N.º 23.
1.ª Via.

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Senhor.

Os Francezes, como V. Ex.ª verá pelas gazetas, entráram na Gallliza, que está toda em seu poder, á excepção da Corunha, e tem ganhado no mez passado consideraveis vantagens em toda a Hespanha; e foi isto resultado do que vou informar a V. Ex.ª.

Sir Robert Wilson fez com as Côrtes de Hespanha um ajuste, de que ajuncto copia, para levantar 10. 000 homens na Inglaterra, que deviam ir defender a Gallliza: isto não podêa Sir Roberto cumprir; primº. porque não tinha os meios pecuniarios precisos; e segº. porque a ley, que prohibe recrutamentos aqui para o Estrangeiro, não se podia illudir de forma alguma, em um armamento de tal magnitude: nestes termos foi Wilson para a Gallliza acompanhado sómente por dous outros officiaes. Esta falta de cumprimento de um ajuste, sobre que os Hespanhoes tinham fundado todas as suas esperanças de defender a Gallliza, por tal modo os atemorizou, que o General Morillo, desesperando de poder fazer frente aos Francezes, bandeou-se com elles, e deixou Gallliza indefeza. Quiroga, que éra o Official immediato em graduação, deixou a Corunha, embarcou-se para Inglaterra, para onde previamente tinha mandado

a sua familia, e daqui partio logo para Cadiz, a ver o que
podia fazer com as Cortes. A noticia do que obrára Moritho
em Gallliza abateo de todo o espirito do General Ballesteros,
que commandava em Castella Velha um numeroso corpo de
tropas: e este general, depois de um fraco combate com os
Francezes, se lhes rendeo sem maior resistencia, com o que
ficáram livres aos Francezes tres corpos, que vám agora
apertar o sitio de Cadiz, praça, que náo póde deixar de
render-se, estando bloqueada por mar, e sitiada por
terra.

De Lisboa sube, que o motivo principal; porque o
Senhor Infante D. Miguel foi nomeado General em Chefe
das tropas, foi para desviar o Marechal Beresford de tornar a
entrar em seu antigo lugar, como ElRey queria, e attribue-se
esta medida, com razaõ, ao partido Francez, de que he Chefe
Pamplona, hoje Ministro da Guerra, e Assistente ao Despacho,
o qual faz todo o possivel por arruinar a influencia Ingleza
em Portugal, e substituir-lhe as connexoens Francezas.

Deus guarde a V. Ex.ª m.to an.s Londres 18 de Agosto, 1823.

Ill.mo e Ex.mo Snr.

José Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva

Hippolyto Joseph da Costa Pereira Furtado de Mendonça.

(Copy)

General Staff. War Department.

Convention made, between Sir Robert Wilson, and the Spanish Government, authorized by the Cortes, for the aid of forming a Corps of foreign Troops in the Spanish service.

1.st Sir Robert Wilson shall form a Corps of Foreign Troops, which shall be admitted into the Spanish service, the total amount of which shall not exceed ten thousand men, nearly one third to be cavalry.

2. The service of this Corps is to last during the war, and one year more, if the Spanish Government find it expedient.

3. Sir Robert Wilson from this moment will be considered a Spanish Lieutenant General, and shall have his Commission forwarded as soon as the fourth part of the Corps land in Spain.

4. General Wilson shall appoint, for the first and only time commanders and officers; the vacancies which may occur will be filled up by the Spanish Government at the recommendation of the said General.

5. The discipline of this Corps shall be regulated by the military laws, which General Wilson may propose and the Cortes approve, subjecting itself to the Spanish civil ones, to the organized law of the Army of the 9.th June 1821, in the five cases stated by the 7.th article; and finally to the Spanish military laws, as far as relates to garrison & field service.

6.th The batallions of Infantry, as well of the line, as light troops, are to have ten companies of a hundred men each:

each company of the line is to have four officers, except those of preference, which together with those of light Infantry shall have five officers: each batallion one Lieutenant Colonel, and two Majors.

7. The regiments of Cavalry are to be composed of five squadrons, of two troops of ninety each: each troop four officers: each regiment one Lieutenant Colonel, two Majors, the two Majors and the two senior Captains will command the squadrons.

8. The soldiers of this Corps are to have the same allowances as the Spanish, on the event of being invalided in the service, they will enjoy the half pay due to the rank, which they hold in the Spanish service.

9. As to prizes and booty, the same customs and orders are to regulate respecting them, as may be given to the Spanish Army.

10. The muster to be made by Spanish Commissaries, who are to furnish the necessary requisitions, for the service of the troops, which compose this Corps.

11. Government is to provide every thing necessary for the service of hospitals, provisions, amunition, field train, and to manage the Campoign.

12. On the event of death, in action of any Commander or officer, his widow shall have a right to the same pension, to which she would be entitled, if her husband were a Spaniard.

13. Every individual of this Corps can dispose of his

property, without any restriction, both in sound health or death bed, as far as concerns the dues he is entitled to by this Convention.

14. Should any of the officers, who have bought their commissions in the service of their own Country die in action, or in consequence thereof, or by infirmity in Campaign, their heirs shall be remunerated, by the three fourth in landed property.

15. If Government, owing to the exhausted state of the Treasury could not pay the commanders, officers, and soldiers, the whole amount of their pay and allowances in cash, the Nation shall remunerate the defect, in good landed property, in the provinces of Catalonia, Valencia, Andaluzia, Extremadura and Castille.

17. Should Government have pecuniary means, & the concerned chose it in preference, they shall be remunerated in cash.

18. If at the end of the war or of this Convention, the material of the Corps was to remain in Spain, it should have its balance paid by a particular arrangement.

19. The Spanish Government will recommend to the Commanders in Chief, not to dislocate or detach part of the batallions or squadrons, which constitute the Corps, keeping them together as much as possible, but they are authorized to divide it by batallions or squadrons, whenever the good of the service, the preparation for action or the convenience of cantonments require it.

20. In conjunction with the national troops, both these and the foreign, who form the Corps, will be commanded by the

General in Chief, appointed by Government: in his absence the command devolves on the General, though inferior in rank, whom Government previously had appointed Second in command, agreable to the practice and order of the Spanish armies: but, attending to the military credit of General Wilson, no General Officer of inferior rank, or junior to him, shall succeed to the Command in Chief, except on very powerful motives of common utility; in defect of this special appointment to succeed in Command, it revolves ad interim on the General Officer of the highest rank, or on the senior if of the same.

Seville, 31.st May, 1823.

Additional Article.

If after the service of this Corps is up, any of its individuals wishes to retire to their native Country, the Spanish Government will furnish them with transports, requisite to accomplish it.

Dated and signed per special power from Government,

Brigadier Adjudant General of the Chief Staff

Lewis de Augusta.

In virtue of authority from Sir Robert Wilson

H. Bristow.