

The enemy was made, being formed in two lines, nearly parallel to the river Albuera, on the ridge of the gradual ascent rising from that river, and covering the roads to Badajos and Valverde; though your Lordship is aware, that the whole face of this country is every where passable for all arms. Gen. Blake's corps was on the right, in two lines; its left on the Valverde road, joined the right of Major-Gen. the Hon. William Stewart's division, the left of which reached the Badajos road; where commenced the right of Major-Gen. Hamilton's division which closed the left of the line. General Cole's division, with one brigade of Gen. Hamilton's formed the second line of the British and Portuguese army.

The enemy, on the morning of the 16th did not long delay his attack; at eight o'clock he was observed to be in movement, and his cavalry was seen passing the rivulet of Albuera, considerably above our right, and shortly after he marched out of the wood opposite to us, a strong force of cavalry, and two heavy columns of infantry, pointing them to our front, as if to attack the village and bridge of Albuera; during this time, under cover of his vastly superior cavalry, he was filing the principal body of his infantry over the river beyond our right, and it was not long before his intention appeared to be to turn us by that flank, and cut us off from Valverde. Major-Gen. Cole's division was therefore ordered to form an oblique line to the rear of our right, with his own right thrown back. And the intention of the enemy to attack our right becoming evident, I requested Gen. Blake to form part of his first line, and all his second, to that front, which was done.

The enemy commenced his attack at nine o'clock, not ceasing at the same time to menace our left; and after a strong and gallant resistance of the Spanish troops, he gained the heights upon which they had been formed; meanwhile the division of the Hon. Major-General William Stewart had been brought up to support them; and that of Major-General Hamilton brought to the left of the Spanish line, and formed in contiguous close columns of battalions, to be moveable in any direction. The Portuguese brigade of cavalry, under Brigadier-General Otway, remained at some distance on the left of this, to check any attempt of the enemy below the village.

As the heights the enemy had gained, raked and entirely commanded our whole position, it became necessary to make every effort to retake and maintain them; and a noble one was made by the division of General Stewart, headed by that gallant officer. Nearly at the beginning of the enemy's attack, a heavy storm of rain came on, which, with the smoke from the firing, rendered it impossible to discern any thing distinctly.—This, with the nature of the ground, had been extremely favorable to the enemy in forming his columns, and in his subsequent attack.

The right brigade of Gen. Stewart's division, under Lieut. Col. Colborne, first came into action, and behaved in the most gallant manner, and finding that the enemy's column could not be shaken by fire, proceeded to attack it with the bayonet; and, while in the act of charging, a body of Polish Lancers (cavalry) which the thickness of the atmosphere and the nature of the ground had concealed, (and which was, besides, mistaken by those of the brigade when discovered for Spanish cavalry, and therefore not fired upon,) turned it; and being thus attacked unexpectedly in the rear, was unfortunately broken and suffered immensely. The 31st regiment, being the left one of the brigade, alone escaped this charge, and under the command of Major L'Estrange kept its ground, until the arrival of the 3d brigade, under Major-Gen. Hoghton. The conduct of this brigade was most conspicuously gallant, and that of the 2d brigade, under the command of the Hon. Lieut. Col. Abercrombie, was not less so: Major-General Hoghton, cheering on his brigade to the charge, fell pierced by wounds. Though the enemy's principal attack was on this point of the right, he also made a continual attempt upon that part of our original front at the village and bridge, which were defended in the most gallant manner by Major-General Baron Alten and the light infantry brigade of the German Legion, whose conduct was, in every point of view, conspicuously good. This point now formed our left; and Major-General Hamilton's division had been brought up there; and he was left to direct the defence of that point, whilst the enemy's attack continued on our right, a considerable portion of the Spanish troops supporting the defence of this place. The enemy's cavalry, on his infantry attempting to force our right, had endeavoured to turn it; but by the able manœuvres of Major-General the Hon. Wm. Lumley, commanding the allied cavalry, though vastly inferior to that of the enemy in number, his endeavours were foiled. Major-General Cole, seeing the attack of the enemy, very judiciously bringing up his left a little, marched in line to attack the enemy's left, and arrived most opportunely to contribute, with the charges of the brigades of Gen. Stewart's division, to force the enemy to abandon his situation, and retire precipitately, and to take refuge under his reserve; here the Fusilier brigade particularly distinguished itself. He was pursued by the allies to a considerable distance, and as far as I thought it prudent with his immense superiority of cavalry; and I contented myself with seeing him driven across the Albuera.

I have every reason to speak favorably of the manner in which our artillery was served, and fought; and Major Hartman commanding the British, and Major Dickinson commanding the Portuguese, and the officers and men, are entitled to my thanks. The four guns of the horse artillery commanded by Capt. Lefebure, did great execution on the enemy's cavalry, and one brigade of Spanish artillery (the only one in the field) I saw equally gallant and well served; we lost in the

misfortune which occurred to the brigade commanded by Lieut. Col. Colborne (whom Gen. Stewart reports to have acted and was then acting in a most noble manner, leading on the brigade in admirable order) one howitzer, which the enemy before the arrival of the gallant General Hoghton's brigade, had time to carry off, with two or three hundred prisoners, of that brigade. After he had been beaten from this, his principal attack, he still continued that near the village, on which he never could make any impression or cross the rivulet, though I had been obliged to bring a very great proportion of the troops from it, to support the principal point of attack; but the enemy seeing his mean attack defeated, relaxed in his attempt there also. The Portuguese division of Major-General Hamilton, in every instance evinced the utmost steadiness and courage, manœuvred equally well with the British.

Brigadier-General Harvey's Portuguese brigade, belonging to Gen. Cole's division, had an opportunity of distinguishing itself when marching in line across the plain, by repulsing with the utmost steadiness a charge of the enemy's cavalry.

It is impossible to enumerate every instance of discipline and valor shewn on this severely contested day. But never were troops that more valiantly or more gloriously maintained the honor of their respective countries. I have not been able to particularise the Spanish divisions, brigades, or regiments, that were particularly engaged, because I am not acquainted with their denominations or names; but I have great pleasure in saying that their behaviour was most gallant and honorable; and though from the superior number and weight of the enemy's force, that part of them that were in the position attacked were obliged to cede the ground, it was after a gallant resistance, and they continued in good order to support their Allies; and I doubt not, his Excellency General Blake will do ample justice on this head, by making honorable mention of the deserving.

The battle commenced at nine o'clock, and continued without interruption till two in the afternoon, when the enemy having been driven over the Albuera, for the remainder of the day there was but cannonading and skirmishing.

It is impossible by any description to do justice to the distinguished gallantry of the troops, but every individual most nobly did his duty, and which will be well proved by the great loss we have suffered, though repulsing the enemy; and it was observed, that our dead, particularly the 57th regiment, were lying, as they had fought, in ranks, and every wound was in the front.

The Hon. Major-General William Stewart most particularly distinguished himself, and conducted much to the honor of the day: he received two contusions, but would not quit the field. Major-Gen. the Hon. G. L. Cole, is also entitled to every praise: and I have to regret being deprived for some time of his services, by the wound he has received. The Hon. Lieut. Col. Abercrombie, commanding the 2d brigade, 2d division, and Major L'Estrange 31st regiment, deserve to be particularly mentioned; and nothing could exceed the conduct and gallantry of Colonel Inglis, at the head of his regiment. To the Hon. Major-Gen. Wm. Lumley, for the very able manner in which he opposed the numerous cavalry of the enemy, and foiled him in his object, I am particularly indebted. To Major-Gen. Hamilton who commanded on the left, during the severe attack upon our right, I am also much indebted; and the Portuguese brigade of Brigadier-Gens. Fonseca and Arch. Campbell deserve to be mentioned. To Major-Gen. Alten, and to the excellent brigade under his orders, I have much praise to give; and it is with great pleasure I assure your Lordship that the good and gallant conduct of every corps, and of every person, was in proportion to the opportunity that offered for distinguishing themselves. I know not an individual who did not do his duty. I have, I fear, to regret the loss to the service of Col. Collins, commanding a Portuguese brigade, his leg having been carried off by a cannon shot: he is an officer of great merit.—And I deeply lament the death of Major-Gen. Hoghton, and of those two promising officers Lieut. Col. Sir Wm. Myers and Lieut. Col. Duckworth.

It is most pleasing to me to inform your Lordship, not only of the steady and gallant conduct of our allies, the Spanish troops, under his Excellency Gen. Blake, but also to assure you that the most perfect harmony has subsisted between us; and that General Blake not only conformed in all things to the general line proposed by your Lordship, but in the details and in whatever I suggested to his Excellency, I received the most immediate and cordial assent and co-operation; and nothing was omitted on his part to ensure the success of our united efforts; and during the battle, he most essentially, by his experience, knowledge, and zeal, contributed to its fortunate result.

His Excellency the Captain-General Castanos who had united the few troops he had in a state to be brought into the field, to those of Gen. Blake, and placed them under his orders, assisted in person in the field; and not only on this, but on all occasions, I am much indebted to Gen. Castanos, who is ever beforehand in giving whatever can be beneficial to the success of the common cause.

Though I unfortunately cannot point out the corps or many of the individuals of the Spanish troops that distinguished themselves, yet I will not omit to mention the names of Gen. Vallesteros, whose gallantry was most conspicuous, as of the corps he had under his command; and the same of Generals Zayas and of Don Carlos D'Espagne. The Spanish cavalry have behaved extremely well, and the Count de Penne Villamur is particularly deserving to be mentioned.

I annex the return of our loss in this hard contested day: it is very severe, and in addition to it is the loss

of the troops under his Excellency Gen. Blake, who are killed, missing, and wounded, but of which I have not the return. The loss of the enemy, though I cannot know what it is, must be still more severe. He has left on the field of battle about 2000 dead, and we have taken from 900 to 1000 prisoners. He has had five Generals killed and wounded; of the former Generals of Division Werle and Pesim; and Gazan and two others amongst the latter. His force was much more considerable than we had been informed of, as I do not think he displayed less than from 20 to 22,000 infantry, and he certainly had 4000 cavalry with a numerous and heavy artillery. His overbearing cavalry cramped and confined all our operations, and with his artillery saved his infantry, after its rout.

He retired after the battle to the ground he had been previously on, but occupied it in position; and on this morning, or rather during the night, commenced their retreat on the road he came, towards Seville, and has abandoned Badajos to its fate. He left a number of his wounded on the ground he had retired to, and to which we are administering what assistance we can.—I have sent our cavalry to follow the enemy, but in that arm he is too powerful for us to attempt any thing against him in the plains he is traversing.

Thus we have reaped the advantage we proposed from our opposition to the attempts of the enemy and whilst he has been forced to abandon the object for which he has almost stripped Andalusia of troops, instead of having accomplished the haughty boasts with which Marshal Soult harangued his troops on leaving Seville, he returns there with a curtailed army, and what perhaps may be still more hurtful to him, with a diminished reputation.

In enumerating the services received from the officers of my own staff, I must particularly call your Lordship's attention to those of Brigadier-General d'Urban, Quarter-Master-General to the Portuguese army; and which I cannot sufficiently praise, though I can appreciate. On all occasions I have felt the benefits of his talents and services, and more particularly on this, where they very essentially contributed to the success of the day; and I cannot here omit the name of Lieutenant-Colonel Harding, Deputy-Quarter-Master-General to the Portuguese troops, whose talent and exertions deserve my thanks. To Brigadier-General Mozinho, Adjutant-General of the Portuguese army, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Rooke, Assistant Adjutant-General to the united British and Portuguese force, and to Brigadier-General Lemos, and to the Officers of my own personal staff, I am indebted for their assistance.

To the services of Lieutenant-Colonel Arbuthnot (Major in his Majesty's service) I am also much indebted, and he is the bearer of this to your Lordship, and is fully enabled to give you any further information you may desire, and is most deserving of any favor your Lordship may be pleased to recommend him for, to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

I have the honor to be, &c.

W. C. BERESFORD, Marshal and Lieut. Gen.

P. S. Major-General Hamilton's division, and Brigadier-General Madden's brigade of Portuguese cavalry march to-morrow morning to re-invest Badajos on the south side of the Guadiana.

No. 1.—Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing, on the 8th May.

Total British loss—11 rank and file wounded. Portuguese loss.—1 rank and file killed; 1 Ensign, 18 rank and file wounded.

No. 2.—Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing, on the 10th May.

Total British loss—1 Captain, 2 sergeants, 29 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 2 Captains, 10 Lieutenants, 4 Ensigns, 9 sergeants, 3 drummers, 317 rank and file, wounded.

Portuguese loss—1 Colonel, 2 Captains, 1 drummer, 34 rank and file, wounded; 12 rank and file, missing.

No. 3.—Return of Killed, Wounded, and Missing, in the Trenches and Batteries before Badajos, between the 8th and 15th May inclusive.

Total British loss.—1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant; 1 sergeant, 21 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 4 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 8 sergeants, 1 drummer, 92 rank and file, wounded.

Portuguese loss.—1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 2 sergeants, 40 rank and file, killed; 1 Lieutenant, 1 Ensign, 4 sergeants, 1 drummer, 88 rank and file wounded; 1 Lieutenant, 22 rank and file, missing.

No. 4.—Return of Killed, Wounded and Missing, on the 16th May.

Total British loss.—1 General Staff, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 7 Captains, 13 Lieutenants, 9 Ensigns, 31 sergeants, 4 drummers, 815 rank and file, 54 horses, killed; 7 General Staff, 4 Lieutenant-Colonels, 4 Majors, 43 Captains, 81 Lieutenants, 20 Ensigns, 6 Staff, 132 sergeants, 9 drummers, 2426 rank and file, 26 horses, wounded; 1 Major, 4 Captains, 8 Lieutenants, 1 Ensign, 28 sergeants, 10 drummers, 492 rank and file, 17 horses, missing.

Total Portuguese loss.—1 General Staff, 1 Staff, 2 sergeants, 98 rank and file, 9 horses, killed; 1 General Staff, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 Major, 5 Captains, 5 Lieutenants, 2 Ensigns, 1 Staff, 14 sergeants, 1 drummer, 230 rank and file, 9 horses, wounded; 1 drummer, 25 rank and file, missing.

Names of the Officers killed.

Major-General D. Hoghton.
3d Dragoon Guards—Lieutenant Fox.
1st. Bat. 3d Foot, or Buffs—Captain Burke, Lieut. Herbert, Ensigns Chadwick and Thomas.
2d Bat. 7th Foot—Captain Erck, Lieut. Archer.
1st Bat. 23d Foot—Captain Montague, Second Lieutenant Hall.