PORTUGAL IN 1826-1827

Letters of Lt. David Fitzgerald. 60th Rifles, Serving in Portugal

(With Notes by Revd. H. F. Fulford Williams)

The writer of these letters was the third son of Maurice Fitzgerald, seventeenth «Knight of Kerry». He came to Portugal with the force of 5,000 men which was despatched from England under the command of Sir William Clinton in December 1826. Originally sent to Mr. Aubrey Bell, the well-known writer on Portugal and himself a connection of the Fitzgeralds, the letters were to assist him in the preparation of a Memoir on the seventeenth «Knight of Kerry». This is a hereditary Irish title, held since the XIIIth century by a branch of the Fitzgerald family, and is local to the holding of the lands (Note 1). The thanks of the Historical Association are due to Mr. Bell for his permission to print such parts of the letters as deal with the British army in Portugal. Some family references have been omitted ; otherwise the letters are given as they stand. They only cover the opening phases of the stay of the force in Portugal, though the troops under Clinton were actually in that country until April 1828. Some notes have been added, but owing to present circumstances they are not as full as could be wished.

In the first place it is desirable to give a general indication of the Political Position as it stood in 1826-7.

Dom João VI of Portugal died on the 10th March 1826. A year earlier, on 29th August 1825, he had acknowledged the

independence of Brasil and it was provided by treaty that the crowns of Portugal and Brasil must henceforward be separate. Dom Pedro, the eldest son, was Emperor of Brasil with the right of succession to the crown of Portugal at his father's death.

The two political parties in Portugal at the time when Sir William Clinton's force arrived were the Absolutists or Miguelists and the Constitutionalists.

The former were led by Dom Miguel, third son of Dom João VI and Carlota Joaquina, the latter one of the Spanish Bourbons, while Dom Pedro was the leader of the Constitutionalists. Dom Pedro elected to remain Emperor of Brasil and resigned his rights to the crown of Portugal in favour of his daughter Maria da Glória, aged but 7. This resignation was however subject to certain stipulations ; firstly, the acceptance by Portugal of a Constitution granted by him on the 29th April 1826, and secondly the betrothal of Maria to her uncle, Dom Miguel. Negotations relative to both provisions were completed by the Autumn of 1826 and the Chambers, under the new constitution, were assembled in Lisbon on the 30th October of that year. An oath to uphold the principles of the constitution was taken by all the notables of Portugal, including Dom Miguel, a dispensation for the betrothal was obtained and the marriage contract signed on the 29th November 1826.

Nevertheless trouble was already brewing. The Miguelista party was strong, especially in the Douro valley, and the summer had seen a military revolt under the Marquis of Chaves, who, though not then in action, led a large number of soldiers into Spain, where Ferdinand VII promised aid, as did Charles X. of France. Then the Constitutionalists appealed to Great Britain for aid, and in December 1826, after a stirring speech by George Canning, then Foreign Secretary, Parliament sanctioned the despatch of a force of 5,000 men, and this force, commanded as has been said by Sir William Clinton, was the mainstay of the Constitutionalists Charter.

In England, the Duke of Wellington and the Tory party, while approving the restoration of order and the prevention of French intervention in Portuguese affairs, did not believe in nor support the Charter. Moreover though this detachment of British troops did overawe local opposition and check the invasion planned by Chaves — largely because neither France nor Spain wished to be involved in war — the support lent by foreign troops did not commend the Charter to Portugal. In April 1827 Canning became Prime Minister, but died in August of that year, while the Duke of Wellington took that office in January 1828, withdrawing the British troops from Portugal in April of that year. One month later Dom Miguel summoned a Cortes on the old model, after having previously dissolved the parliament assembled in terms of the Charter. He then accepted the offer of the crown, taking oath as King of Portugal in July 1828. It may not be out of place to recall the fact that four years earlier, in April 1824, Dom Miguel had kept his father, Dom João VI «incomunicado» at Bemposta under the pretence that this seclusion was meant to save the monarch from probable assassination. The foreign corps diplomatique, recognising that the king was in effect a prisoner advised him to go aboard an English ship, the same «Windsor Castle» mentioned in Fitzgerald's first letter, and Dom João did so on the 9th May 1824. From on board, safe under the British flag, he called up Dom Miguel, ordered him to resign his army command, and exiled him to Vienna. Into the later phases of the Miguelista wars one cannot go here, but it may be of interest to add that one of the many complications they occasioned in the life of the people of Portugal was due to a recrudescence of «Sebastianism», that strange belief in the miraculous return of the king who disappeared among the Moorish hosts at the disastrous battle of Alcácer-Kibir in 1578.

Dom Miguel, men held, was a personification of him who against all reason led the flower of Portugal's chivalry to complete disaster in North Africa, though there was nothing in the private or public life of Dom Miguel to rouse admiration, he having all the faults and none of the virtues of his Bourbon ancestry.

LETTER No. 1.

«On board the «Windsor Castle».

«Plymouth Sound.

«16 December 1826.

«My dear Father.

«The order is arrived, we embark today on board «the «Windsor Castle», a 74 (Note 2) and with the «first tide sail for Lisbon.

«As yet only 5,000 troops have been ordered out «(Note 3) but a greater force will I think eventually «go.

«The conduct of the French is more than suspicious, «to their hostile intentions, and the force they may «support their plans with is very great and composed «of well-disciplined troops, so that if they do not allow «themselves to be cowed by our so rapidly resisting «their course of conduct the affair is likely to be serious:

«We muster six service companies, 90 strong, i. e. «nearly 600 men, and as fine young men as possible. «Bunberry and Scott, as Majors, go out with us, and «the Depot is left under one of the senior Captains «(Note 4).

«Schadde, our Senior Major, saw more service than «any man (in a Rifle Battalion) or than almost any «man, in the last Peninsular War. With the exception of him, and three or four more, the officers are very «young, and so is also the great proportion of the men, «which renders the selection of the Regiment very flat-«tering.

«Everybody, you may suppose, is in the highest «spirits, and we can hardly muster sufficient melan-«choly in our countenances to reward the ladies of De-«von the sighs they honour our departure with.

«The «Windsor Castle» is a fine vessel, and if the «wind favours us, as it seems at present inclined to do, «our voyage will not be a long one, about 7 or 8 days; «we shall most of us however be glad when it is over, «not looking for much comfort in the Bay from an «Atlantic swell, even in a 74.

«I will send you a full account of everything from «the moment we land. I do not know precisely how «we are to be employed, probably in the first Instance, «as an Army of Observation, along the Portuguese «border, perhaps at Tôrres Vedras (Note 5). Two most «useful articles I have not provided myself with, alas! «a map and a reconnoitring glass. I am most fortunate «to be appointed to the Company I was most anxious «to be in, Harvey's, and it is a great point on service «in being with an officer who is one's friend. It is now «6 o'clock, and as I have been up all night I feel incli-«ned to lie down for half an hour, and will therefore «conclude with intreating you to write as often as you «can spare time, and to believe me

«My dearest Father,
«Your affectionate Son.
«D. FITZGERALD.
«RIFLES.»

«I am taking Horace, and Caesar with me. Horace for «Lisbon. Caesar to accompany me into the mountains». (Note 6).

LETTER No. 2.

«His Majesty's Ship «Windsor Castle».

«Beating up the Tagus.

«Wednesday, 27th December 1826.

«My dearest mother;

«Nous voici enfin. We were in sight of land last «Friday, but our progress since has been slow, no «event worth recording has occurred during the voy-«age.

«The scene about us is animated and beautiful «beyond description. The Tagus is a manificent river, «filled with shipping, and the British flag is flying in all «directions ; nothing looks dangerous of any kind.

«A Lieut. from one of the ships has just come on «board and says that Lisbon is quiet, the Portuguese «rather disaffected but frightened at seeing that Great «Britain is in earnest, and Ferdinand (Note 7) has «acknowledged the Constitution, so that I begin to «fear we shall have no laurels to gather, and shall have «to content ourselves with the olives that fringe the «banks of the Tagus.

«I do not know when or how this letter is to go, «but I wish to have one ready to take advantage of «the first opportunity that offers.

«Our band in on deck, playing the «British Grenadiers»

«Your affectionate Son.

«D. FITZGERALD.»

«Portugal has been dreadfully astonished by Canning's «speech, which they received by a London steamboat, five «days after it was delivered.

«I wish you could get me letters of Introduction to Sir «William a' Court, or his Suite». (Note 9).

LETTER No. 3.

«(Note 10). Vale do Pereiro Barracks.

«Lisbon, 6 Jan. 1827.

«My dear Father.

«We are now quartered at these barracks, on the «outskirts of Lisbon, with orders to be ready at a mo- «ment's notice to march up the country.

«Our Brigade is the 1st. It consists of the 10th and «the 4th Infantry, the 23rd Fusileers, and the Rifles.

«It is commanded by Sir Edward Blankeney «(Note 11).

«The men have good Barrack-rooms, and we, with «the exception of some of the Staff, are billeted in «private houses in the neighbourhood.

«The 4th Foot are in the same Barracks, and divide «the Barrack-duty with us, and on alternate days with «them we have a night-Picket (Note 12) to patrol the «neighbouring streets and roads.

«Everything is quiet in Lisbon, but I believe it is «only the fear of the British troops that prevents the «Portuguese from rising against the Government.

«The Merchants are of course staunch to us, as any «convulsion would injure them, and so are the most en- «lightened individuals in some other classes, (a minor- «ity in Portugal); but, (with some exceptions) the «Aristocracy are averse to the Constitution, and so are «the rich and ambitious priesthood, and their slaves the «lower classes. The latter are for the most part very «little advanced in civilization, as far as regards com- «fort and education, but, as well as the upper classes, «civil to a degree to the English, whom they have no «objection to a favourable opportunity of cheating. «It may be perhaps only sincere in trifles, and inferior «to what the English call their stirling friendship, but «the politeness of Portuguese is certainly their most «agreeable quality, and when a man gives up his seat «at the Opera, or goes two or three miles out of his «way to show me mine, I feel little disposed to analyse «his motives for doing so, much less would I exchange «him for a John Bull who would think him a great fool «for taking so much trouble.

«The stab of the Stiletto is as much to be dreaded «in the streets as ever. One of our soldiers, with a «comrade, broke out of Barracks the other night, and «when in a state of drunkenness was stabbed in the

«groin, by a Portuguese, and died an hour afterwards. «The assassin was not discovered (Note 13).

«We are very cautious and never go out without «our swords, and there is a report we are also to carry «pistols.

«Owing to the cheapness of wine here, we have been «obliged to punish constantly for drunkenness, and our «discipline is of course stricter than at home.

«We practice the Light Infantry Movements cons«tantly, and the Regiment looks very well (Note 14).

LETTER No. 4.

Dated from the same Barracks on the 13th Jan. 1827 deals with purely private matters.

LETTER No. 5.

«Villa Franca, 25 Jan. 1827.

«My dear Father.

«Your letter of 1st January, which I was delighted «to get, did not reach me till we had marched from «Lisbon.

«Bunberry gave it to me on our first day's march. «I have therefore been hitherto unable to make any «use of Uncle Vesey's letter to Lord Beresford (Notes «15 & 16).

«Tho' our marching from Lisbon towards the fron«tier seems to savour of hostilities, I perfectly agree «with you that there will be no war. The Marquess of «Chaves (Note 17) has already evacuated Portugal, «and fled into Spain ; the French have, I believe, «threatened instantly to withdraw their army if Ferdi«nand in any way countenances the insurgent Portu«guese, and I dare say he has brains enough left to «know that the swarm of Constitutionalists this action

«would let in on him, acting as these Constitutionalists «would under the protection of British troops, would «have left him very small hope of either crown or life.

«So that our march to the Frontier may be consid«ered as partly a measure of intimidation, partly as «a measure of convenience in quartering the troops, as «accommodation in Lisbon is limited for all those that «have been brought over.

«Our Brigade will probably be stationed for some «time at Tomar, on the Frontier, on which we are now «moving. We have halted for some days at Villa Fran«ca, which is two days march from Lisbon. A dirty «town, the accommodation bad, but convenient from «its distance from Lisbon, and also from its being on «the Tagus, with a constant intercourse by steam.

«As the Brigade marched without the necessities for «camp being all furnished, this halt will enable us to «complete ourselves. We shall probably move forward «as soon as we are joined by the remaining regiment «of the Brigade — the 23rd Fusileers.

«The order of our march from Lisbon was, 3 com«panies of the Rifles (the Right Wing), in front, then «the 10th and the 4th, the rear being brought up by «three companies of the Left Wing, by far the pleasant«est arrangement for us. The second day's march was «the same, only we marched Left in front. Our men «marched so well that the Colonel of the 10th, rode «up to Sir E. Blankney to say that his men could not «keep up with us. He laughed, and told us to sit down «and wait for them — the Rifles are in high favour «with him and he takes every opportunity of praising «our conduct and appearance.

«We mess by companies, which I do not in the «least dislike, and have now and then to cook our own «dinners, which is good practice for us living under «canvass. There are two articles I feel very awkward

«without, a good map of Spain and Portugal and a «reconnoitering glass.

«We are all in mourning for the poor Duke of York. «I am glad we are to have the Duke of Wellington as «his successor (Note 18).

«Your affectionate son.
«D. FITZGERALD.

LETTER No. 6.

«Leiria, 7 Feb. 1827.

«My dearest Mother.

«I heard this instant that a Mail for England is to «be made up, within the next hour or so, and therefore «I have only time to write you a line or two to say «where I am, and to thank you and my sisters for «your most welcome letters. They reached me just be-«fore I left Villa Franca, where, I think, my last letter «to my Father was dated, and as I have since been «incessantly on the move, I have not had a moment «to answer them.

«We left Villa Franca with the intention of proceed-«ing, after a few days halt at Santarem, which is two «days march from it, to Tomar and remain in quarters «there for some time. We enjoyed the idea of this as «we heard there was excellent shooting there and all «sorts of sporting, wild-boar hunting, wolf-hunting, etc., «but all this we looked forward to vainly as later — «a halt of one day at Santarém — intelligence was «brought that Chaves was advancing towards Oporto, «having again entered Portugal. Orders reached us to «pursue him and give him chase, and as we were reck-«oned the best marchers in the Brigade we went in «advance, leaving the rest of the Brigade to follow «more slowly, and after three days march we have «reached Leiria, where we were joined by the rest «of the Brigade.

«Here again intelligence has arrived that Chaves «has been completely defeated by the Portuguese and «that nothing remains for us to do, and it is rather «provoking to find that we altered our course needless-«ly and have done nothing.

«Whether we halt here for some time or march to-«morrow we know not, for our movements are quite «sudden, and nothing is known till the moment before «a move.

«This is a very pretty town, and there are some «views about it that make me much regret not being «able to sketch. Indeed I have lately marched through «some of the most beautiful scenery, I suppose, in any «country.

«Your affectionate son.
«D. FITZGERALD.
«RIFLES.»

LETTER No. 7.

«Coimbra, 1 March 1827.

«My dear Father.

«I have this instant received your letter of the 12th «February. The letter from Miss Trant (Note 19) I «cannot now make use of ; if I return to Lisbon, I «shall be able to do so, and thank her very much for «them, agreeable acquaintances among the residents «of a country are always desirable.

«I look forward to a Company in this regiment «with the greatest eagerness ; though I may in some «ways be influenced by Esprit de Corps, we complete-«ly carry the day in this country ; whether on «Field Days, in Quarters, or on the March, the Men «are the best behaved of any on Service, and the Offi-«cers are superior to most regiments and are great fav-«ourites of Sir E. Blankney.

«Then on actual service in the field, a Rifle Corps «to a person fond of his profession has a thousand

«advantages, and I hope when an opportunity occurs «you will have sufficient influence with the Duke of «Wellington to secure me my Company.

«We have had one or two Brigade Field Days ; on «these occasions we labour in our vocations, skirmish-«ing and covering the movements of the Brigade. The «last day we went out we had Cavalry and Artillery «with us. The latter were Portuguese, and the Cavalry «were our own 10th Hussars, who did everything very «well.

«In order to be more completely fit, if they put «any real affairs upon our hands, we are to be rehear-«sed in what we should have to do in the field ; we «send out at night outlying Pickets, a Field Officer «visits them to ascertain if we have posted our sentries «with judgement and knowledge of the ground. And «when the weather is sufficiently settled we are to be «practiced in the whole system of Encampment. I be-«lieve we are to pitch our tents on the plains of Bus-«saco, where we fought the French in 1810 (Note 20). «It is 25 miles from this. Till then we shall most likely «remain at Coimbra.

«Sir W. Clinton (Note 21) having arrived here, it «is now Headquarters, being a good central position, «but the Commisariat complains bitterly of the diffi-«culty and long distance they have to send the sup-«plies, and therefore wish the army to fall back on the «Tagus. I hope not, at least for the present, for I dis-«like retracing my steps, and I would rather when we «leave this move on to Oporto, and this will most «likely be our destination. I am afraid we have no «chance, as I once hoped, of visiting Spain.

«All the Cabinets seem bent on peace, and the Cha-«ves Party is too weak by itself to do anything, the «last time Villa Flor defeated him there was some tol-«erable fighting. Three large parties of prisoners have «been marched through this town on their way to Lis-«bon, and such poor looking wretches I have never

«beheld. In point of clothing and equipment the White-«-boys and Peep-o'-Day Boys would not «put up» «with them ; and to say the truth Her Royal Majesty's «Militia, whom we are obliged to present arms to every «day as they pass our Guard, would hardly pass mus-«ter with Jack Falstaff's troop.

«Hutchinson, one of Sir E. Blankney's Aide-de «Camps, went a short time ago to see Villa Flor's army «and he tells me he has 12,000 rather fine troops. Colo-«nel Mayne, an officer most distinguished in the 7th «Fusileers in the last war, who volunteered to lead the «storming party at Badajoz, is attached to one of the «Royalist Generals, and was present at the battle be-«tween Villa Flor and the rebels.

«I ride a great deal about Coimbra ; such hills, such «woods, and such rivers, nothing could be more de-«lightful ; such a country for Riflemen, or «Caçadores» «as they call us here ; such roads (if roads they can «be called) that I travel up and down with my Por-«tuguese baggage horse that never makes a false step «with me.

«I have written a tremendously long letter with the «worst pen that ever mortal was cursed with, and shall «now conclude with my love.

«We have received intelligence that the Oporto «packet was wrecked. I am in a dreadful fidgit that «some of my letters were sent by it. I have also a re-«port of poor Captain (name illegible)'s Frigate, the ««Forte» being lost and everyone perishing. I hope to «Heaven this news can't be true.

«Believe me, my dear Father,
«Your affectionate Son.
«D. FITZGERALD.»

NOTE. — The foregoing letter is the last letter in the packet from Portugal. The 60th Rifles stayed at Coimbra until the British troops were withdrawn (in consequence of a change of ministry in England) in March 1828. In all, about 30 men from the Rifles died in Portugal.

NOTES.

(1) Maurice Fitzgerald, 17th Knight of Kerry, 1774-1849. Represented Kerry for 37 years in the Irish and British Parliaments and was a Lord of the Treasury. He lost his seat for opposing the Reform Bill of 1832, and refused an English seat. A close friend of Wellington and Castlereagh, he united a Toryism in home affairs with an admiration for Napoleon and Liberalism in foreign politics. He married, in 1801, Maria, daughter of the Rt. Hon. David Digges La Touche, of Dublin. She died while her son was in Portugal. He had six sons, four, including David, the writer of the letters, predeceasing him.

(2) «Windsor Castle, a 74». i. e., a ship of the line, rated as carrying 74 guns, though in 1826 it was often more. On the «Windsor Castle», King João VI went on the 9th May 1824, and thence he summoned Dom Miguel to meet him, ordering him to give up the command of the army and to withdraw to Vienna.

(3) 5,000 troops. The British force in Portugal, 1826-8, was made up as follows :

10th Hussars ; 12th Lancers ; Royal Artillery.

1st Infantry Brigade, comprising :

4th Foot (King's Own Royal Regt.). 10th Foot (Lincolnshire Regt.), 23rd Foot (Royal Welsh Fusiliers), 60th Rifles (King's Royal Rifles).

2nd Infantry Brigade :

1st Grenadier Guards, 1st Scots Fusilier Guards (Scots Guards), 11th Foot (Devon Regt.), 43rd Foot (1st Oxford and Buckingham Light Infantry).

(4) «We, etc.» — The 60th Rifles ; they were raised in New York as the «Royal Americans» in 1755, armed with the rifle and trained for forest fighting. Hence its «invisible green» uniform, copied from the American rangers. Served in America, then in Crauford's Lght Division, and later in all parts of the world. In 1914-1918 it had 26 battalions. At the time this Note was written, the 60th Rifles were specially mentioned for their share in the defence of Calais (June 1940).

The detachment mentioned in these letters embarked at Plymouth in December 1826 with a Lt. Col., 2 Majors., 6 Captains., 12 Lieutenants., 5 Staff., 28 Sergeants., 10 Buglers., 520 Rank & File. The total strength thus being 584. In 1826 the nominal strength of an infantry regiment was 8 companies of 90 men, but none was at strength. Two depot companies were left behind with depleted ranks and the six taken were brought up to strength.

(5) Torres Vedras. The expectation clearly was that the French would be marching on Lisbon, when the troops reached it.

(6) Horace. The writer has a pocket Horace, which was in the pocket of Capt. C. J. Williams, 8th Bedford Regt., when he was killed at Ypres on 19th December 1915. Capt. Williams had been a classical scholar of Clare, Cambridge.

(7) Ferdinand. i. e., Ferdinand VII of Spain.

(8) Constitution. The Portuguese Constitution given in July 1826.

(9) Sir William a'Court. 1779-1860. Ambassador to Portugal, 1826-28 ; to Russia, 1828-32. Created Lord Hetersbury in 1828. Viceroy of Ireland, 1844-46.

(10) Vale do Pereiro Barracks. Occupied by the 2nd Battalion de Caçadores. It stood near the present statue of the Marquis de Pombal, and is now removed.

(11) Sir Edward Blakney. 1778-1868. 7th Royal Fusiliers.

Served in Peninsular War and at Waterloo. Commanded 1st Infantry Brigade in Portugal, 1826-28. Commander-in-chief, Ireland, 1838-55. Field Marshal, 1862.

(12) Picket. A small body of troops on special duty, e. g., police in garrison or an outpost, etc. ; the original meaning of the term was the ten pikemen left in each infantry regiment, when the bayonet was instituted at about 1690, for storming parties or leading a charge.

(13) Private Joseph Herron of the 60th Rifles. Buried in St. George's Cemetery. He died 8th January 1827, aged 19.

(14) Light Infantry movements. This was the special drill for Rifles and Light Infantry introduced in 1803 by Sir John Moore for the 43rd, 52nd, and 95th Foot. Its special points were skirmishing and outpost work. To the present day a Rifle or Light Infantry Regiment moves at the «trail» where another marches at the «slope», and marches 132 paces to the minute as against 120 paces. This marching is referred to in Letter 5.

(15) Uncle Vesey. This is William Vesey Fitzgerald, 1783-1843 : Younger brother of the Knight of Kerry and at this date Paymaster-General of the Army. His defeat by Daniel O'Connell at the Ennis election of 1829 forced on the question of Roman Catholic emancipation. He was made Lord Fitzgerald and Vesey in 1835.

(16) Beresford. This was the celebrated William Carr Beresford, 1768-1854. Title ; Lord Beresford of Albuera and Cappoquin. Conde de Trancoso in the Portuguese peerage. Viscount Beresford in 1823. A Field Marshal in the Portuguese army during the Peninsular War. Serving in England in 1826. His many connections with Portugal both during and subsequent to the invasion of Junot and Massena are too numerous to detail here.

(17) Marquess of Chaves. Leader of the Absolutist revolt initiated in April 1826 by the Portuguese troops, whom he led into Spain. The British government demanded their disarmament, but he invaded northern Portugal in the Douro region in January 1827, only to be defeated and his troops captured by the Conde de Villa Flor, near Oporto.

(18) Duke of York : The son of King George III. Was Commander-in-Chief. He died in January 1826. Wellington was Commander-in-Chief, 1827-28 and resigned on becoming Prime Minister in January of the latter year.

(19) Miss Trant. A daughter of Col. Nicholas Trant, commander of the 16th Legión of the Portuguese army, 1809-12. She was baptised at Lisbon on 26th November 1800.

(20) «Plains of Bussaco». This is rather an inaccurate description of the Serra.

(21) Sir William Clinton. 1769-1846. Served in the Peninsular War and also commanded British troops in Portugal. Died Governor of Chelsea Hospital.

(22) White-boys. A south of Ireland association of outlaws, in general a murder gang, appearing at intervals between 1765 and 1830.

(23) Peep-o'-Day Boys. North Irish Protestant outlaws, their name being due to their custom of breaking into houses at dawn. They were suppressed by an Act in 1786, but the organization frequently recurred.

Supplementary

The following paragraphs are extracts from a diary of Maria Fitzgerald. Their slight and sometimes piquant criticisms of Portuguese society in exile fittingly round off the young sub-altern's letters.

«1826. Dec. 13. To my great woe I hear that war has been declared with Spain. But, sorry as I am for it, I would be sorry that England did anything dishonourable, which would be the case if they did not engage in it, as it is to punish the inroads on the Portuguese, our oldest allies and whom we promised to help. The cruelties in India appear very great. I am sure people grow very domineering to the poor Blacks (!).

1827. May 17. David sent some orange flowers which still smell sweet. As soon as the oranges are off, the flowers for next year's oranges come on and spread a most delicious perfume. He describes very minutely the dress of the peasants ; a short jacket fitted tight to the shape, a short petticoat tied round the waist with a running string, and a huge felt hat. They carry great weights to market on their heads and some often send presents of fruit and puddings. He now has command of his regiment (? company) as Lord G. Hervey is ill at Lisbon.

1828. Jan. 1. Don Miguel arrived (London) Sunday. He went yesterday to Windsor, to-day he was to have had a hunt, which I suppose was not improved by the rain. Lord Mount Charles promised the King's private box at Drury Lane to Papa for Friday if Don Miguel does not go. They are to feast him and to try their other good things to instil some liberality into him.

Jan. 3. It was expected that Don Miguel would be hissed this evening (at Drury Lane). I hope not.

Jan. 10. Papa dined at Sir John Dayle's to meet Saldanha.

March 20. Don Miguel is going to set up as absolute King against his brother Don Pedro and the Constitution, notwithstanding all his fine promises and oaths He is I believe a very villain. The old Queen is another. A mule kicked Sir William Clinton and nearly broke his leg, and she bought it and is making much of it. The shopkeepers are for the Constitution. I hope if the English are to take part that they will send more troops, but they are well placed, having command of the river and they can go off when they please.

July 17. Don Miguel is absolute King of Portugal ; the officers of the Constitutional Army have been either treacherous or cowardly and gave up.

Sept. 8. M. de Sarmento, the clever and amiable Portuguese

gentleman who was very kind to David, is exiled by the Government of Don Miguel from his family and country and is living at N.° 9 Upper Baker Street.

1829. Feb. 28. Two cousins of the Palmelas came afterwards; the eldest has a fine base voice and sang very well. Mlle. de Palmela also sang. When we played the Constitutional Hymn the three Palmelas jumped up and began to sing with the greatest vigour, particularly as it was the Emperor himself composed it. The Comte de Palmela, son to the Marquis, would not come because he heard that Mr. Fraser was to be there. One of the cousins does not look at all like a foreigner. They are both very pleasing and gentlemanlike. The young men have been but a short time in England ; they do not like the climate.

May 9. We spent the evening with the Trants. Don Luís de Mascarenhas and another cousin whom we never saw before came in. We talked and sang alternately. Don Luís remembered seeing David in Portugal and seemed greatly delighted. He is a very pleasing boy. He seems so enthusiastic about his country and was complaining that the English have given them up.

1830. Dec. 19. M. de Morais Sarmento dined here. He seems to be exceedingly well informed ; he talks too much, I think, but he seems a very good sort of man and one does pity him ; he has five children and only one with him, all the others he is separated from, and his wife. He speaks English very well.

Dec. 23. Clara (Trant) wrote that M. de Sarmento was in love with us all, but especially with the «embodied dream of chivalry» (Sir Aubrey de Vere in his «The Lamentation of Ireland» had described his cousin, the Knight of Kerry's «lofty port and spiritual eye, Like some embodied dream of chivalry»).

Jan. 3. 1831. M. de Sarmento and his son were here this morning and dined here. The little boy after dinner, before the gentlemen came up, amused us very much ; he became quite at his ease and told us a great deal about different Portuguese. He told us about the Count of Cagliari, son of the Marquis of Palmella, who, though only sixteen, is entrusted with all his father's diplomatic affairs. The Portuguese are much sooner at

their climacteric of intellect than we are. The little Sarmento's name is Don Thomas Ignacio de Moraes Sarmento ; he is a remarkably nice little boy.

Jan. 18. I accompanied Clara to call on a family named Cockas, I believe, exiled Portuguese. The lady is young and pretty and married her uncle, an old man, and has a daughter that looks as old as herself almost. We then called on the Mascarenhas. They are of the first noblesse and her husband is a very brave officer. M.me de Mascarenhas is a most pleasing ladylike person. Her uncle is lately dead and they were telling Sir Nicholas (Trant) that when the old man was dying the Government would not allow even his daughter to see him. Old Canelas is a rogue, for he told Sir Nicholas that his children would be allowed to be with him. They seem cheerful notwithstanding the reverses in their fortunes.

Jan. 25. The Vicomte de Cannellas says Bess (Elizabeth Fitz Gerald, afterwards Mrs. Vandeleur) has quite «une figure romaine», that she is «un sujet pour un sculpteur». M. de Sarmento said the same and I am glad they agree in that, though probably they would do so in very few subjects. M. de Cannellas likes England, except for the climate, and he delays his departure for Italy as he begins to enjoy society here. He would wish to take Miss Keane to Italy that she might hear good masters, which he says she wants.

Feb. 28. We went to Clara Trant's this evening for a meeting of the spouses of the rival Ministers of Don Miguel and Don Pedro. The husbands did not come. M.me de Mascarenhas is Don Pedro's, M.me de Asseca Don Miguel's. I spoke some time to M.me de Mascarenhas and I never almost took such a fancy to anyone, she is so pretty and such a nice creature. M.me de Asseca seems a good little woman and speaks English very well. She has an Irish nurse who is always speaking of the different Irish families she knows, and amongst others, of the Knight of Kerry. I want to get the key of the enclosed part of the Park for M.me de Mascarenhas ; she is desired for her health to walk and does not like walking in the streets alone. Papa promised to speak to Lord Duncannon and that there will be no difficulty.

March 14. We went to Lady Chatterton's. La Blache was there and very obliging. He sang two or three duets with Lady Chatterton. M.me de Asseca and another lady and two Portuguese youths came. Our old Vicomte was as civil as possible ; the Comte Pombino, nephew of M.me de Asseca, an ugly little man, seemed to be conversable ; the other was not very agreable. Lady Cecilia Palett, Lady Winchester's daughter, sang to the guitar ; she was frightened. I danced with Lord Ossory.

April 15. The old Vicomte de Canellas came, as usual complimenting and sometimes getting into scrapes by the varieties of his civilities. He and Papa puzzling out some high flown (I suppose) Tory politics in broken French and English. Mr. Dent came. M. de Correa, the Comte Pombeiro and M. Lemos. Foreigners are always good-humoured and civil and they remained after the old Vicomte and the rest were gone. M. Corrêa told me «M.lle Trant est la plus aimable personne que je connaisse». That was going pretty far on a first acquaintance. The Comte Pombeiro played on the piano forte several things without knowing a note of music. M.me de Asseca was engaged, for whom we had made up the party.

May 4. I paid M.me de Asseca a visit the other morning. She described their situation here as most uncomfortable, and indeed it appears unfair, for the English Government acknowledge neither them nor Don Pedro's Minister. She was making out their case rather against the Liberals. Don Pedro, being the eldest son, ought on his father's death to have come to reign in Portugal, but he preferred remaining in the Brazils and wanted to put his daughter on the throne of Portugal, which was contrary to the laws of the land, according to which, I believe, as next in succession Don Miguel has the best right to it.

Oct. 18. The Assecas are gone back to Portugal. The Vicomte de Cannellas and his family (with M.lle Fontibus) are in Italy ; the Palmellas with Don Pedro and the Queen at Paris (à propos Don Pedro said be had never been in good society till he was in London). Poor Sarmento is in London.»