



Wellington



Engr. by G. B. S. P. 1812

HISTORY
OF THE
WAR IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM,
IN 1815.
CONTAINING MINUTE DETAILS
OF THE
BATTLES OF QUATRE-BRAS, LIGNY, WAVRE,
AND
WATERLOO.

BY
CAPTAIN W. SIBORNE,
H. P. UNATTACHED; CONSTRUCTOR OF THE "WATERLOO MODEL."

THIRD AND REVISED EDITION.

WITH
REMARKS UPON THE REV. G. R. GLEIG'S
"STORY OF WATERLOO."

LONDON:
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MDCCCXLVIII.

TO THE
QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MADAM,

IN graciously deigning to accept the dedication of these pages, Your Majesty has afforded the greatest possible encouragement to my humble endeavours to record, with simplicity, impartiality, and truth, the incidents of an eventful war, resulting in a long enduring peace; a war which shed a new and brighter lustre on the valour and discipline of the British Army, and once more called forth the consummate sagacity and far-extending prescience of that illustrious Chief, whom Your Majesty, with wise appreciation and a just pride, retains at its head.

Earnestly hoping that the result of those endeavours may prove not altogether undeserving of Your Majesty's approbation,

I have the honour to be,
With profound respect,

MADAM,

Your Majesty's most humble
And most devoted servant,

WILLIAM SIBORNE,
Captain Unattached.

P R E F A C E
TO THE THIRD EDITION.

IN offering to the Public this Third Edition, I feel called upon to state, by way of explanation, in what respect it differs from the two former editions. During the interval which has elapsed, I have not failed to avail myself of every opportunity to correct and improve any points which further investigation rendered desirable; and I have been much gratified in finding that the general plan and arrangement of the work, together with the elucidation of the military operations, and the views of their tendency and effect, have been generally borne out and approved; and that, consequently, in these respects little alteration has been required.

The exceptions, which consist principally in details, and amount in number to only four or five, have been rectified in this edition. They are chiefly the result of discussions which have appeared in the pages of the "United Service Magazine," and relate to a portion of the proceedings of Sir Colin Halkett's and Sir Denis Pack's brigades at Quatre-Bras and Waterloo.

Through the kindness of His Excellency the Prussian Ambassador, Chevalier Bunsen, and of the Prussian Generals von Canitz and von Krauseneck, and of Major Gerwien of the Prussian head-quarters staff, I have obtained additional interesting details connected with the Prussian operations; more especially as regards the opening of the campaign.

A Dutch work published, apparently under authority, by Major Van Löben Sels, Aide-de-camp to his Royal Highness Prince Frederick of the Netherlands, and entitled "*Bydragen tot de Krýgsgeschiedenis van Napoleon Bonaparte*," of which I was not previously in possession, has enabled me to give additional particulars respecting the movements and dispositions of the most advanced portion of the Dutch-Belgian troops, on the first advance of the enemy; and also to explain particular circumstances and qualify some observations respecting those troops which appeared in former editions.

The Editor of an article in "The Quarterly Review, No. CLI.," entitled "Marmont, Siborne, and Alison," having, in his comments upon this work, denied the accuracy of one or two important facts therein stated, I have, in notes at pages 57 and 152, entered into more minute details, which explain the grounds that warrant me in adhering to the original statements.

The observations made in the Preface of a volume of "Murray's Home and Colonial Library," entitled "The Story of Waterloo," and the palpable embodiment of the present work into the pages of the latter, have been such as could scarcely fail to attract attention, and I have accordingly appended to this edition, in a separate form, some remarks upon that publication. Public opinion (if I may judge by the unanimous consent of the press) having so distinctly pronounced its acknowledgment of the value of my work, as one of history, I could not disregard the conduct of a writer, who, in the first place endeavours to depreciate that value, and then unblushingly makes the most ample and unlicensed use of it for his own purposes.

W. SIBORNE.

18th June, 1848.