

Highly Important News from Russia.

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 16.

Despatches of which the following are copies, were received last night, by Viscount Castlereagh, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from General Viscount Cathcart, K. T. His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of Russia, dated at St. Petersburg, the 23d and 25th of November.

St. Petersburg, November 23.

MY LORD.—On the 9th November, Count Orloff Denizoff, being advanced on the road to Smolensko and Krasnoi, received intelligence of the march of a French corps from Smolensko in the direction of Kaluga, composed of fresh troops intended for the different regiments of guards; this force was under the command of Genl. Barrage d'Hillier having with him General Charpentier and Brigadier-General Augereau, brother to the Marshal of that name. They were distributed in the three villages of Yalvin, Lakoff and Dolgomust. A disposition of attack was immediately made by three partizan corps, commanded by Capt. Sellavin, Col. Davidoff, and Capt. Phigner.—The result was, that the corps under Charpentier was nearly cut to pieces, that Barrage d'Hillier having patiently heard a cannonade for several hours in the quarters of Augereau's division, made good his retreat to Smolensko, and that Augereau's corps of 3000 men, after losing nearly one third of their number, laid down their arms, and capitulated to Capt. Phigner, who had not 1500 men, and who appears to have conducted this affair with infinite address and gallantry.

In this corps were two squadrons of cavalry, well mounted. The prisoners amounted to one General, 60 Staff and other officers, and 2000 rank and file. The officers who capitulated stated the object of their march by that route was to open another communication in the direction of Kaluga; they were not aware of the retreat of their army.

Since this affair, three General officers, upwards of 20 pieces of cannon, and 4000 prisoners, have been taken near Smolensko, but the particulars are not yet reported.

On the 14th inst. General Count Wittgenstein was attacked by Marshal Victor, who had orders to drive him to the other side of the Dwina. The enemy was repulsed, with the loss of 2 to 3000 men, and was pursued the next morning in his retreat towards Senno, when 600 prisoners were taken. I have the honor to enclose a copy of Major General Baron Dornberg's report of this affair.

(Signed) CATHCART.

Jamich, November 15, 1812.

MY LORD.—I am very happy to inform your Lordship, that Victor has failed in fulfilling the orders he received from Bonaparte, to drive Count Wittgenstein behind the Dwina. He attacked yesterday morning; Count Wittgenstein ordered the advanced guard to retire to the position. This was executed in a masterly manner; they retired in echiquier, under a very heavy fire, as if it was in a field day. In the position, the French were received by a well-directed fire from the artillery, by which they must have lost a great number in killed and wounded, I suppose between two and three thousand. The firing only ceased about seven in the evening. The French had made strong demonstrations on both wings, but the centre was chiefly engaged. This morning they began their retreat towards Senno. The troops who are in pursuit have as yet made about 600 prisoners.

It is really a pleasure to see these troops fight.

The new-raised militia vie with the oldest regiments.—One battalion of this militia being with the advanced guard, on receiving orders to fall back, first refused to do so, saying, the Emperor had not sent them there to retire, but to advance and beat the enemy, which they were willing to do; I have, &c. &c.

DORNBERG.

St. Petersburg, November 25.

MY LORD.—In addition to my despatch of the 23d inst. I have now the happiness to inclose a translation of reports which have been received from Field Marshal Prince Kutusoff, of the 10th and 20th inst. containing the details of the total defeat of the divisions of the French army under the commands of Marshal Davoust and Ney. Near 200 cannon, and 20,000 prisoners, have been taken in these affairs. Bonaparte is stated to have been with Marshal Davoust's corps in the night from the 16th to the 17th, and to have left the field of battle at full speed.

Every measure of precaution that could be thought of at this distance, has been provided for by the Emperor to prevent the escape of the enemy; and it appears that every exertion has been made by the several commanders of corps near Smolensko. Bonaparte has probably sent forward his favorite guards, the Polish divisions, and part of the Italian; but if Admiral Tchichagoff has arrived at his ground, it does not appear that this corps would escape to the frontier.

The display of force before General Count Wittgenstein's post, after the attack, was probably with the intention to favor the movement of the corps which have marched upon Minsk.

It is not improbable that part of Victor's corps may have taken the same direction.

General Wittgenstein is enforced by the cavalry formerly under General Winzingerode, for the present commanded by Major-General Kutusoff, who has made a most rapid march to Babinowitch, where he arrived time enough on the 18th to receive 400 prisoners from out of the French divisions. He has also taken two Generals and one Colonel.

The French with their usual savage and sacrilegious ferocity, wantonly blew up the venerable cathedral of Smolensko before they left that place.

Te Deum has been sung this day in the great cathedral, in presence of their Imperial Majesties and the whole Court; "the baron de Marechal" of Marshal Davoust, and such of the eagles and colours taken in the last affair as are already arrived here, were previously brought to the cath-

dral, in which the other numerous trophies of war are already deposited.

(Signed)

CATHCART.

The Commander in Chief General Field-Marshal Prince Kutusoff, from his head-quarters at the village of Dubrovo, submits to his Imperial Majesty the two following reports:

First Report, dated the 18th November.

After the battle, near Viasna, of the 22d October, my army made every effort to turn, if not all the enemy's corps, at least its advanced guard, on the road from Jelna to Krasnoi, in which it completely succeeded on the 17th and 18th November.

The 16th November, the army made a movement by advancing five wersts, as far as the town of Krasnoi. The advanced guard fell in with the enemy who were completely defeated by Lieutenant-General Owerow. On this occasion we became masters of one standard, some cannon, and a great number of prisoners, one of whom was a General.

General Millarodovitch, commanding the advanced guard, with the 2d light corps of infantry, and the 2d of cavalry, perceiving the corps commanded by Marshal Davoust advance near Krasnoi, detached thither Lieutenant-General Prince Galitzin. The enemy, conceiving himself turned on all sides, began to defend himself. Our artillery made a terrible carnage in the enemy's ranks. Napoleon himself was an eye witness of the battle, and not waiting for the issue, he fled with his whole suit to the village of Liadam, and abandoned the corps of Davoust.

The battle lasted the whole day: the enemy were completely defeated and dispersed in the neighbouring wood, for a distance of five wersts along the banks of the Dnieper—thus the corps of Marshal Davoust has been completely destroyed. The loss in killed and wounded is immense.—We have made prisoners 2 Generals, 58 officers of different ranks, 9,170 men, 75 cannon, 3 standards, and taken the baton of Marshal Davoust.

On the 17th of November, being informed that the corps of Marshal Ney, forming the rear guard of the enemy, was moving in the road leading to Krasnoi, I made the following positions:

Second Report.

In order to obtain a certain victory over Marshal Ney, and to cut off entirely his communication with the rest of the army, I reinforced General Millarodovitch with the 8th corps, giving him orders to prevent the Marshal's advance and to take a position near the villages Syroherenic and Reherniska. Major-General Lourkouki perceived about 3 in the afternoon, the enemy advancing. The thickness of the fog prevented him from ascertaining his numbers, who kept marching forwards till they were close to our batteries. The enemy attempting in vain to pierce through our lines, received, at the distance of 250 paces, a general discharge of musquetry and of 40 pieces of cannon; the effect of this fire upon the enemy was extremely fatal. Finding he had no hope of escaping, he at length sent a flag of truce to General Millarodovitch. At midnight the whole corps d'armee of the enemy, amounting to 12,000 men, were obliged to lay down their arms. All their artillery, in number 27 pieces of cannon, all the baggage and military chest, were the fruits of our victory. In the number of prisoners are above 100 officers of different ranks. Marshal Ney was wounded, but saved himself by flight, and was pursued by the Cossacks beyond the Dnieper. The loss of the enemy is enormous: according to the report of the prisoners, 4 Generals of Division were wounded. We have not lost above 500 men in killed and wounded.

The army is at present at Krasnoi, and the advanced guard at Dowbrowna, from whence we shall follow the movements of the enemy.

General Platow informs me by a private letter annexed, that the enemy left behind him, 17 wersts from Smolensko, a great quantity of artillery, amounting to 112 pieces. Letter of General Count Platow to the General Field-Marshal, dated 17th November.

After the signature of my report to your Highness, Capt. Parkin arrived with rations, and states that, at the distance of 17 wersts from Smolensko, in the great road, he had counted 12 cannon, besides a great number of tumbrils and carriages. I am not able to send your Highness a report in form, not having received it from the Governor of Smolensko. I join the unanimous voice of the troops in pronouncing, *Hourra! your most Serene Highness!*

LONDON, DECEMBER 17.

Stocks rose rapidly on the news yesterday morning from Russia, and about one o'clock Omnium was done at ten per cent.; securing, it is stated, to one adventurer £40,000 in return for 4000 guineas which he had given on the contingency of receiving £1000 for each hundred guineas, should Omnium reach ten per cent. premium previously to the payment in January. We believe that premiums were given to the amount of £16,000 in all, which will require a payment of £160,000 in return.

DECEMBER 18.

It will be seen from our Parliamentary Report of last night, that it is in the contemplation of Government to grant £200,000 for the relief of the suffering inhabitants of Moscow.

The Gazette Extraordinary of Wednesday may be justly considered as one of the most important documents of modern times; the late great, splendid, and almost unparalleled successes of the Russians must be highly gratifying to every well-wisher to the peace and happiness of society. Marshal Kutusoff's despatches are, in deed, so clear and satisfactory, that they need no elucidation. He states, that from the time of the battle of Viasna, his great object was to turn the advanced guard of the enemy, and in this he completely succeeded on the 17th and 18th ult. near Krasnoi, which is to the south-west of Smolensko. The French army being thus surrounded, had no alternative. It was forced to make a desperate effort to cut its way through and in this it failed. With the turn of the day Bonaparte

fled from the field of battle, but his army was left behind. That army is no more; not a corps, not a single division of it remains. This immense army, which was to overturn the mighty Russian Empire, and establish the vassalage of Europe, is now dispersed far and wide, in killed, wounded, stragglers and captives.

The Emperor Alexander has issued a proclamation, dated St. Petersburg, November 15, in which he condemns, in strong terms the highly unjust conduct of France in the invasion of Russia, and the burning of Moscow and the Kremlin. "The whole world," says this proclamation, "has fixed its attention on our suffering country, and inwardly moved thought, in the reflection of the flames of Moscow, the last day of the existence of our freedom and independence. But great and mighty is the God of Justice! The triumph of the enemy was of short duration; pressed on all sides by our valiant armies and levies, he soon discovered that by his temerity he had ventured too far, and that he could not either by his vaunted army, his seducement, nor his cruelties, inspire fear into the loyal and valiant Russians, nor save himself from destruction. After many fruitless endeavors, and now that he sees his numerous troops every where beaten and destroyed, he now with the small remains of them seeks his personal safety in the rapidity of his flight; he flies from Moscow with as much fear and depression as he advanced against it with pride and insolence; he flies, leaving his cannon behind him, throws away his baggage, blowing up his cartridge chests, and sacrificing every thing that can retard the swiftness of his flight. Thousands of the fugitives daily fall to the earth, and expire. In such manner does the just vengeance of God punish those who insult his temple."

POSTSCRIPT.

It is with the liveliest emotions of satisfaction we have to state, that all the accounts received from the theatre of war in the North of Europe continue of the most gratifying and favourable nature. Since our last, official advices have been received from St. Petersburg, of the 23d and 25th ult. announcing a series of triumphs gained by the Russians over the enemy, unparalleled in the annals of ancient or modern war. The Despatches received by Government from Lord Cathcart, were published on Wednesday in an Extraordinary Gazette, to which we must refer our readers for the brilliant details of the Russian successes. It may be sufficient here to observe, that from the 9th to the 18th ult. the enemy lost above 24,000 prisoners, and upwards of 200 pieces of cannon. They had previously lost, by official returns, 75,000 prisoners, and all their remaining cannon have been abandoned at Smolensko to facilitate their flight. Two corps of their army, those of Davoust and Ney, were nearly annihilated on the 16th and 17th, on the first of which day Bonaparte fled from the field of battle; but it was hoped, that if Admiral Tchichagoff had arrived on his ground, he would not be able to escape to the frontier. The corps of Gen. Platow continued its operations against that of Eugene Beauhornois, which seems without any prospect of escape, as it is hemmed in on every side by victorious Russian armies. On the Dwina the Russians had been equally successful. An attack made by Victor on the corps of Count Wittgenstein, had been repulsed with a loss to the enemy of between 2 and 3000 men, and 600 taken prisoners in the pursuit. Gen. Winzingerode and his Aide-de-Camp Narishkin had, by a most fortunate occurrence, been rescued from an escort of the enemy, and had arrived at St. Petersburg. They owe their liberation to Col. Chernichef, whose expedition as described in the Gazette is truly deserving of notice. He marched 700 wersts, (about 500 miles) in 5 days, and swam several rivers. We may judge from this of the extraordinary vigour of the Russian cavalry. In all the actions that had taken place, the skill of the Russian Generals and the valour and enthusiasm of the soldiers had been equally conspicuous. In the account of Count Wittgenstein's affair, a trait of military spirit is recorded, which gives a fine answer to the tales in the French Bulletins of the cowardice and disaffection of the Russian peasantry. A battalion of raw militia, when the order came for the retirement of the troops in front, refused to understand it, crying out that their emperor had sent them there to fight, and not retire. With such soldiers, an empire must be unconquerable.

Should Bonaparte personally affect his escape, an event which we think becomes more doubtful every day, and collect the remains of the corps of Victor, Mortier and Macdonald, they will when united be able to do no more than furnish him with an escort to quit a country which has completely avenged the cause of Europe; and given the grand example to its neighbours of the course to be pursued when their territory is insulted. He may escape to join the new raised conscripts under Augereau, but the veteran army with which he laid all the rest of Continental Europe waste, is utterly extinguished; and it will be owing alone to the pusillanimity of the people he has hitherto trampled on, if he shall be able again to shew his head in any foreign field of warfare.

DECEMBER 19.

The army with which Bonaparte invaded Russia is said to have amounted to 495,000 men; including 60,000 cavalry, besides 40,000 horses for artillery train, being 1,200 pieces of cannon.

Lord Walpole, who went out to St. Petersburg with Lord Cathcart, is reported to be either on his way, or arrived at Vienna, with the view of endeavoring to detach Austria from her alliance with France.

The loss of the Bellette sloop of war is confirmed. She got on shore on the rocks, off the Island of Lissoc, in the Cattegat, and all on board, except five, perished.

Fifty licences for imports, and 32 for exports, signed by Bonaparte, have been received at Paris. The importations allowed consist chiefly of colonial produce and hides.