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LONDON, OCTOBER 16.

The highly important despatches from Lord WELLINGTON (for such the errors which have been unhappily circulated as to their probable contents have rendered them) are at length arrived; and are precisely such as we have prepared our readers to expect.—There has been no general battle,—no miraculous destruction of the French,—no 20,000 men killed and wounded; but, what is matter of rational comfort, is the assurance that the allied army has both conducted itself, and been conducted by its General, in a soldier-like manner; having retired before a superior force, and that with comparative advantage in all the skirmishes in which a retrograde motion obliged it to engage. And those who cannot without pain humble their views to this sober estimate of things, must thank their own simplicity for suffering themselves to be misled by tales the widest that ever imposed upon human credulity; for every thing has happened that reasonable men concluded would happen.

It is not true that any telegraphic message arrived at the Admiralty last night, as stated in some of the Evening Papers in their second editions. The substance of Lord WELLINGTON'S despatches is, however, correctly given in the gross. His Lordship, we learn, apprised Government in his preceding communication, that he had no intention of fighting the enemy on the wrong side of the Agueda, except they should be guilty of indiscretions to which they are not very liable; either in advancing with an inferior force, or laying themselves open to attack from improper generalship: neither of which his experience of their habits and talents led him to expect.

Ministers, therefore, were perfectly aware of the course which the British General intended to pursue. His Lordship having himself waited in order to discover what the force under MARMONT might be, and finding that it could not be computed at less than sixty thousand men, retired on the evening of the 26th, after several smart skirmishes. These are all the fighting operations that have really taken place; and in these we were universally successful,—the Portuguese and British troops behaving with equal valour.

Such is the tenor of Lord WELLINGTON'S despatches; and which, we shall say, in few words, that there is nothing in them; when they are considered only by themselves, and without reference to the exorbitant promise that was injuriously given of their contents, that is otherwise than agreeable. The occurrences of war are said to be various and unexpected; but here, so far as facts have yet appeared, we have a mere repetition of the recent affair at Badajoz. The enemy is obliged to collect all his forces from all quarters: by this mighty preparation he prevents the capture of a town; but he leaves us unimpaired to thwart his future operations: he gains no advantage over us. The impregnable position of Torres-vedras is the centre of Lord WELLINGTON'S motion: acting under the influence of this, he shoots round his orbit,—the frontiers of Portugal;—and obliges his adversaries, however unwillingly, to desert the business they have in hand, and attend his steps; leaving their adversaries, too, at large, to arrange the means of fresh resistance by the time of their return. Whether MARMONT may attempt to pursue the allied army towards Lisbon, as MASSENA did last year, we know not; but if he does, we have a precedent for the result.

SUPPLEMENT to the LONDON GAZETTE of Tuesday, the 15th of October.

DOWNING-STREET, OCTOBER 16.

Despatches, of which the following are a copy and an extract, were yesterday evening received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by General Viscount Wellington, dated Quadrasyes, the 29th of September, and Frexada, the 2d of October, 1811. **QUADRASYES, September 29, 1811.**

MY LORD,—The enemy commenced their movements towards Ciudad Rodrigo with the convoys of provisions from the Sierra de Bejar and from Salamanca on the 21st inst.; and on the following day I collected the British army, in positions from which I could either advance or retire without difficulty, which would enable me to see all that was going on, and the strength of the enemy's army.

The 3d division, and that part of the General Alten's brigade of cavalry which was not detached, occupied the range of heights which are on the left of the

Agueda, having their advanced guard under Lieutenant-Colonel Williams of the 60th, on the heights of Pastores, within three miles of Ciudad Rodrigo; the 4th division were at Fuente Guinaldo, where I had strengthened a position with some works; the light division on the right of the Agueda, having their right resting upon the mountains which separate Castile and Estremadura; Lieutenant-General Graham commanded the troops on the left of the army, which were posted on the Lower Azava; the 6th division and Major-General Anson's brigade of cavalry being at Espeja, and occupying Carpio Marialva, &c.

Mareschal del Campo Don Carlos D'Espagne observed the Lower Agueda with Don Julian Sanchez's cavalry and infantry. Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton, with Major-General Slade's and Major-General De Grey's brigades of cavalry, was on the Upper Azava, in the centre, between the right and left of the army, with General Pack's brigade at Campillo; and the 5th division were in observation of the pass of Perales in the rear of the right, the French General Foy having remained and collected a body of troops in Upper Estremadura, consisting of part of his own division of the Army of Portugal, and a division of the army of the centre; and the 7th division was in reserve at Alamedilla.

The enemy first appeared in the plain near Ciudad Rodrigo, on the 23d, and retired again in a short time; but on the 24th, in the morning, they advanced again in considerable force, and entered the plain, by the roads of St. Spiritus and Tenebron; and before evening they had collected there all their cavalry, to the amount of about 6000 men; and four divisions of infantry, of which one division were of the Imperial Guard; and the remainder of the armies were encamped on the Guadapero, immediately beyond the hills which surround the plain of Ciudad Rodrigo.

On the morning of the 25th, the enemy sent a reconnaissance of cavalry towards the Lower Azava, consisting of about fourteen squadrons of the cavalry of the Imperial Guard.

They drove in our posts on the right of the Azava; but having passed that river, the lancers de Berg were charged by two squadrons of the 16th, and one of the 14th Light Dragoons, and driven back; they attempted to rally and to return, but were fired upon by the Light Infantry of the 61st regiment, which had been posted in the wood, on their flank, by Lieutenant-General Graham; and Major-General Anson pursued them across the Azava, and afterwards resumed his posts on the right of that river. Lieutenant-General Graham was highly pleased with the conduct of Major-General Anson's brigade; and Major-General Anson particularly mentions Lieutenant-Colonel Hervey and Captain Brotherton of the 14th, and Captain Hay and Major Cocks of the 16th.

But the enemy's attention was principally directed during this day to the position of the 3d division on the hills between Fuente Guinaldo, and Pastores.—About eight in the morning, they moved a column, consisting of between 30 and 40 squadrons of cavalry, and 14 battalions of infantry, and 12 pieces of cannon, from Ciudad Rodrigo, in such a direction, as that it was doubtful whether they would attempt to ascend the hills by Escina, El Bodon, or by the direct road towards Fuente Guinaldo, and I was not certain by which road they would make their attack, till they actually commenced it upon the last.

As soon as I saw the direction of their march, I had reinforced the 2d battalion 5th regiment, which occupied the post on the hill over which the road passes to Guinaldo, by the 77th regiment, and the 21st Portuguese regiment, under the command of Major-General the Honorable C. Colville, and Major-General Alten's brigade, of which only three squadrons remained, which had not been detached, drawn from El Bodon; and I ordered there a brigade of the 4th division from Fuente Guinaldo, and afterwards from El Bodon the remainder of the troops of the 3d division, with the exception of those at Pastores, which were too distant.

In the mean time, however, the small body of troops in this post sustained the attack of the enemy's cavalry and artillery. One regiment of French dragoons succeeded in taking two pieces of cannon which had been posted on a rising ground on the right of our troops; but they were charged by the second battalion 5th regiment under the command of Major Ridge, and the guns were immediately retaken.

While this operation was going on the flank, an attack was made on the front by another regiment, which was repulsed in a similar manner by the 77th regiment, and the three squadrons of Major-General Alten's brigade charged repeatedly different bodies of the enemy, which ascended the hill on the left of the two regiments of British infantry; the Portuguese regiment being posted in the rear of their right.

At length the division of the enemy's infantry, which had marched with the cavalry from Ciudad Rodrigo, were brought up to the attack on the road of Fuente Guinaldo; and seeing that they would arrive and be engaged before the troops could arrive either from Guinaldo or El Bodon, I determined to withdraw our post, and to retire with the whole on Fuente Guinaldo.—The 2d battalion 5th regiment, and the 77th regiment, were formed into one square, and the 21st Portuguese regiment into another, supported by Major-General Alten's small body of cavalry and the Portuguese artillery.

The enemy's cavalry immediately rushed forward and obliged our cavalry to retire to the support of the Portuguese regiment; and the 5th and 77th regiments were charged on three faces of the square, by the French cavalry; but they halted and repulsed the attack with the utmost steadiness and gallantry. We then continued the retreat, and joined the remainder of the third division, also formed in squares, on their march to Fuente Guinaldo; and the whole retired together in the utmost order; and the enemy never made another attempt to charge any of them; but were satisfied with firing upon them with their artillery, and with following them.

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams with his Light Infantry, and the Honorable Lieutenant-Colonel Trench, with the 74th regiment, retired from Pastores across the Agueda, and thence marched by Robleda, where they took some prisoners, and re-crossed the Agueda, and joined at Guinaldo in the evening.

I placed the 3d and 4th divisions, and General Pack's brigade of infantry, and Major-General Alten's, Major-General De Grey's, and Major-General Slade's brigades of cavalry in the position of Fuente Guinaldo, on the evening of the 25th, and ordered Major-General Crawford to retire with the light division across the Agueda; the 7th division to form at Albergaria, and Lieutenant-General Graham to collect the troops under his command at Nave D'Aver, keeping only posts of observation on the Azava; and the troops were thus formed in an echelon, of which the center was in the position at Guinaldo; and the right upon the pass of Perales, and the left at Nave D'Aver.—Mareschal del Campo Don Carlos D'Espagne was placed on the left of the Coa, and Don Julian Sanchez was detached with the cavalry to the enemy's rear.

The enemy brought up a 2d division of infantry from Ciudad Rodrigo, in the afternoon of the 25th, and, in the course of that night, and of the 26th, they collected their whole army in front of our position at Guinaldo; and not deeming it expedient to stand their attack in that position, I retired about three leagues, and, on the 27th, formed the army as follows:—viz, the 5th division on the right, at Aldea Velha; the 4th, and light divisions, and Major-General Alten's cavalry, at the Convent of Sacaparte, in front of Alfayates; the 3d and 7th division, in second line, behind Alfayates; and Lieutenant-General Graham's corps on the left at Bismula, having their advanced guard beyond the Villa Major River; and Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton's cavalry near Alfayates on the left of the 4th division, and having General Pack's and General M'Mahon's brigades, at Nebulosa, on their left. The piquets of the cavalry were in front of Aldea de Ponte, beyond the Villa Major River; and those of General Alten's brigade beyond the same river towards Furcalhos.

It had been the enemy's intention to turn the left of the position of Guinaldo, by moving a column into the valley of the upper Azava, and thence ascending the heights in the rear of the position by Castillejos; and from this column they detached a division of infantry and fourteen squadrons of cavalry to follow our retreat by Albergaria, and another body of the same strength followed us by Furcalhos. The former attacked the piquets of the cavalry at Aldea de Ponte, and drove them in; and they pushed on nearly as far as Alfayates. I then made General Pakenham attack them with his brigade of the 4th division, supported by the Hon. Lieutenant-General Cole, and the 4th division; and by Sir Stapleton Cotton's cavalry; and the enemy were driven through Aldea de Ponte, back upon Albergaria, and the piquets of the cavalry resumed their station.

But the enemy having been reinforced by the troops which marched upon Furcalhos, again advanced about sun-set, and drove in the piquets of the cavalry from Aldea de Ponte, and took possession of the village.

Lieutenant-General Cole again attacked them with a part of Gen. Pakenham's brigade, and drove them through the village, but night having come on, and as Gen. Pakenham was not certain what was passing on his flanks, or of the numbers of the enemy, and he knew that the army were to fall back still farther, he evacuated the village, which the enemy occupied, and held during the night.