

appointed early in 1829 to the command of the *Galatea*, a 42-gun frigate. Two trips to the West Indies followed, and on the return of the *Galatea* from her second trip in 1831 he found that a great experiment, in which he was deeply interested, was already contemplated by our government: it was the application of the motive power of steam to ships of war. Napier entered with his whole heart into the idea, and hoped that he would be appointed to the first man-of-war steamer that could be got ready. But a different destination awaited him, for he was sent to the coast of Portugal and to the Azores, in which latter place he became acquainted with the Duke of Terceira and other leaders of the constitutional party; and this circumstance ultimately led to his obtaining the command of the Portuguese constitutional fleet, and the renown which he won at St. Vincent.

The constitutionalists or Pedroites were at this time so weak that they were blocked up in Oporto, and their cause would have been hopeless but for the sympathy of the British government. In this feeling Napier heartily participated, and it is supposed that from this cause he was commissioned to cruise upon the coast of Portugal and the Azores. He had expressed to the Pedroites the impolicy of their proceedings in allowing themselves to be shut up and blockaded in Oporto, and suggested the better plan of making a bold dash upon Lisbon, and thus bringing the question to a speedy issue. They caught his own ardour with the advice he tendered, and were willing to adopt it if he should be leader of the enterprise. Thus matters stood in 1832, when the Marquis Palmella arrived in London, to urge the cause of the young queen, Donna Maria, upon the British government; and finally, an offer was made to Napier of the command of the constitutional fleet. It was a tempting proposal, by which his attachment to popular government, his ambition for an independent command, and his love of daring enterprise and adventure, would all be equally gratified. The only bar to his acceptance of the offer was, that it would displace his old friend Sartorius, who was at present admiral of the Pedroite fleet; but Sartorius was already sick of the charge, and willing to resign it. The sole difficulty being thus removed, Napier closed with the offer of the Pedroites, and became commander of their navy. The very accession of his name to the cause was a tower of strength, as was manifested by the fact, that no sooner was his appointment made known than a considerable sum of money was contributed in London for the expedition. All his preparations being completed, he repaired to the scene of his new command accompanied by 137 seamen and four British officers; and as the expedition was contrary to the foreign enlistment act, all the four officers were obliged to assume new names for the occasion, while Napier chose for himself that of Carlos de Ponza. His fleet of five steamers also carried two battalions of soldiers, the one English and the other Belgian, who were to reinforce the Pedroite garrison at Oporto.

On arriving in Portugal, nothing could appear more hopeless than the cause which he had undertaken to restore. The land forces were shut up in Oporto, and closely blockaded by the Miguelites; while the fleet was only half manned by sailors, ill-clothed, ill-fed, and wholly disappointed. But such was the inspiring influence of their new commander, that they set sail to encounter an enemy of more than twice their force. Knowing that with only 176 guns they could not cope with a fleet that had 372, each man trusted to his sword as the weapon with which the battle was to be fought and won. In this condition

the two hostile fleets met off Cape St. Vincent on the 5th of July, 1833. Napier had only two frigates, two steamers, and four other small vessels, while his opponents had two line-of-battle ships, two frigates, three corvettes, two brigs, and a xebec. The Miguelites commenced the battle with a tremendous cannonade that seemed enough to annihilate their opponents; but the latter, lying down in their quarters, suffered little damage except in their rigging. At length the fleets closed, and in the manœuvres of his ships Napier brought all that skill into play which he had learned in his former naval engagements. The result was the triumph of genius and experience over mere brute force and numbers, and the victory of Napier was so complete, that the enemy's two sail of the line and two frigates were captured; only the three corvettes and two brigs escaped, as he had no one to go after them, his two steamers having behaved like cowards, and done nothing. No naval action, it is asserted, was ever fought with such a disparity of force in vessels, armament, and men; and not the least remarkable feature in this deed was that of Napier in his small frigate attacking, boarding, and carrying with the cutlass the Miguelite admiral's line-of-battle ship. The Pedroite cause was now completely in the ascendant, and the young Princess Maria assured of the throne of Portugal, while the victor was rewarded by promotion to the rank of full admiral in the Portuguese navy, and the title of Viscount Cape St. Vincent.

After performing some campaigning against the Miguelites by land, in which Napier turned his military studies to good account, and several attempts to reform the Portuguese navy, which were defeated by the inertness and corruption of the government officials, Napier, finding that his mission in that country had ended, resigned his office at the close of 1834, and returned to England. During the following year his time was chiefly spent in country pursuits and literary occupations, for the last of which, like the rest of the Napiers, he had a strong predilection. In 1836 he published his *History of the War of Succession in Portugal*, his first attempt at authorship, and this was followed by several professional papers on *Impressment and the Manning of the Navy*, most of which were afterwards published in his work called the *State of the Navy*. In 1837 he entered into negotiation to succeed Colonel de Lacy Evans as commander of the British Legion serving in Spain, when De Lacy wished to resume his parliamentary duties in England. It was objected that Captain Napier having been a naval not a military man, was not eligible for such a situation; but Napier met this objection by stating that he had turned his mind a good deal to land operations; that he had been several months with the Duke of Wellington's army, and been wounded in the battle of Busaco; and that he had commanded 3000 men on land in Portugal, and had taken several towns; but the negotiation came to nothing. A favourite wish of his had been a seat in parliament, that he might advocate the interests of the navy, but his attempts to obtain an election had failed. The last of these was when he stood for the burgh of Greenwich in 1837, and was defeated; but this last rebuff only made him more eager to return to his favourite profession, and stimulated his appeals to the admiralty to that effect. His application, on which such important events depended, was successful; at the close of 1838 he was appointed to the command of the *Powerful*, a remarkably fine two-decker, carrying 84 guns, of which 78 were 32-pounders, and 6 68-pounders, with a crew of 635 men, 60 boys, and 150 marines, exclusive of officers. On joining his ship