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We are all in the tented hopes of expectation for news from Portugal. You will see by the papers that the last accounts represent the contest there to be near its issue. From the position of the two armies, & Mafrenas previous movements a battle may be considered as inevitable, & one cannot help indulging the most sanguine hopes that the result will be glorious to us.

Our army was in a very strongly position strong by nature, & fortified by every exertion of art during the last three months, our men were under cover & protected from the rains, in very good health & abundantly supplied with provisions; The French were in the open country exposed to the weather & in want of almost everything. The numbers on both sides must be nearly equal, & the Portuguese have behaved so well hitherto that one can almost depend upon their fighting. Mafrenas is certainly in a very perilous situation, before

Lo Gro. R. Oct. 20 1810.

My dear Mr Stewart,

His so long time I have written to you that I have many things to say & have therefore chosen an idle day for the purpose & I have not been assured you many that come under that description. I know too well the interest you take in every thing that concerns us, not to be persuaded that you felt much grieved at hearing of the loss we have lately sustained by the death of Mrs Fulwood. The attack of water on the chest, which was the immediate cause of the melancholy event, was sudden & rapid in its progress; but those who had intimated for a long time past the gradual decline of her health, could not but anticipate something of the kind, as but too much to be apprehended at any moment. It is a consolation however to know that for the last two months she had been in greater enjoyment of health than for a long time previous, & that to the last moment there was no perceptible appearance

of suffering or of pain. My sister with William
Culverden & Miss Godfrey are at Broadlands
and they are all as well as can be expected.
I was with them in Hampshire during the
whole of September, but have been obliged to
return to London, yet I still hope to get some
further holidays before the meeting of Parlt.

I was sorry that my absence from Town
prevented me from seeing William Miller
when he passed through but I hope to be
more fortunate if he should return by the
same course. I wrote to L^d Mulgrave
about him, & got a very kind answer, although
not one which can encourage me to entertain
any great hopes of the early accomplishment
of his wishes. He promised to make a note
of my application & attend to it as soon as
he could, but added that he thought it ^{not} ~~very~~
fair to say that vacancies occurred but seldom
in the Artillery & that as it was what all

the artillery officers were anxious to obtain
he had of course a great number of similar
applications - I shall be very glad to find
~~that~~ a favourable result. I have now to
beg you to give Mr Stewart my best thanks
for his kind recollection of me in reading me
his last work. I have read it with the greatest
pleasure. There are very few whose praise
can be worth Mr S's acceptance, & therefore
I shall not say more, than that I am very certain
that had one taken up the book by hazard,
without knowing ^{the} author was ~~ever~~ ^{he} could
not have failed to have discovered him before
the first page was read through. I hope
that you will some day or other keep your
promise, & that he will write his name in the
volume at Broadlands; though one really
begins to be as sceptical about your progress
to the south, as about the French invasion,
though I hope that the same certainty of meeting
with a warm reception, which prevents the

at Calcutta of the same nature with that
which he holds at Allahabad, but very much
better in its emolument.

him is Lord Wellington strongly entrenched
behind him the Mondego, which the rains
will have rendered impassable ^{except} by a bridge
which may be broken, & the other bank of
river is occupied by a considerable Portuguese
force. To the left he has an impracticable
tract of mountainous country, & to the right
the sea. If he advances the enterprise is
hazardous, if he remains stationary he has
to fear sickness & famine, if he retires
his retreat will be harassed & impeded by
every possible obstacle. Victory he can hardly
be sanguine enough to hope for, & safety
without it he can scarcely expect. On the
whole I think the aspect of affairs in the penin-
sula has never been so promising at any moment
since the commencement of the contest. Still
however the chances of war are various, & one
cannot help feeling very anxious for the next
accounts. The loss of men which the French
have sustained in the peninsula has been

even greater than is generally imagined
some returns were intercepted last July & it
appeared by them ^{that} the 5th Corps & Army which
in April consisted of 31,000, had between that
month and July lost 9000 men, as the return
stated by death, but probably many had deserted.
judging from that instance the waste of lives
or at least the consumption of men in the two
last years must have been unexampled.
with these returns were a great number of
letters containing much various information
respecting the state of the French in Spain,
their sufferings, their wants, & distresses, one
officer commanding at Santona complains
bitterly of the Bourgeois & the English, the
former cut off all his foraging parties, & the
latter lands, & destroy all his batteries "comme
en faisant une promenade d'agrément."
The head of the Medical Staff writes great
complaints against the "Pharmacoponiste
Major," who cannot make Rhysis as fast as

it is wanted. He says he has tried every thing,
& given the men every sort of medicine applica-
tion, but to no purpose; still they will
die, & the only thing that seems to occur to him
is to renew his medicines in additional quantities.

another good officer says that the Regiment
under his command is ruined by despondency
the men droop & fall ill, are carried to the
Hospital & never come out again. This is vain,
he adds, that he endeavours to cheer their spirits
& persuade them put on imposing countenance
upon the thing, all his attempts are thrown
away. — adieu My dear Mrs Stewart, pray
remember me most kindly to all your party
& believe me ever

Yrs affly

Palmerston

I was rejoiced to hear so good an account of
Matias reached me the other day by a
private channel, & which stated that for that
D. Minto must to give him an appointment

London December Twentysixth
1810

Mrs Stewart

Thornhill

Palmerston Borrowsteanup



London Government House, Oct. 20th, 1810.

My dear Mrs. Stewart:

It is so long since I have written to you that I have many things to say and have therefore chosen an idle day for the purpose, and I have not, I can assure you, many that come under that description. I know too well the interest you take in everything that concerns us, not to be persuaded that you felt much grieved at hearing of the loss we have lately sustained by the death of Mrs. Culverden. The attack of water on the chest, which was the immediate cause of the melancholy event, was sudden and rapid in its progress; but those who had witnessed for a long time past the gradual decline of her health, could not but anticipate something of the kind, as but too much to be apprehended at any time. It is a consolation however to know that for the last two months she had been in greater enjoyment of health than for a long time previous, and that to the last moment there was no perceptible appearance of suffering or of pain. My sisters with William Culverden and Miss Godfrey are at Broadland and they are all as well as can be expected. I was with them in Hampshire during the whole of September; but have been obliged to return to London, yet I still hope to get some further holy days before the Meeting of Part!

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added that he thought it but fair to say that vacancies occurred; but seldom in the Horse Artillery and that as it was what all the artillery officers were anxious to obtain, he had of course a great number of similar applications. I shall be very glad to find that a favorable result. I have now to beg you to give Mr. Stewart my best thanks for his kind recollection of me in sending me his last work. I have read it with the greatest pleasure; there are very few whose praise can be worth Mr. S's acceptance and therefore I shall not say more than that I am very certain that had one taken up the book by hazard without knowing ^{who} the author was, he could not have failed to have discovered him before the first page was read through. I hope that you will some day or other keep your promise, and that he will write his name in the volume at Broadlands; though one really begins to be as sceptical about your progress to the south, as about the French Invasion; though I hope that the same certainty of meeting with a warm reception, which prevents the latter, may operate as an inducement to bring about the former.

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and the English, the former cut off all his foraging parties, and the latter land, and destroy all his batteries "Comme en faisant une promenade d'agrément." The head of the Medical staff writes great complaints against the "Pharmacemponiste Major," who cannot make physic as fast as it is wanted. He says he has tried everything and given the men every sort of medicine and application; but all to no purpose; still they will die, and the only thing that seems to occur to him is to renew his medicines in additional quantities. Another Genl. officer says that the Regiment under his command is ruined by ~~the~~ despondency the men droop and fall ill, are carried to the Hospital and never come out again. It is in vain he adds, that he endeavors to cheer their spirits and persuade them put on imposing countenance upon the thing, all his attempts are thrown away. Adieu my dear Mrs. Stewart. Pray remember me most kindly to all your party and believe me ever

Yours affectionately

Palmerston.

I was rejoiced to hear so good an account of as reached me the other day by a private channel and which stated that L'd Minto meant to give him an appointment at Calcutta of the same nature with that which he holds at Allahabode, but very much better in its emoluments.