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ING 009

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PROYECTO OLE 11
ARCHIVO ELECTRÓNICO DE FUENTES PRIMARIAS
POESÍA PATRIÓTICA PROESPAÑOLA EN INGLÉS, FRANCÉS, ALEMÁN Y PORTUGUÉS (1808-1814)
TEXTO INDIVIDUAL DE OBRA ING 009

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Yon wide-extended town, whose roofs, and towers.

And poplar avenues are seen far off,

In goodly prospect over scatter'd woods

Of dusky ilex, boasts among its sons

Of Mariana's name, —he who hath made

The splendid story of his country's wars

Through all the European kingdoms known.

Yet in his ample annals thou canst find

No braver battle chronicled, than here

Was waged, when Joseph, of the stolen crown,

Against the hosts of England and of Spain

His veteran armies brought. By veteran chiefs

Captain'd, a formidable force they came,

Full fifty thousand. Victor led them on,

A man grown gray in arms, nor e'er in aught

Dishonored, till by this opprobrious cause.

He, over rude Alverche's summer stream

Winning his way, made first upon the right

His hot attack, where Spain's raw levies, ranged

In double line, had taken their strong stand

In yonder broken ground, by olive groves

Cover'd and flank'd by Tagus. Soon from thence,

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As one whose practised eye could apprehend
All vantages in war, his troops he drew;
And on this hill, the battle's vital point,
Bore with collected power, outnumbering
The British ranks twice told. Such fearful odds
Were balanced by Sir Arthur's master mind
And by the British heart. Twice during night
The fatal spot they storm'd, and twice fell back,
Before the bayonet driven. Again at morn
They made their fiery onset, and again
Repell'd, again at noon renew'd the strife.
Yet was their desperate perseverance vain,
Where skill by equal skill was countervail'd.
And numbers by superior courage foil'd ;
And when the second night drew over them
Its sheltering cope, in darkness they retired.
At all points beaten. Long in the red page
Of war shall Talavera's famous name
Stand forth conspicuous. While that name endures,
Bear in thy soul, O Spain, the memory
Of all thou suffered'st from perfidious France,
Of all that England in thy cause achieved.