

tures, or products from British colonies, were to be confiscated wherever found. The next year, Napoleon so humbled Russia that by the Milan Decrees this "Continental System," as it was called, was made to apply to the whole continent. Britain retaliated by Orders-in-Council, threatening to seize the ships of any nation that traded with France or her allies. As Britain had control of the sea, she was able to injure France more than France injured her. The Berlin and Milan Decrees really helped to ruin Napoleon, because they made goods so dear in Europe that his allies rose against him.



CHARLES JAMES FOX

Now that Britain had proved her superiority on the seas, George Canning, who had succeeded Fox as foreign secretary, determined that the British army should take part in the struggle. Portugal, in defiance of the Berlin Decrees, had refused to close her ports to Great Britain. Napoleon, in revenge, proposed to Spain that the two countries should divide the territory of the Portuguese, and in furtherance of this plan, a French army occupied Lisbon. But this was only the first step in Napoleon's schemes. Soon after, Spain itself was overrun, the Spanish king was compelled to abdicate, and Joseph Bonaparte was placed on the throne. This high-handed act so angered the Spaniards that they rose in rebellion against the usurper.*

Canning felt that the moment had come to strike, and, in 1808, two expeditions were sent to Portugal, the one under Sir Arthur Wellesley, who had already distinguished himself in India, and the other under Sir John Moore. The former was successful, and the French were driven out of