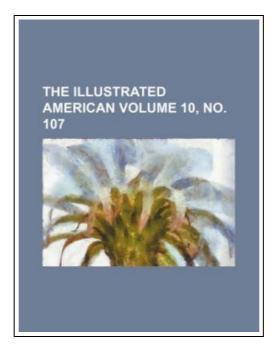
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Rarebooksclub.com, United States, 2012. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1892 Excerpt: .until he reached the ridge of the Sierra de Busaco. Massena followed, and, trusting that his numerical superiority might overcome the advantage of position, he hurled five columns against the ridge. Only two columns reached the top. Even they were driven back at last with frightful loss. Foiled in this attack, Massfina drew off his troops and marched toward Coimbra, in order to turn the allied flank, and threatened Lisbon. Wellington owned to a strong temptation to attack the French army on the march, but he dared not risk his troops. He immediately withdrew from Busaco, crossed the Mondego in front of the enemy, and slowly withdrew to the famous lines of Torres Vedras. It was October 16, 1810, when the allied army found itself behind these almost impregnable defences, yet it was as far back as October, 1809, when Wellington had conceived the idea of converting the heights flanked by the Tagus and the Atlantic into a long line of fortresses. He had at once set engineers to begin the work. The stupendous task had been so silently completed that the secret had been kept from the enemy, despite all the cleverness of French spies. And even the British papers, which had frequently made incautious revelations of the position and probable movements of the allied armies; the British papers, against which Wellington had frequently and freely protested as the most dangerous adjuncts of the enemy--even they had not penetrated the secret. Masse na was dumbfounded...



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