beg you tell general Wellington, in my name that, ill as I am, I am going at the head of my troops, to fall on the right wing of the enemy when Napoleon commences the battle. If the French don't attack to-day, I think we should attack them together to morrow. » But the plain of Mont-St-Jean was already on fire !



The Attack

74.000 French soldiers and 266 cannons were face to face with 67.000 Allies and 184 pieces of artillery.

The battle was opened by Reille's division « Jérôme



Attack of the farm of Hougoumont, by E. CROFTS.
Generals Baudin and Duprat together with 6.000 men were killed there.

throws his troops towards the position of Hougoumont ».

After an hour of fierce fighting, he chases from it the battalions of Nassau and Hannover and repulses Mit-



Farm of HOUGOU MONT. Ruins of the chapel and the pit. The enemies killed each other in the chapel and 300 dead bodies, it is said, were thrown into the pit.

chell's English guards who have come to reinforce them. But the English at the castle have strongly defended themselves; they fight long enough to allow the arrival of new reinforcements and Jérôme, threaghtened by Chassé's fresh troops is obliged to fall back towards the road to Nivelles.

It is to be remarked that this first attack was but a clever diversion projected by Napoleon, the object of which was to occupy Wellington on the left wing whilst an attack was prepared on the centre. This attack, which is commanded by Ney and d'Erlon is under the protection of a battery of 80 cannons round «La Belle-Alliance». The first firing begins at 1 o'clock and the whole of the first line marches towards Mont-St-Jean.

« Never was so great a number of combatants engaged on so small a space and the to hand fighting was of a fierceness and rapidity never known in history.

The centre charges « La Haie-Sainte » whilst the left wing, which had been much tried by the attack on Hou-



Farm of the HAIE-SAINTE where the Allies were well retrenched. Fierce battles and dreadful assaults were fought there. From 1.000 defenders, 42 only escaped from death.

goumont, reforms and the right wing, leaving its position assaults the Papelotte farm.

This attack is so fierce that it throws confusion into the English lines. The imperial infantry attacks La Haie-Sainte where major Barring vigourously defends himself, and whilst the English reinforcements are sabered by general Travers'cuirassiers, the Dutch-Belgians placed by the malicious prudence of the Duke of Wellington in advance, are obliged to retreat before the charges of the enemy ».

It was during that memorable charge that took place an incident much celebrated by poets and painters.

Who has not heard of the charge of Milhaud's cuirassiers into the hollow road of Ohain and written so powerfully by Victor Hugo in « *Les Misérables* » ?

The pictures made of this charge generally represent enormous cavalcades charging into deep ravines over a high cliff. No such incident however ever happened at Waterloo. The following is, according to the most cele-

brated historians, what really happened : « The road to Ohain is, for about 400 metres, sunken between two banks; Travers' brigade of cuirassiers arriving at this road did not hesitate to cross it. But as they were coming up the other side, they saw charging down on them the 2nd English guards. Not having room enough to charge them, the cuirassiers went back down into the hollow road, turned to the left in the direction of Brussels; but the 2nd lifeguards charging at great speed charged into the hollow road, reformed with great difficulty and gave chase to the cuirassiers ». « There was a hand to hand fighting in a quarry near by, but most of them got past it and threw back Travers' brigade ». This incident that gave birth to the legend of the hollow road has therefore been so changed that it is considered by some as one of the principal causes of the defeat of Napoleon, whereas at the time of it, the battle had not yet seriously begun.

About half past two Jacquinet's cavalry crushes the Brest Hanovrians and sabers the Saxe-Weimar sharpshooters. Under the enemies' bullets the English trenches become unholdable and Wellington orders retreat towards



Charge of the Cuirassiers. Illustration of Volabelle's work.

the heights; it takes him all his cavalry to stop the charges of the French; the shock is so fierce that the two cavalries stop a moment as if to take breath!

Wellington anxiously examines the horizon for any sign of Blücher. On the other hand Napoleon appaers satisfied, but at that moment an officer gives him a message from Grouchy who, from Wallain, asks for orders, whilst about the same time Soult brings him a prisoner who declares that the 15.000 men of Bülow are arriving!

The lot is thrown and Napoleon's star is waning!

Yet the great soldier understands that there is not a moment to be lost. He must finish of Wellington and then fall on Bülow.

He therefore decides to strike a great blow : « that great cavalry-charge for which he has been assembling men since morning and which has to throw confusion into Wellington's lines after having cut to pieces his infantry ».

All military writers are unanimous in declaring that it would have given victory to Napoleon and caused Blücher,



The Squares, by Jazet.

who was coming up to help his allie, to fall back, if it had not begun an hour too soon. Napoleon had reformed his right wing and thrown Reille's infantry towards « La



The Guard going to fire, by E. Crofts
Tranquille, souriante à la mitraille anglaise.
La garde impériale entra dans la fournaise.
Victor Hugo, (L'Epiation).

Haie-Sainte ». But before the English infantry was routed and, as already it was reforming its masses and taking up its positions behind the road to Ohain, the imperial cavalry appeared at the top of the neighbouring hills and descended like an avalanche on the army of the Allies. Cuirassiers, chasseurs, dragoons, lancers, hussards, light-horse, guides, horse-grenadiers threw themselves towards the enemy, trotting up hills, galloping down them, passing over the Dutch-Belgians, (1) sabering the magnificent Gordon-Highlanders and taking six batteries, the servers of which were cut to pieces. Two English squares are broken and Kruse's reserves only succeed with great

(1) *Their chief, the Prince of Orange, was wounded; he threw his cross in the midst of his men who had saved him and bravely resisted, saying : « My children, everyone of you has merited it! »*

difficulty in stopping them. From Mont-St-Jean where he had to go, Wellington coolly directs his reserves of artillery and opens fire from the superior batteries. Without them the army of the Allies would have been done for. The charges at last meet well retrenched troops, as firm as a stone wall.

Then, the duel of artillery being done, the duel of cavalry begins. Wellington throws upon the field two brigades of Van Merlen and Ghigny's Dutch-Belgians, the black lancers of Brünswick, Domberg's dragoons, Trip's Dutch carabiniers, Arenschild's hussards and Grant's English guards : six thousand horses against the French squadrons !

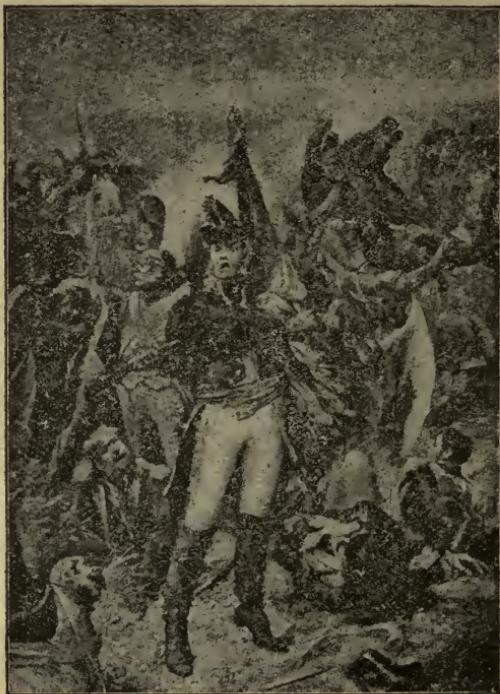
But the English are again driven back. With a last effort Napoleon had hoped to rout the enemy and now it is the French Guard that, with the squadrons of Suabervie and the cavalry of Denon, is going to charge the enemy.

He thinks the victory is won and commands a supreme charge. From « La Belle-Alliance » he contemplates the massacre and sees the English concentrating upon the heights to keep the retreating artillery from falling into the hands of the victors; he discovers to the east, coming out of the wood of Paris masses of infantry, coming as he thinks to his help : « Grouchy ! There is Grouchy ! » he cries. But the end of the empire had come : It was Blücher !



The Rout

In spite of a fierce fight that continued till 9 o'clock at night, in spite of a heroic defence, the French, placed between two fires, were done for. Wellington then attacks without respite : « Napoleon's right wing is crushed; the Guard retreats; Ney sacrifices his last cavalry, Lobeau his last infantry. But Napoleon must galop away



Cambronne, by E. Bayard.

in the direction of Charleroi, abandoning his equipage and his wartreasure and leaving to Cambronne, Christiani and Roguet the honour of saving the Eagles ».

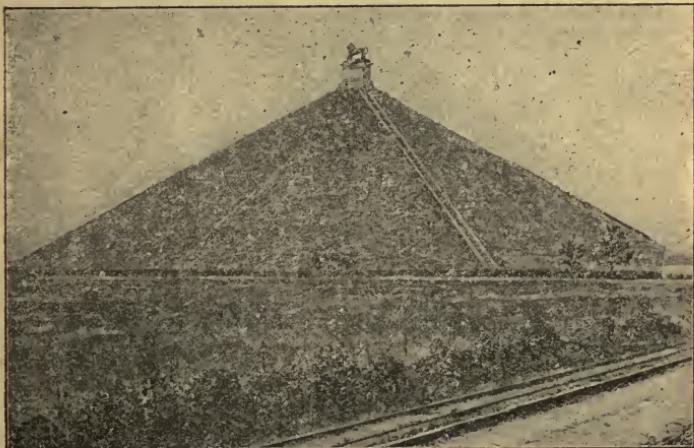
RESULTS

Upon the field of battle the wounded fought eachother till dawn.

The French left at Waterloo 27.000 dead and 8.000 prisoners, the Allies lost 22.000 men.

The Empire was defeated and Napoleon was exiled in St-Helena where he died in 1821.

The Treaty of Paris confirmed the creation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, constituted in 1814, by the Congress of Vienna under the scepter of William the First, Prince of Orange.



THE LION which was erected on the place on which the Prince of Orange was wounded : the mount measures 169 metres diameter at the bottom and is 45 metres high.

The Lion is 4 metres 50 long, 4 metres 45 high and weighs 28.000 kilgs.

THE LION

In memory of that battle, the Allies erected on the spot where the Prince of Orange was wounded, a gigantic lion, on the top of a mount of 169 m. diameter and 45 m. high. The lion dominates a field of battle where rest in glory 60.000 brave men, torn from their families by the cursed war.

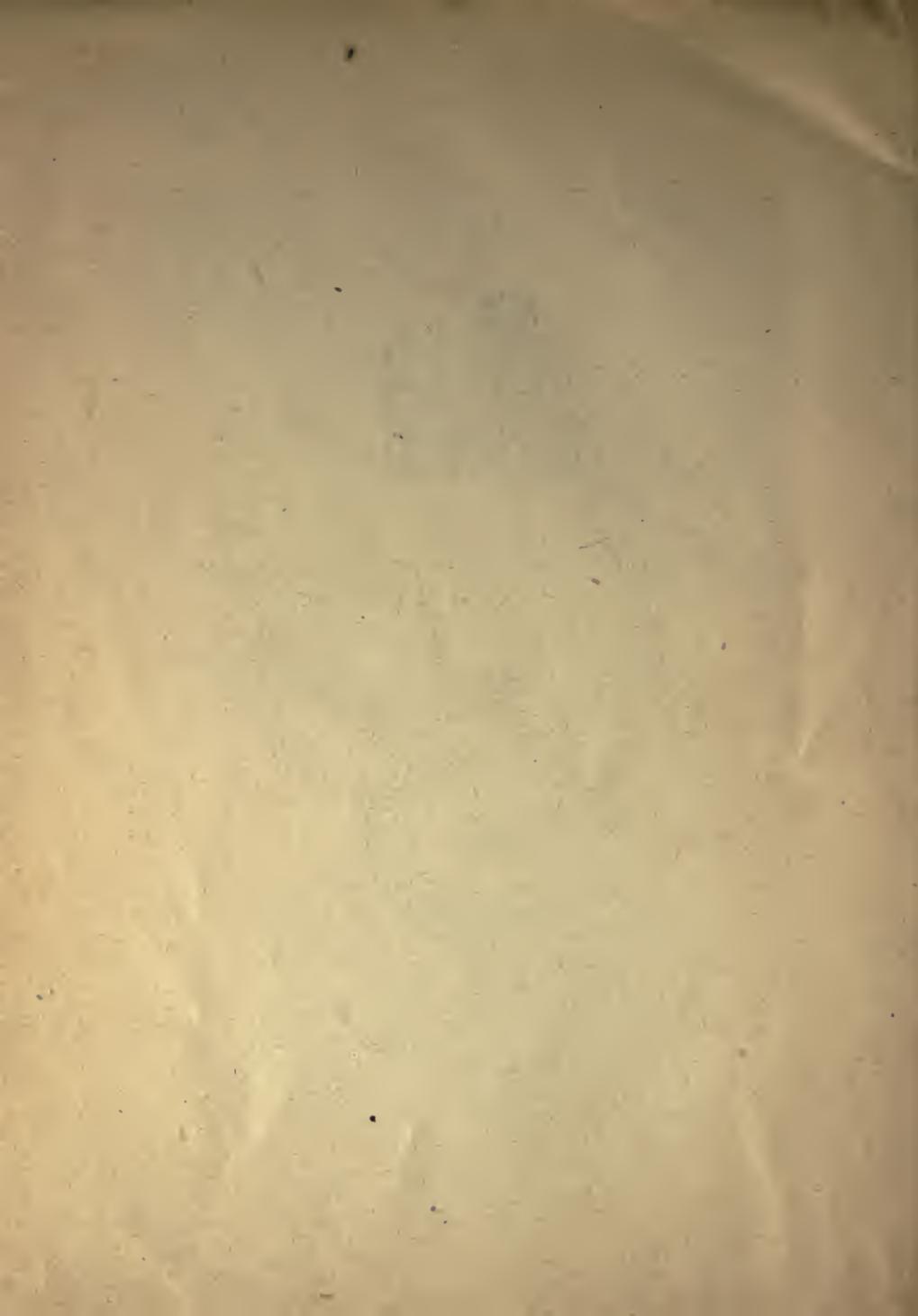
*ET CENT ans sont passés, et ce coin de la terre,
WATERLOO, ce plateau funèbre et solitaire,
Ce champ sinistre où Dieu méla tant de néants,
Tremble encore d'avoir vu la fuite des géants!*





*Complement of the illustrations and explanatory notes
concerning the battle of Waterloo.*







THE CHURCH OF WATERLOO

This church, primitively a chapel, was built in 1689.

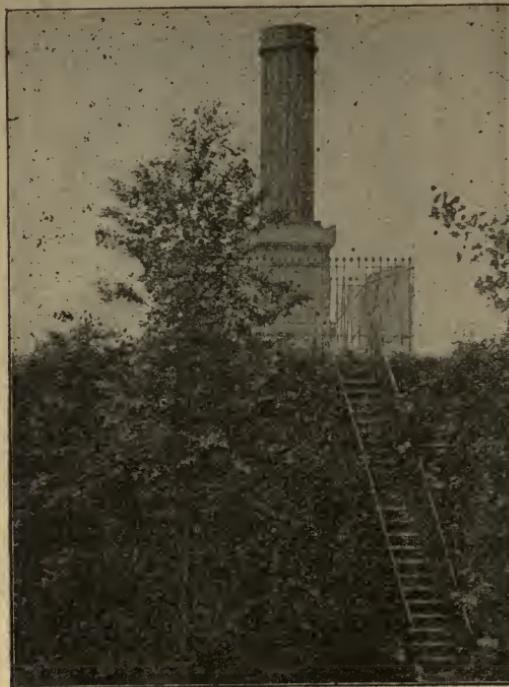
It was rebuilt in 1855, with a subside of 25.000 francs, given by the English, on the condition that commemorative inscriptions in the honour of the victims of the 18th of June 1815 should figure upon it.

The dome dates back to 1690; a Latin inscription on the fronton bears witness to the fact that it was built by the marquis of Castanaga ,under the Spanish domination, to consecrate a wish in the favour of the perpetuity of the race of Charles II, king of Spain.

In 1901, the spire was finished.

Inside ,under the dome, against the lateral walls, marble tablets are to be seen, in memory of brave officers

and soldiers fallen on the field of Waterloo : on the left, there is also a white marble bust of Wellington, offered by his family.



THE GORDON MONUMENT

This monument was built in 1817 in the honour of lieutenant-colonel Gordon, by his family. This officer died in the head-quarters of Wellington, his leg having been blown off by a cannon ball.

It consists of a fluted column on a square foot, resting on two stone steps and surrounded by an iron-grate; it stands on a mount, the height of which is that of the field before the construction of the Lion of Waterloo; access is given by a stone stair of 23 steps.

On the north face, under a funeral wreath, is an English inscription, the French translation of which is to be read on the south side :

« *A desperate sister and five brothers erected this simple monument to him who was their dearest affection.* »

On the east-side are engraved the following inscriptions : TRIA JUNCTA IN UNO (*Three united in one*) and : ICH DIEN (*I serve*). This inscription is under three boars' heads forming a scutcheon.

On the west side, the device : FORTUNA SEQUITUR (*Fortune follows*) surmounted by an arm holding a bent bow.





HANOVERIAN MONUMENT

This monument was erected in 1818 by some Hanoverian officers in memory of their brothers in arms, the brave defenders of the farm of « La Haie-Sainte ».

It is built of blue stone and presents the appearance of a truncated cone, resting upon a cubical foot.

The four sides of this monument are covered with English and French inscriptions.

On that spot an immense pit was dug which received about 4.000 dead and a great number of horses.

This monument was restored in 1911 and embellished by a pretty surrounding.

Prince George, who became later on King of Hanover placed in 1847 an iron plate on the gable of « La Haie-Sainte » in memory of the bravery and courage of his compatriots at the fierce they had to keep in that farm.



THE FRENCH MONUMENT

« There is no French tomb. For France the whole field is a grave » said Victor Hugo in « Les Misérables ». Although proposals and subscriptions were abundant, yet no monument was built until 1900, when Messrs. Housseye, Gustave Larroumet and the count of Mauroy purchased some ground and presented it to the military society « La Sabretache », to enable them to erect a monument on honour of the French soldiers who died for their country in 1815.

« THE WOUNDED EAGLE » by sculptor Gérôme was inaugurated on the 18th of June 1904, on the place where the combatants of the last square fell so gloriously, commanded by Cambronne.

This monument, which is of a very simple composition, represents a wounded eagle in bronze, holding in its claws a torn flag which it continues to defend.

On the granite pedestal is the following inscription : « Aux derniers combattants de la grande armée ». (To the last combatants of the Grand Army.)



THE FARM « LA BELLE-ALLIANCE »

This farm was thus ironically called « La Belle-Alliance », towards the end of the 18th century on the occasion of the marriage of the owneress with one of her stable valets.

It was before that farm that three guard chasseurs and three cuirassiers presented to the Emperor six flags taken from the enemy on the hill of Mont-St-Jean. There it was also that Wellington and Blücher greeted each other victors, while the Prussian bands played « God save the King » and that in the distance the firing diminished.

This took place at a quarter past nine. It was decided that in spite of the night, the remains of the French army should be pursued. This was done by the Prussians.

Many officers and soldiers escaped from the fury of the enemy by voluntary death, and soldiers exhausted by fatigue and privations shot each other rather than to surrender.



THE PRUSSIAN MONUMENT

This monument which was erected in 1819, consists of a four-faced, iron spire ,surmounted by a gilt cross and stands on a foot of blue stone.

On one of the faces there is the following inscription in German : « The King and the Country honour with gratitude the fallen heroes. Let them rest in peace. — Belle-Alliance 18th of June 1815. »

Situated on the territory of Plancenoit, the Prussian monument commemorates the fierce fight of which the village was the theatre. There it was that the desperate fight took place between the young guard, the 1st and 2nd bataillons of chasseurs and the Prussian army. (The French were one to five.) To take this village, the Prussians had to besiege each house separately, room by room; everywhere they butchered each other and soon afterwards an immense fire burnt up the scene of this slaughter.



PAPELOTTE FARM

This farm had to suffer one of the most important assaults of the right wing of the Imperial Army; it was occupied by part of the brigade of Nassau.

Durutte's division began the attack towards two o'clock, and the farm was taken and retaken several times when at seven o'clock the 1st Prussian corps interfered : its action was decisive.

Before that old farm, four beautiful lime-trees are to be seen; they form as it were an enormous bunch. Victor Hugo liked them and often came to sit down and work for several hours in their shade.

The tower made of bricks which stands in the middle of the front did not exist in 1815.

Near Papelotte stands the farm of « La Haie » and somewhat farther on the castle of Fichermont, that were occupied by the remainder of the Brigade of Nassau.



VICTOR HUGO'S MONUMENT

It has been erected not far from the farm of « Belle-Alliance » opposite the French monument; it is composed of a column standing on a cubical foot; the top is surmounted by a crowing Gallic cock.

We shall give here some fragments of the speeches which were pronounced when the first stone was laid on September 22nd 1912 :

From Mr CAMILLE SENNE's speech, in the name of the French committee : « This monument is the affirmation of the sovereignty of thought, the revenge of Poetry on brutal courage. If poets have made gods, they also can make heroes and Napoleon of Waterloo owes his real immortality to Victor Hugo, the author of the « Châtiments » and the « Misérables ».

From that of Mr IVAN GILKIN, the poet of « Nuit » in the name of the Belgian committee : « Modern times have witnessed a prodigious epopee; it has terminated upon this plain in a bloody catastrophe. That epopee has found its Homer. He ought to be glorified on the very spot which inspired his master-pieces. It is moreover just and salutary that on this vast ossuary, where so many monuments remember the horrors of war and the atrociousness of death, another monument should be erected, celebrating Life, the Light of the day, Hope and Faith, Labour and Peace. »

And last not least, Mr FLEISCHMANN, in the name of the promoters of the work, said : « Let us protest against those who consider this column a new mark in memory of the defeat..... The monument which we erect is not a monument of mourning and sorrow, but of Faith, Piety and Hope. It will attest the victory of Thought upon Force, the indescribable conquest which Poetry assures to a beaten nation over those who vanquished it. »





THE TOMB
OF LORD UXBRIDGE'S LEG

At the moment of the rout, Napoleon perceived some pieces of artillery nearly abandoned by their servants, when he cried to General Gourgaud : « Fire the guns ! ».

Immediately the batteries were raised and general Gourgaud fired the last guns of the battle.

A cannon-ball shot off Lord Uxbridge's left leg which was buried in the garden of a house situated at the entry of the village of Waterloo.



THE FRENCH MONUMENT OF THE SLAIN OF HOUGOUMONT

In the orchard of Hougoumont, in the midst of a thicket of ash-trees and tall beeches, stands the monument erected by the « AMIE DE WATERLOO » (PRESIDENT Mr H. FLEISCHMANN), in memory of the French soldiers slain on the 18th of June 1815.

Without being very original, this monument is composed of a monolith of blue stone; on the top of the fore-face stands the traditional bronze eagle with its spread wings. Under it a crown of glory and the inscription : « Aux soldats de Napoléon, morts à Hougoumont, le

18 juin 1815 ». (To the soldiers of Napoleon, slain at Hougoumont on the 18th of June 1815).

Among many other inscriptions on the basement, we read the following sentence from the dictations of St-Helena : « La terre paraissait orgueilleuse de porter tant de braves. » (The earth looked proud to bear so many brave men.)

OTHER GRAVE-STONES

In order to continue the nomenclature of the monuments which were erected in this vast necropolis, we shall name two grave-stones which are found in the orchard of the farm of Hougoumont one of them being devoted to John Lucie Blackman, captain of the Cold-stream Guards, the other one to Edward Cotton, the author of « La voix de Waterloo », who died in 1849.

In the garden of the ancient inn « the White Horse » (Le Cheval Blanc) at Mont-Saint-Jean in front of the « Hôtel des Colonnes » where Victor Hugo lived, stands a monument erected in memory of Major Arthur Rowley Heyland of the British infantry.

Behind the house which was formerly the Bloery inn at Joli-Bois, stands a tomb of blue stone, containing the remains of lieutenant-colonel Stables, commander of the English Guard grenadiers.

The tomb of lieutenant-colonel Fitz Gerald of the English Guards may also be seen in the cemetery of Waterloo.

On the 22nd of September 1912, an ossuary was inaugurated in the park of the Caillou farm, giving at last a grave to the glorious bones which were often turned out by the ploughshare.





HEAD-QUARTERS OF WELLINGTON

(ANCIENT HORSE-POST)

— IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH OF WATERLOO —

It was in this house that Wellington had his head-quarters and passed the night before the battle of the 18th of June 1815. The room where he lodged has been religiously conserved with its furniture.



WATERLOO — CENTRE

Road to Brussels (actual view).

Monument Français

Waterloo.



Amplified view of the « Eagle » of Jérôme, the principal part of the French monument.

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