

**THE MILITARY ADVENTURES OF
CHARLES O'NEIL, WHO WAS A SOLDIER
IN THE ARMY OF LORD WELLINGTON
DURING THE MEMORABLE PENINSULAR
WAR AND THE CONTINENTAL
CAMPAIGNS FROM 1811 TO 1815;**

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The military adventures of Charles O'Neil, who was a soldier in the army of Lord Wellington during the memorable peninsular war and the continental campaigns from 1811 to 1815; by Charles O'Neil

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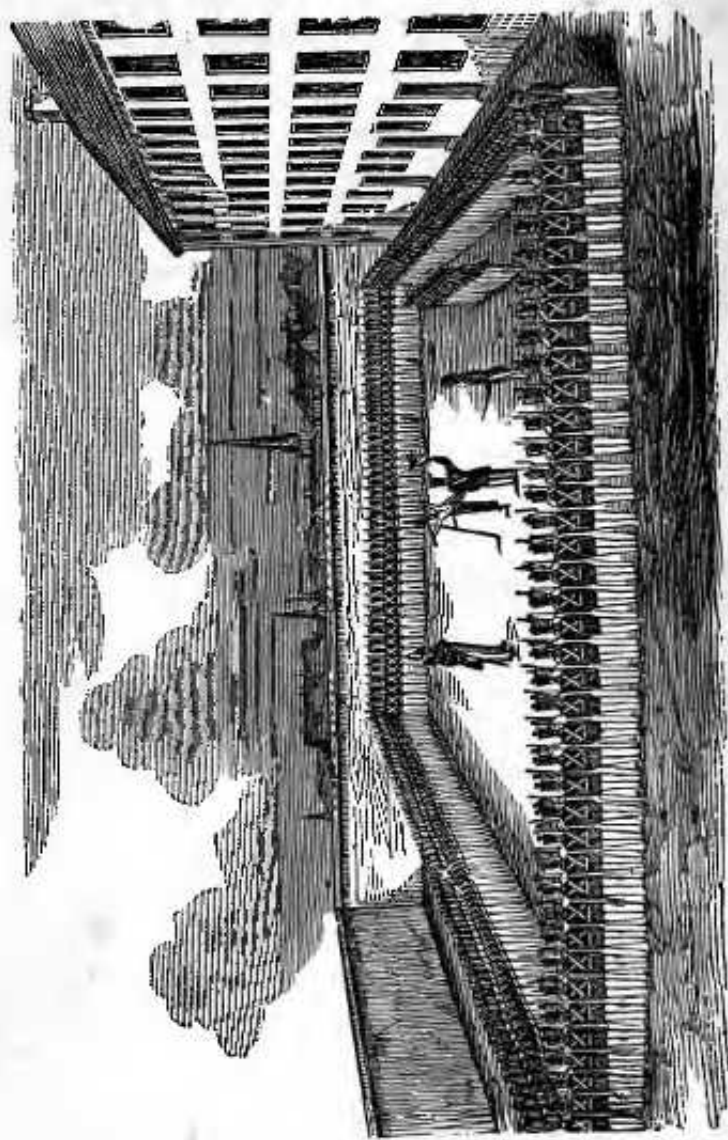
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CHARLES O'NEIL

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WHIPPING AT GIBRALTAR. PAGE 47.

THE
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CHARLES O'NEIL,

WHO WAS A SOLDIER IN THE ARMY OF LORD WELLINGTON DURING THE
MEMORABLE PENINSULAR WAR AND THE CONTINENTAL
CAMPAIGNS FROM 1811 TO 1815;

INCLUDING FULL HISTORIES OF

THE BLOODY BATTLE OF BAROSSA,

AND

THE MEMORABLE SIEGE OF BADAJOS;

TOGETHER WITH A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF THE

BATTLE OF WATERLOO,

TERMINATING WITH THE OVERTHROW OF NAPOLEON;

IN ALL OF WHICH HE WAS AN ACTOR.

ILLUSTRATED BY SIX SPLENDID ENGRAVINGS.

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PREFACE.

THE history of times and events, of men and their characters, must ever be replete with interest and instruction. Chronicles of the great and wise, the noble and the learned, are often presented to the world; and the military hero and chieftain finds everywhere his biographer. We read of campaigns that his mind has traced out, of battles which his plans have won; and we forget, in our admiration of his skill and power, those by whom the heroic deeds were done, the victory gained. Generals, says one author, "often calculate upon men as though they were blocks of wood, or movable machines." Yet every one of these nameless soldiers has feelings as acutely alive to suffering and to honor as those who look upon them thus.

It is well sometimes to turn away from the glare and tinsel of rank, from the glitter of arms and the pageantry of war, to follow the common soldier in his partings and wanderings, to cast the glance of pity upon his sufferings, and allow the heart to be moved with compassion while regarding the temptations which must ever beset his path. It is only thus that a true knowledge of the evils and miseries of war can be obtained; and only when this knowledge is spread far and

wide, that we may hope to see the banner of peace unfurled, and the olive-branch waving in quiet, where now the sword spreads its desolation, and the vulture feasts on the unburied dead.

Thoughts like these may, perhaps, lend interest to the unpretending narrative of one who now presents himself and the scenes of his times before an indulgent public, with none of the advantages of rank, or birth, or fame, to recommend him to its notice. Simply one of the rank and file, he was an actor and participator in the scenes he has endeavored faithfully to represent.

It is his ardent wish, by this little volume, to awaken more interest in this class of his fellow-beings, so often forgotten in the lustre of that halo which rarely fails to surround the victor's name.

The work, such as it is, he cheerfully commends to the *public*, looking with unshaken trust to its kindness and sympathy for the success and encouragement which he hopes it may be his lot to meet.

WORCESTER, JULY 4, 1851.

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