

MEMORABLE PLACES AND EVENTS.—MAY.

CAPTAIN BARCLAY.

THIS venerable gentleman was born in 1779. He was a delicate boy when he left Scotland; but he improved rapidly on the English pasture; for, at the early age of fifteen, we find him gaining a match for 100 guineas for walking six miles within an hour, "fair toe and heel." His predecessors had all been gifted with great muscular strength; and his father, who walked from Ury to London in ten days, and accomplished seventy miles a day for three days running, walked ordinarily six miles an hour. Captain Barclay thought nothing of walking from Ury to Ellon (thirty-two miles) to breakfast, and home again, within twelve hours. More than once he went eighty miles to the top of Don, and returned, without sleeping, in an almost incredibly short period; and when he had a day's hunting before him, at a distance of thirty or forty miles, it was usual for him to walk to the place of meeting in the morning, and walk home again in the evening. But his grand feat, of course, was his celebrated walk of 1000 miles in 1000 consecutive hours. Captain Barclay was also a most enterprising and skilful agriculturist.

MONUMENT AT ALBUERA.

THIS interesting structure has been erected by order of the Spanish Government upon the scene of one of the great events of the Peninsular War—the village of Albuera, about twelve miles from Badajoz, on the road from that fortress to Seville. Albuera, characterised as "a glorious field of grief," owes its renown to the murderous conflict, May 16th, 1811, between Soult and Beresford. The monument is, indeed, commemorative of this great fight; when of the 57th, "out of 1400 men, 1050 were killed and wounded;" "the dead lay in



CAPTAIN BARCLAY, THE CELEBRATED PEDESTRIAN, DIED MAY 15, 1854.

their ranks, every man with a wound in the front;" and when 1500 unwounded men, the remnant of 7000, stood, says Napier, "triumphant on the fatal hill"—the little battalion alone holding its ground against all the French *colonnes en masse*.

At Albuera, Lord Hardinge first gave proof of his great talent for command, by advising and directing an important movement at a very critical period of the battle, and which mainly contributed to the victory. The Monument bears this inscription:—

On the top, encircled with a wreath of laurel, "Albuera." Under this, "A los Valientes, del Maio, 1811." On the columns the names of the Generals commanding:—

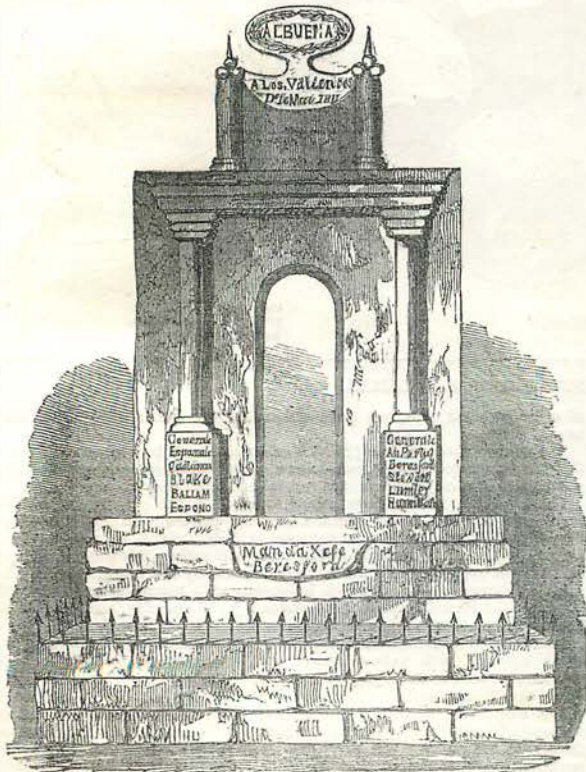
Generals Espanoles.	
Castanos.	Blake.
Lardazabel.	Balasteros.
Zupa.	Espana.
Penae.	

Generals Anglo-Portugueses.	
Beresford.	Stewart.
Lumley.	Alten.
Cole.	Hamilton.

Underneath, "Mando Xefe Beresford"

THE "GOSPEL OAK" AT AVINGTON.

GOSPEL TREES were so named from the custom of having the Gospel read under or near them by the clergyman attending the parochial perambulations in Holy Thursday week, to mark the boundaries of townships or parishes. The above oak stands in Hampage Wood, Avington, Hants; its age is greater than the Conquest, and it is believed to have been the only tree spared, by petition of the neighbouring Priory of Yavington, when Bishop Walkelin cut down Hampage Wood for timber to rebuild Winchester Cathedral. In later times it became venerated as a "Gospel Oak."



BATTLE OF ALBUERA, MAY 16, 1811.—COMMEMORATION MONUMENT ERECTED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT.



HOLY THURSDAY WEEK.—"GOSPEL OAK" AT AVINGTON.