

Oscar Browning,
"A British Agent at Tilsit." *The English Historical Review*, 17 (January
1902): 110.

troubl'd with that disease, insomuch that his Knuckles were all callous, yet was hee not ever observ'd to be very impatient. Hee had this Elogy in common with the Patriarchs¹¹⁴ and Kings of Israel that he was gather'd to his people ;¹¹⁵ for hee happen'd to bee bury'd in Cripplegate where about thirty yeer before hee had by chance also interr'd his Father.

A British Agent at Tilsit.

SOME years ago General R. Mackenzie, R.A., told me that it was a tradition in his family that his grandfather had brought to the British government the news that the emperors Napoleon and Alexander had agreed on the raft at Tilsit to employ the Danish fleet against England. He told me that his grandfather had disguised himself as a workman, and obtained employment in arranging the raft for the interview. He had managed to get enclosed in some portion of the raft, and had cut himself out with an axe, which he kept in his hands, immediately the interview was over. General Mackenzie said that the family, being somewhat ashamed of the transaction, had always kept it secret, and that he was now telling a stranger for the first time. He gave me full permission to make his statement public. Mr. Rose has shown in his recent article (*ante*, vol. xvi. p. 712 *sqq.*) that the news was probably brought to the English ministry by an agent named Mackenzie, and, General Mackenzie's statement being so far corroborated, I see no reason to doubt the truth of the rest of it. That Mackenzie shut himself up in the woodwork of the raft and cut his way out with an axe may be an exaggeration, but I do not see why he should not have been sufficiently near the emperors' pavilion, disguised as a workman, to hear what passed. The conversation between the sovereigns was probably in French, and they would not have paid much regard to a native workman, who would naturally speak nothing but Lithuanian, even if they had seen him. We are told that there were six windows to the pavilion, and some of them may have been open. I think it quite as likely that Mackenzie overheard the conversation on the raft itself as that he derived his information from Bennigsen, who was probably not a sharer in Napoleon's secrets.

OSCAR BROWNING.

*The Composition and Organisation of the British Forces
in the Peninsula, 1808-1814.*

WHEN I attempted to verify Wellington's statement, 'We have but one army, and the same men who fought at Vimiero and Talavera fought the other day at Sorauren,' by referring to the actual facts

¹¹⁴ 'that' crossed out.

¹¹⁵ 'was gather'd to his people' substituted for 'slept with his Fathers.'