

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1853.

THE LATE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

At Walmer Castle, Kent, in the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1852, expired, after a few hours' illness, Arthur Duke of Wellington, in his 84th year. The startling intelligence reached London by electric telegraph; but was not credited by Lord Fitzroy Somerset at Apsley House, until the express arrived, so unexpected was the calamitous event by which Great Britain was deprived of her illustrious soldier and statesman.

Arthur Wesley (for this was his grandfather's name, and thus the Duke wrote his own name until after he arrived in India) was the fifth son of the first Earl of Mornington, and was descended by blood from the Wesleys or Wellseleys, of Dangan, co. Meath: Catherine Cusack, who married Sir Henry Colley, of Castle Carberry, and was direct ancestress of the Duke, was daughter of Sir Thomas Cusack, of Cussington, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, whose mother was Alison, daughter of William Wellesley (corrupted into Wesley), of Dangan.

The Duke was born in Ireland, in 1769; whether on May, or April 30; or in Dangan Castle, or in Mornington House, Upper Merrion-street, Dublin, is disputed. Arthur was educated at Chelsea, then sent to Eton for a short time; next to private tuition at Brighton; and next to the military seminary of Angers, in France, where he remained five years.

On March 7, 1787, when not quite 18, he received a commission as ensign in the 73rd regiment of Foot; and in December of that year was promoted to a lieutenancy, first in the 76th, whence he moved into the 41st, and then into the 12th Light Dragoons; on June 30, 1791, he obtained a company in the 58th Foot, but exchanged in the same year into the 33rd regiment, Dragoons. On April 30, 1793, he became major of the 33rd regiment, the lieutenant-colonelcy of which he purchased in the September of that year, when he was only twenty-four years of age. Before this, in 1790, he was returned to the Irish Parliament for the family borough of Trim.

In 1794, Lieutenant-Colonel Wesley embarked with his regiment at Cork for Ostend, and joined the British Army in the Netherlands, under the command of the Duke of York: in which campaign Wesley's skill and intelligence were very promising. The army returned to England in 1795; and in February, 1797, Lieut.-Col. Wesley, with his regiment, arrived in Bengal; and in May, 1798, his elder brother, the Earl of Mornington, succeeded to the general government of India. In 1799, Colonel Wellesley was appointed to command the subsidiary force of the Nizam, the 33rd regiment being attached to it; and in the same year he captured Seringapatam, and was appointed to its command, with Mysore. In 1800, Col. Wellesley defeated Dhondiah Waugh, a Maharratta freebooter.

In 1803, Wellesley was present at the siege and capture of Ahmednugger, Baroach, Asseerzhur, and Gawighur; and Sept. 23, he fought the battle of Assaye, at which he commanded as Major-General, and with 8000 men routed an army of 60,000; this being his first great battle. In 1804, a sword of £1000 value, and a service of plate, were voted to him; he was awarded a K.C.B.; and left the army for Seringapatam. In 1805, he resigned the command of the army of the Deccan, received the thanks of the King and Parliament for his service, and returned to England, and married the Hon. Katherine Pakenham, daughter of Lord Longford.

In 1806, Arthur Wellesley was appointed Colonel of the 33rd regiment; and in the same year was returned to Parliament. In 1807, he was appointed Secretary to Ireland; and, in the same year, was with the expedition to Copenhagen, under Lord Cathcart, and received for his services the special thanks of Parliament.

In 1808, Sir Arthur Wellesley sailed for Portugal; and, in the same year, fought the battles of Rolica and Vimiera; and returned to England after the Convention of Cintra.

In 1809, he resigned as Secretary of Ireland; returned to Portugal, and defeated Soult at the passage of the Douro; fought the battle of Talavera; and was created a Peer. In 1810 he fought the battle of Busaco; after which he made his famous defence in the lines of Torres Vedras, where he maintained his position ten weeks in the face of a well-disciplined army of 50,000 men. In 1811 he advanced from Torres Vedras, and defeated the French at Fuentes d'Onore. In 1812 he took Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz by storm, the rapidity of which so astonished the French Generals that they confessed themselves "unable to account for it." In the same year Lord Wellington fought the battle of Salamanca, one of his most splendid victories: French loss, 14,000; British, 5200. In 1813 (June 21), he fought the battle of Vitoria: French loss, 8000 men; British and Allies, 4914. In the same year were also fought the battles of the Pyrenees, and San Sebastian taken by storm; the passage of the Nivelle made, and the battles on the Nive fought. On July 3, Wellington was gazetted as Field-Marshal.

In 1814, the victory at Orthez was gained, with a loss on the French side of 14,000 men, the greater portion deserting; British loss, 2300 men: "in the battle the French met the charge like lions, but the pursuit was like hare-hunting: prisoners were literally caught by the skirts as they ran." In the same year was fought the battle of Toulouse, in which Soult's best troops were routed. On June 28, the victor took his seat in the House of Peers as Baron, Viscount, Earl, Marquis, and Duke; on July 9, was entertained at Guildhall; and November 1, assisted at the Congress of Vienna.

In 1815 he won his crowning victory at Waterloo: the army of the Allies was opposed to an army of 70,000 French troops, chosen veterans, commanded by Napoleon himself; while the force commanded by the Duke of Wellington, consisted of English, Scotch, and Irish, and also of Dutch, Brunswickers, Hanoverians, Belgians, and Nassau troops, forming in the whole, what the Duke himself thought a "sad mixture," compared to his old trained veterans of the Peninsula—many of whom had sailed for America, with which country we were then at war.

The following is a chronological enumeration of the principal events in the life of the Duke as a civilian, from the year 1815:—

1818.	Assists at the Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle	Oct
	Appointed Field-Marshal in the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian Armies	Oct
	The evacuation of France by the Allied Armies	1 Nov
	Appointed Master-General of the Ordnance	26 Dec
1819	Appointed Governor of Plymouth	9 Dec
1820	Appointed Colonel in Chief of the Rifle Brigade	19 Feb
1821	Attends George IV., King of England, to the field of Waterloo	1 Oct
1822	Statue of Achilles inscribed to the Duke, in Hyde Park	18 June
	Assists at the Congress of Verona	22 Oct

1826	Proceeds on an especial embassy to St. Petersburg	Feb
	Removes from the Government of Plymouth to be Constable of the Tower of London	29 Dec
1827.	Appointed Colonel of the Grenadier Guards	22 Jan
	Appointed Commander-in-Chief	22 Jan
	Resigns	30 April
	Re-appointed	27 Aug

1828.	The King having called upon him to serve in the office of First Lord of the Treasury, he resigns the command of the army	15 Feb
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1829.	Appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports	20 Jan
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1830.	Resigns the office of First Lord of the Treasury	Oct
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1834.	Elected Chancellor of the University of Oxford	Jan
	Intrusted by the King with the whole charge of the Government and the seals of the three Secretaries of State	Nov
	Continues Secretary of Foreign Affairs	Dec

1835.	Resigns the Foreign Secretaryship	April
	Receives Queen Adelaide, as Chancellor of the University of Oxford	19 Oct

1837.	Received with great cordiality by the people at the coronation of Queen Victoria	28 June
	Presides at a meeting to erect a monument to Lord Nelson	1 Aug

1839.	Grand entertainment given to the Duke at Dover	30 Aug
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1841.	Peel Ministry: the Duke in the Cabinet, without office	Sept
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1842.	Her Majesty visits the Duke at Walmer Castle	Dec
	The Duke appointed Commander of the Forces	Dec

1844.	Equestrian statue of the Duke inaugurated at Glasgow	8 Oct
	Equestrian statue of the Duke, Royal Exchange, inaugurated	18 June

1845.	Her Majesty visits the Duke at Stratfieldsay	20 June
	First stone of the Waterloo barracks, in the Tower, laid by the Duke	14 June

1846.	Peel Ministry resigns: the Duke retires from the Cabinet	6-July
	Colossal equestrian statue of the Duke erected upon the arch, Green Park	30 Sept

1848.	Publication of the Duke's letter to Sir John Burgoyne, on the national defences	Jan
	The Duke directs great preparations to prevent a Chartist outbreak	10 April
	Statue of the Duke erected in the Tower	Oct

1850.	The Duke sponsor at the baptism of the infant Prince Arthur	22 June
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1851.	The Duke present at the Opening of the Great Exhibition	1 May
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1852.	Equestrian statue of the Duke at Edinburgh inaugurated	18 June
	Death at Walmer Castle	14 Sept

MILITARY SERVICES.

	From	To	Yrs	days
Ensign	March 7, 1787	Dec. 24, 1787	0	293
Lieutenant	Dec. 25, 1787	June 29, 1791	3	187
Captain	June 30, 1791	April 29, 1793	1	304
Major	April 30, 1793	Sept. 29, 1793	0	153
Lieutenant-Colonel	Sept. 30, 1793	May 2, 1795	2	215
Ditto and Colonel	May 3, 1795	April 28, 1802	5	215
Major-General	April 29, 1802	April 24, 1808	5	361
Lieutenant-General	April 25, 1808	July 30, 1811	3	97
General, in Spain and Portugal	July 31, 1811	June 20, 1813	1	325
Field Marshal	June 21, 1813	Sept. 14, 1852	29	86
Service as above			65	192
Age on entering the Army			17	310
Total			83	137

His age at decease, September 14, 1852.

THE DUKE'S TITLES, OFFICES, ETC.

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, Marquis of Wellington, Marquis of Douro, Earl of Wellington, county of Somerset; Viscount Wellington, of Talavera, and Baron Douro, of Wellesley, county of Somerset, in the peerage of the United Kingdom; Prince of Waterloo, in the Netherlands; Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo, and a first-class Grandee, of Spain; Duke of Vitoria, Marquis of Torres Vedras, and Count of Vimiera, in Portugal. The Duke was a Knight of the Garter, and a Privy Councillor; Commander-in-Chief of the British army; a Field-Marshal in the armies of Britain, Russia, Prussia, Austria, Spain, Portugal, and the Netherlands; Colonel of the Grenadier Guards; Colonel-in-Chief of the Rifle Brigade; G.C.B., G.C.H.; Knight of the Golden Fleece of Spain, and the Black Eagle of Prussia; of the Tower and Sword of Portugal; the Sword of Sweden, of St. Andrew of Russia, Maria Theresa of Austria, and of all the most distinguished foreign orders: was Constable of the Tower and of Dover Castle; Warden, Chancellor, and Admiral of the Cinque Ports; Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, and of the Tower Hamlets; Ranger of St. James's Park and of Hyde Park; Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Commissioner of the Royal Military College and Royal Military Asylum, Vice-President of the Scottish Naval and Military Academy, Master of the Trinity House, a Governor of King's College and of the Charterhouse; a Trustee of the Hunterian Museum, and D.C.L.



FIELD-MARSHAL HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, BY SIR THOMAS LAWRENCE.