

## SAINT JOHN, December 3, 1810.

This morning we were favored with the *Boston Centinel* of the 17th November, (received by the Saint Andrews Packet) from which the following interesting intelligence is copied.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 17:

### IMPORTANT—FROM PORTUGAL.

By a very short arrival from Ireland we have very late and very interesting news from Portugal.

After a delay of four months and receiving strong reinforcements, on the 16th September the Prince of Essing [MASSENA] commenced active operations against the allied army, commanded by Lord WELLINGTON. MASSENA's first object was to turn the left flank of his enemy:—To this end, he made a forced march from the Coa, taking the right side of the Mondego, through Celarico, Trancoso, &c. to Viseu, which he reached the 19th, and where he waited the junction of the three corps of which his army is composed, and the arrival of his heavy artillery. During this time Lord WELLINGTON left his positions near the source of the Mondego, and taking the left bank of that river, retreated to the vicinity of Coimbra, where he crossed to the right side of the river, and took a position on the Sierra (ridge) de Busaco, in front of Coimbra, to impede his enemy, or wait an attack. In this arduous position he was assailed on the 26th and 27th by several divisions of the French army; but who after a severe contest were repulsed and driven back with loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. To know if this were intended as a general attack, or merely a *russe-de-guerre* to mask the main movement, we must wait MASSENA's account of it. However, on the 28th, at night, MASSENA continued his attempt to out-manoeuvre, and gain the rear of the allied army. Lord WELLINGTON, it appears had anticipated this, and quitted his position on the Busaco ridges, repaired to Coimbra, tarried there a short time, recrossed the Mondego, and at the rate of about 12 miles a day, and without the loss of stores or artillery, retreated to the position he had previously fortified, and which extends from the Tagus above Santarem to Piniche on the ocean; and on the 5th October, had his H. Q. at Alcobaca [about 35 miles N. of Lisbon.] At the same time Prince MASSENA occupied Coimbra, in pursuit of his foe, and on the 5th October had his H. Q. at Leiria, about 50 miles N. of Lisbon. This, though brief, is a faithful summary of events to the last dates. Whether Lord W. will wait an attack in his new position, or attempt to embark his troops at Lisbon, or Balem, without hazarding another action remains to be known. Preparations of vessels were making at Lisbon, for an embarkation.

In addition to the above, Capt. Cottle states, that the day before he sailed, the 24th ult. his merchant informed him, that the allied army had been defeated in Portugal, and were preparing to quit the country.

Accounts from Spain continued auspicious to the patriot cause. The Cortes were taking high and spirited ground.

A Russian official account announces another victory over the Turks, and the annihilation of an army of 40,000 men in nine hours.

MURAT had made a second abortive expedition to Sicily.

LUCIEN BONAPARTE had obtained permission of the British government to repair to England.

On the 24th September, the Emperor NAPOLEON issued a new decree for selling the sequestered American Merchandize in Holland and Antwerp! The *Hor-net* brings the decree. *Actions speak louder than words.*

Important.—A letter from Cape Henry, dated the 15th October, to a merchant in this town, says, that CHRISTOPHE had sequestered all the American property in the place; and obliged the merchants of the place, to give on oath, an account of all American property on hand. The letter states, that the reasons given by CHRISTOPHE, for so doing, was the detention of some of his property at Baltimore; and which we understand was seized under our revenue laws.

Gen. Armstrong, our late Minister in France, and Mr. Warden, our late Consul-General in Paris, have arrived, the one in N. London the other in Washington.

General ARMSTRONG has arrived in New-London, in the *Sally*, Capt. SCOTT, from Bordeaux, in company with nearly SIXTY other passengers, most of them American Masters of Vessels, and Seamen who have been robbed of their vessels and property by the Emperor NAPOLEON, and the proceeds devoted to his private expenses. They say, when they sailed, which must have been in October, things looked very gloomy in France; but the arrival of so many Masters and Seamen is the best evidence of the hopeless situation of the Millions of property so unjustly stolen from them; and of the ill-judged haste of the Executive of the United States in issuing his late Proclamation.

## ITALY. PYALE, SEPTEMBER 18, 1810.

### INVASION OF SICILY.

The appearance of the equinoctial commencing, His Majesty (Murat) yesterday ordered some detachments to set sail for Scaltita (Sicily.) At 3 in the morning, they landed at St. Stefano, dislodged the enemy from it, and advanced to Duchessa. But his Majesty finding the winds and currents would not permit his succouring them, ordered them to return; and they finished their embarkation before the enemy perceived them, with the exception of some men who were not nor could not be brought back for want of boats.

LONDON, OCTOBER 19.

Mr. Walsh, the messenger, has arrived from Portugal, which he left on the 7th instant. No new battle had been fought.

Orders have been given for additional reinforcements to proceed immediately to Portugal.

Lord Wellington conducted his march towards Lisbon in the best order. Generals Silveria, Trant and Wilson, follow the rear of Massena's army, and he only controuls the ground he occupies.

Gen. Wilson is to proceed to Sicily to command an expedition against Corfu.

Brigadier-General Crawford has died in Portugal, not Gen. Crawford, Mr. Wyndham's friend, as is stated in the papers.

Orders have been given from the War-Office for additional reinforcements to proceed immediately to Portugal.

All hopes of the recovery of the Princess Amelia are given up, and her dissolution hourly expected.

### RETREAT OF THE ENGLISH ARMY.

LONDON, OCTOBER 19.—The following intelligence, is by the Elizabeth Packet, from Lisbon, and may be relied upon. As has before been stated, Massena made a strong and rapid movement to outflank Lord Wellington's army on the Mondego. This, of course, required a counteracting movement on the part of his Lordship, and produced the battle of the 26th and 27th at Bassaco, near Coimbra, (a town on the Mondego a few miles from the Atlantic.) A general battle was expected on the 28th, which did not take place. On the 1st October, after giving time to the inhabitants of Coimbra to remove themselves and valuables, Lord Wellington left the banks of the Mondego, and retreated towards Lisbon; and on the 7th occupied a position extending from the Tagus to the Ocean, on a chain of fortified heights. His head-quarters on that day were at Alcobaca, about 40 miles from Lisbon; having his right at Alhundra on the Tagus, and his left at Peniche, on the Atlantic. In this position, it is stated, he had about 70,000 men, militia included; and was amply supplied. General Silveria and General Wilson, with a strong body of Portuguese irregulars, were hanging on the rear of Massena's army. The Marquis Romana, with 15,000 men, was on the south of the Tagus, following Lord Wellington's march.

Unless an immediate embarkation took place, a general and decisive battle could not be avoided. The English merchants had waited upon Admiral Berkeley for permission to embark on board the transports, but were denied, as there was not shipping sufficient to take away the troops; and at the same time hinted there was no great cause of apprehension.

### PROGRESS OF THE FRENCH ARMY.

Marshal Massena, in a letter dated "Viseu, Sept. 22d, 1810," states, that the French advanced from Almeida the 16th September, and after traversing "hideous roads" arrived on the 19th at Viseu, and occupied the bridge of Criss:—That the English retired towards Coimbra as the French advanced:—That the grand park of artillery and heavy baggage were still behind; and had been attacked by 2000 Portuguese, who were repulsed by 200 French!—That the artillery and baggage had suffered considerably; but as soon as they were repaired he should pursue his route upon Coimbra, where he was certain of finding the English and Portuguese united. The Marshal concludes thus: "We only march over deserts.—Not a soul is to be met with any where—every place is abandoned. Women, children, and aged, all fly. In short we cannot find a guide in any place. Our soldiers are contented, and impatient for the moment in which they shall meet the enemy." From Viseu, Massena advanced to Avelans, crossed the Mondego, and proceeded to Leira, where at the last dates his head-quarters were established.—There were, during these events, some sharp skirmishing between the advance and rear guards of the armies.

### Official Letter of Lord WELLINGTON.

The Earl of Liverpool has received a despatch, of which the following are abstracts, from Lord Wellington, dated, Coimbra, Sept. 30, 1810.

MY LORD—While the enemy advanced from Celarico for Viseu, Colonel Trant, with the Portuguese militia, was employed upon their flanks and rear, and attacked the escort of the military chest and reserve artillery, near Tojal, on the 20th took two officers, and 100 prisoners, and afterwards retired towards the Douro.

My despatch of the 20th inst. will have informed you of the measures taken to collect the army in this neighbourhood, and if possible to prevent the enemy from obtaining possession of the town.

On the 21st the enemy pushed on to St. Cambadao, and Generals Pack and Crawford retired to Mortagoa. [Lord W. then proceeds to detail the situation he took on the Sierra of Busaco (a few miles to the northward of Coimbra) and of the advance of the French army, commanded by Marshal Massena, consisting of the 2d corps, under Gen. Regnier, the 6th under Marshal Ney, and the 8th under Gen. Junot, to force that position. After describing some smart skirmishing between the light troops of the two armies he proceeds:]

At 6, A. M. of the 27th, the enemy made two desperate attacks upon our position, on the right and left of the highest point of the Sierra. The attack on the right was made by two divisions, on the 3d division of our infantry. One division of the French arrived at the top of the ridge, when it was attacked in the most gallant manner by the 88th regiment under Col. Wallace, 45th, under Col. Meade, and 8th Portuguese regiment under Col. Douglas, the whole directed by Major-Gen. Picton. These three regiments advanced with the bayonet, and drove the enemy from the advantageous ground which he had occupied.

Another French division attacked further on the right; but was repulsed before it could reach the top of the ridge by the 74th regiment, under Col. French, and a brigade of Portuguese infantry, directed by Col.

Mackinnon, Gen. Leith also moved to his left, to port Gen. Picton, with the 3d battalion of Royals, 1st and 2d battalion of the 33d regiment, and all in the defeat of the enemy.

On the left, three divisions of French infantry attacked the part of the Sierra commanded by Brig. Gen. Crawford, and Pack. One division only made any progress towards the top of the hill, and they were immediately charged by Gen. Crawford, with the 43d, 52d and 95th regiments, and the 3d Portuguese Cacadores, and driven down with immense loss.

Gen. Cleman's Portuguese brigade moved to support Crawford's, and a battalion of the 19th Portuguese regiment made a gallant and successful charge upon a body of another division of the enemy, which was endeavoring to penetrate in that quarter.

Besides these attacks, the light troops of the two armies were engaged throughout the 27th.

The loss sustained by the enemy in his attack on the 27th has been enormous. I understand General of Division Merle, and General Maucune, are wounded; and General Simon was taken prisoner by the 52d regiment, and three Colonels, thirty-three officers, and 250 men. The enemy left two thousand killed on the field of battle, and I understand from the prisoners and deserters, that their wounded is immense.

The enemy did not renew his attack, [excepting by the fire of his light troops on the 28th] but he moved a large body of infantry and cavalry from the left of his centre to the rear, from whence I saw his cavalry in march on the road which leads from Moriagoa over the mountains towards Oporto.

Having thought it probable that he would endeavour to turn our left by that road, I had directed Colonel Trant, with his division of Militia, to march to Sardao, with the intention that he should occupy those mountains, but unfortunately he was sent round by Oporto, by the general officer commanding in the north, in consequence of a small detachment of the enemy being in possession of St. Pedro de Sul; and notwithstanding the efforts which he made to arrive in time, he did not reach Sardao, till the 28th at night, after the enemy was in possession of the ground.

As it was probable that in the course of the night of the 28th, the enemy would throw his whole army upon that road, by which he could avoid the Sierra de Busaco, and reach Coimbra, by the high road to Oporto, and thus the army would have been exposed to be cut off from that town, or to a general action on less favourable ground: and as I had reinforcements in my rear, I was induced to withdraw from the Sierra de Busaco. The enemy did break up in the mountains at eleven at night of the 28th, and he made the march expected. His advanced guard was at Avelans, in the road from Oporto to Coimbra, yesterday; and the whole army was seen in march through the mountains; that under my command, however, was already in the low country, between the Sierra de Busaco and the sea; and the whole of it, with the exception of the advanced guard, is this day on the left of the Mondego.

Although from the unfortunate circumstance of the delay of Colonel Trant's arrival at Sardao, I am apprehensive that I shall not succeed in effecting the object which I had in view in passing the Mondego, and in occupying the Sierra de Busaco, I do not regret my having done so. This movement has afforded me a favourable opportunity of shewing the enemy the description of troops of which this army is composed; it has brought the Portuguese levies into action with the enemy for the first time in an advantageous situation; and they have proved that the trouble which has been taken with them has not been thrown away, and that they are worthy of contending in the same ranks with British troops in this interesting cause, which they afford the best hopes of saving.

Throughout the contest upon the Sierra, and in all the previous marches, and in those which we have since made, the whole army has conducted themselves in the most regular manner. Accordingly all the operations have been carried with ease, the soldiers have suffered no privations, have undergone no unnecessary fatigue, there has been no loss of stores, and the army is in the highest spirits.

I should not do justice to the service, or to my own feelings, if I did not take this opportunity of drawing your Lordship's attention to the merits of Marshal Beresford. To him exclusively under the Portuguese government, is due the merit of having raised, formed, disciplined and equipped the Portuguese army, which has now shewn itself capable of engaging and defeating the enemy.

I have besides received from him on all occasions, all the assistance which his experience and abilities, and knowledge of this country have qualified him to afford me.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

The residue of this letter is occupied with acknowledgements to various officers, particularly to Marshal Beresford, Lieut. Gen. Spencer, Major-Generals Leith and Picton, Brigadier-General Howorth, Lieut. Colonels Mackinnon, Champelmond, de Arouje Bacallar, Wallace, Meade, Sutton, Douglas, Arentchild, Bathurst, and Fletcher; Major Smith, of the 45th (who was killed) and Major Birmingham.

Official Returns of killed, wounded and missing of Lord Wellington's army, viz. 1 Major, 2 Captains, 5 Subalterns, 6 Sergeants, 1 Drummer, 179 rank and file, and 5 horses, killed:—1 Colonel, 4 Lieut. Colonels, 3 Majors, 16 Captains, 30 Subalterns, 32 Sergeants, 6 Drummers, 917 rank and file, 12 horses, wounded:—1 Captain, 3 Sergeants, 54 rank and file, and 10 horses, Missing.

MARRIED] At Mougerville, last week, Mr. ALEXANDER NEVERS, to Miss FANNY PERLEY, daughter of Israel Perley, Esq. of that place.