

to get passports that they might return without molestation, are all dismissed the service for ever.

Further, his Majesty reserves to himself to bring to account all those Officers, high and low, particularly those in the Commissary Department, whose actions still remain doubtful, or who in the eyes of the army have shewn themselves unworthy of the trust reposed in them: and, if upon the future investigation of their conduct, the above stated facts are found to be more criminal than at present appears, then, and in that case, the punishment will be proportionably severe; but in order to prevent future dereliction from duty, his Majesty has thought proper to publish the following Ordinances:—

1. All Governors and Commandants who in future, from fear of a bombardment or under the pretext of a want of the necessary requisites for supporting a siege, or under any groundless pretence whatever, be it what it may, shall neglect, or refuse to defend with whatever means they possess, the fortress entrusted to their charge, shall be shot without any mercy.

Every Commander or Governor of fortresses who shall consent to any secret articles (in the capitulation which the enemy may force them to conclude) for their own benefit or that of any of their subalterns, as has been the case at Magdeburg, shall be cashiered.

2. Every regiment which does not obey the orders received to attack, or without orders leaves the field of battle, after it has been made known to his Majesty, shall be cashiered and drafted into other regiments.

3. Every Officer who in future shall be guilty of the misdemeanors first above described in Nos. 2 and 3, or shall leave the field of battle without being wounded, shall be cashiered with infamy, each soldier who in running away throws away his arms, shall be immediately shot.

4. Every Officer who shall meet with any dispersed soldiers shall rally them, and lead them to the first corps, or to another place of rendezvous. If he does not perform this duty he shall be accountable for his conduct.

5. The regimental and company Surgeons are to be as near their respective corps on the day of battle as possible, and they must be provided with all the requisites of their profession, under pain of being dismissed with disgrace.

6. The ammunition-waggons of each corps ought always to be attended by a Staff Officer or Captain to preserve regularity in the march. Those Officers commanded to attend this duty shall be cashiered in case of neglecting the same.

Whoever wantonly fire a musket to create a false alarm, shall be immediately shot.

Any waggon-driver who shall unyoke his horses from his waggon, in order to run away with them shall be shot.—But as it is absolutely necessary to produce a serious alteration in the Commissary Department of the army, the plan of reform to be adopted shall be communicated as soon as possible to the different corps.

7. On any unforeseen occurrences, for example, on extraordinary forced marches, retreats, &c. every Commanding Officer of a Corps shall be entitled to make a requisition upon the inhabitants for the necessary quantity of provisions and forage for men and horses under his command, giving his receipt for the same; but if he exceeds the necessary quantity in his requisition, he shall be shot.

8. The Officers of the General Staff, with their Adjutants, are to take charge of conducting the several Corps, and are never to leave their respective commands. The pioneers are to be at the head of each column, that they may be ready to repair the roads or to cut out new communications. The Officers of the General Staff must take care of every thing that can facilitate or accelerate the march of their respective corps. If the army is to form before the enemy, those officers must reconnoitre and discover the best ways of retreat, as also carefully mark out the ground.

9. As long as the war continues, the subalterns as well as the privates, if they distinguish themselves for courage and presence of mind shall be equally entitled to promotion as any Prince or Noblemen in the Prussian dominions. He also who has committed crimes shall be excluded from being an officer.

10. The widows of every soldier who has distinguished himself and dies in the field of battle, shall receive a pension proportionate to the rank of her husband.

11. It is hardly necessary to say that every act of insubordination is severely punishable. Every one is already well acquainted with the regulations of the army on this subject. Yet as experience has late shewn the contrary on several occasions, it is now brought to the serious recollection of the army, that every one may be completely aware of the punishment attending insubordination.

12. Extortion of money from, or plundering and ill usage of the inhabitants, and such like outrageous conduct, shall be punished with death.

13. All Prussian subjects who are found serving the enemy, and taken with arms in their hands, shall be shot without mercy.

This Proclamation, which it is intended shall be made known to every individual in the army, shall not only be read at the head of every regiment, but every individual shall take a copy thereof for the better regulation of his conduct.

An abstract shall be made of this proclamation, so far as regards the subalterns, privates, and waggon drivers, which shall be read to them in their native language; and the reading thereof shall be repeated every week or fourteen days; as also the same measures shall be taken with our former proclamation respecting the distribution of Medals of merit.

FREDERICK WILLIAM.

Ortelsburg, 1st December, 1806.

BATTLE OF PULTSK. RUSSIAN OFFICIAL ACCOUNT.

General Benningen to the King of Prussia.

I have the happiness most respectfully to acquaint your Majesty, that I have succeeded in repelling the enemy, who yesterday morning attacked me on every point near Pultusk. The main attack was made by Gen. Souchet, at the head of 15,000 men, on my left wing, near Farm-garuka, in the view of getting possession of that town; I had only 5000 men under Gen. Baggonaut, to oppose the

enemy on that side; they made a brave defence, until I sent a reinforcement of three battalions of reserve, and afterwards three more under Gen. Tollstoy, by which means the right wing of the French was totally defeated. The second attack, equally brisk, was made on my right flank, where Gen. Barkely de Tolly was posted with the van-guard. The wing extended on the road towards Sizegocyn to a small wood, where I had placed a covered battery, which the enemy attempted to turn. I therefore made a movement backwards on their right, which succeeded so well, that I not only frustrated the attempt of the enemy, but was also so fortunate as to reinforce Gen. Barkely de Tolly, with three battalions, ten squadrons, and one battery to repulse the enemy; on which the enemy retreated from the wood.

"The attack commenced at eleven in the morning, and lasted until dark. From the relation of all the prisoners, I was opposed by Messrs. Murat, Davoust, and Lannes, with an army exceeding 50,000 men. They have lost about 5000, according to their own account.

"All my troops fought with the greatest bravery. The following Generals particularly distinguished themselves: Osterman, Tollstoy, Barkely de Tolly, Prince Dolgorouky, Baggonaut, Somoff and Sitoff, of the Infantry, also Col. Davidoffsky and Gondeff, &c. &c.

"Field-Marshal Kamenky departed from Pultusk for Ostrolenka on the morning of the 26th December, previous to the attack, and again gave the whole command to me, so that I have had the good fortune to command alone in this affair, and to beat the enemy.

"I have to lament that the long expected succour of Gen. Buxhovden had not arrived, although he was but two German miles distant, and even halted half way. I should otherwise have been able to follow up my victory. I have further to lament that the total want of provision and forage oblige me to retire with my corps to Rozaw; the enemy had not molested me in my retreat.

(Signed)

BENNINGSEN.

Rozaw, the 27th (15th) December, 1806."

ABSTRACT

OF OTHER RUSSIAN OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS.

"Daily skirmishes from the 23d December preceded the battle of the 26th, when Benningen, having been reinforced by a division under Prince Gallitzin, resolved to make a stand. The French were under the immediate command of Bonaparte, who confided the attack upon the Russian wings to Davoust and Lannes—they appeared to have made some impression in the early part of the attack. Davoust forced General Baggonaut to fall back; but the latter having been promptly reinforced, Davoust's progress was effectually checked. Meanwhile Lannes was endeavoring to turn the Russian right wing. The principal attack and heat of the battle appears to have been in that quarter. Bonaparte directed the operations in person. An underwood favored the approach of the French, who obliged the Russian advanced guard to fall back upon the main body. But Benningen had foreseen that the chief efforts of the enemy would be made upon his right wing, and had thrown up a masked battery between the front of his main body and the advanced guard that had been posted to cover it.—So soon therefore as the advanced guard was forced by the impetuosity of the attack made upon it to fall back, the masked battery opened upon the enemy a most galling fire of grape shot which soon checked their progress.—General Tolly, who had the command of the advanced guard, pushed forward again, but was again obliged to fall back, and the enemy attempted to outflank the battery.—Benningen saw that this was the critical moment, and with great promptitude, skill, and decision, ordered his right wing to change front: reinforced General Tolly from his centre, and having thus stopped the progress of the enemy, made an attack upon them himself, General Osterman advancing with his division towards the right, and Benningen supported him with a strong train of artillery and 20 squadrons of cavalry. He ordered also the remainder of the cavalry to form their front in his centre, which had the effect of keeping the centre of the French from making a movement to support their right wing. The attack and the defence were furious and sanguinary; the French fought with desperation, but were obliged at last to fall back, and were driven in confusion from the field."

LONDON, JANUARY 8.

Yesterday we received the German Journals to the 1st inst. from which we have given a variety of important extracts.

We have also received some private communications of a late date, which enable us to account for the numerous rumours lately circulated of battles fought between the hostile armies in Poland. The fact is, that the actions which have hitherto taken place between the French and Russian forces in that quarter have been merely affairs of outposts, in which the Russian Cossacks uniformly evinced their superiority over the French cavalry. But an engagement of a very serious, though partial description, has, according to letters from Dantzic of the 17th been fought in the neighbourhood of that place, between detachments of the French and Prussian cavalry, the leading circumstances of which are thus stated:—A French spy having been sent to reconnoitre the Prussian force in the city of Dantzic, was interrupted by a detachment of the Prussian corps of cavalry raised and disciplined under the immediate eye of the Great Frederick, and known by the name of the "Death's Head Regiments." The Frenchman, far from being attached to his tyrant Master, with very little entreaty informed the Prussian Commander of the object of his mission, which was simply to ascertain the strength of the garrison of Dantzic, and whether it would be prudent to march a small force (which only could be spared at the time) to take possession of it.

Some regiments of French cavalry were at a convenient distance at the time, waiting for a given signal how to act. The Frenchman, in obedience to the instructions of the Prussians of the Commander, agreed to signify to the enemy that it would be perfectly safe for a small force to advance, as the garrison was very weak. Two of the Death's Head regiments in the mean time, by a circuitous route possessed

themselves of an advantageous situation, in which they were altogether unobserved by the enemy. Two regiments of French cavalry shortly advanced towards the town, on approaching which they found that they had been deceived with respect to its military strength. A retreat was of course immediately determined upon, but in vain was it attempted. The brave Death's Head now rushed impetuously upon them; a desperate conflict ensued, but was speedily terminated by the whole of the enemy's corps being being literary cut to pieces by their spirited assailants.

The above is the only action of consequence that has taken place since the entrance of the French into Poland.

All the accounts, particularly by private letters, represent the state of the French army to be very bad, in consequence of Dysenteries and other infectious diseases, produced by the severity of the weather, and the want of proper food and accommodation. This certainly is highly probable, and it is one of those evils which it is likely to be increased by a protracted war, in the situation in which Bonaparte is now placed. It is said that nearly the whole of the French army is disabled by disease, and that the mortality is very great. Murat is said to be dangerously ill.—Bonaparte is stated to have left Posen, and to have gone by Thorn to Warlaw.

Reports prevailed, that about the end of December a decisive battle would take place; and rumours of an action, in which according to some, the Russians, and, to others, the French were victorious, had reached Holsien. We are inclined to think however, that no battle had taken place up to the end of last month. The Russians appear to have retreated with great judgment, employing the hard but necessary expedient of wasting the country, and destroying or carrying away what would be useful for the support of the French. They are said to occupy a very strong position. If they could contrive to protract the contest, and to avoid a pitched battle till their own reinforcements arrive, and till what remains of the Prussian force can be formed and organized, we are not without hopes that the climate and situation of the French army will contribute more certainly to their destruction than the sword. This is precisely what the French temper cannot bear. The dangers of battle they willingly brave, but they are not made to contend with seasons, or endure the tedium of protracted war. Besides, they are now at a vast distance from their resources and supplies, and there are many circumstances that would render a lingering war dangerous in the extreme. If the Russians can but make head against him for a month or two, without a battle, and draw him still farther from home, through an inhospitable country, we should consider the prospect of at last triumphing over him, much more promising than at any period since the commencement of his career.

Bonaparte sees this, and we are afraid that he is gone on to Warlaw, if possible, to compel the Russians to fight a great battle. He cannot trust his Allies, and the least symptom of ill success would make them desert or turn their arms against him. It is a curious fact, that such is the jealousy which Bonaparte entertains of his Allies, that the troops of the Rhenish Confederation, wherever they are employed, form a line, covered in front and near by French troops; besides, they are dispersed with great art, in such a way as to prevent them from being dangerous, if they were to prove unfaithful, while the French troops are always joined to them in a proportion necessary to make them do their duty.

Bonaparte is aware, too, that if he were to be involved in a difficult, an unsuccessful, or even doubtful war in Poland, Austria might be induced to come forward, and, by acting upon his rear, cut off all his communications with France, and, perhaps, totally ruin his army. Never will there occur so favorable a moment for Austria. She has nothing at present to fear on the side of Italy. She might send her whole force to the North East, and place Bonaparte between two fires. Perhaps she is not disinclined to do so: but every thing will depend, in the first instance, on the prudence of the Russians. If they fall back, Bonaparte, if not beaten, will be foiled; and if the Austrians would then act, he might be destroyed, unless, perhaps, he should make the movements of Austria a pretence for abandoning a theatre of war, on which he was unsuccessful, to come back nearer to the frontiers of France.

The Russian troops are described as very numerous, and in the best order. The greatest exertions are making to reinforce the army. The Emperor Alexander has published a Ukase of the 22d Nov. for raising the last ordered levy of four recruits for every 500 souls; and to facilitate this object, the size of the soldier is to be reduced, and the age extended to 36 years. Gen. Kamenky, who is to have the chief command, is considered an Officer of great merit, and enjoys the confidence of the army.

It is not true that the Russians have declared war against the Turks, but they have advanced into Wallachia and Moldavia to the number of 50,000 and have formed a junction with the Servian Insurgents under Zeerni George, to the number of 40,000. If this be true, it must lead either to a declaration of war by the Porte against Russia at the instigation of France, or by France submitting to this proceeding on the part of Russia.

The King of Prussia, from all accounts, continues to manifest the most determined resolution not to submit to the terms which Bonaparte would give him in the present circumstances, and for which, indeed, there could be no security while the power of France continues as it is. The different Proclamations which he has issued, shew his resolution to make common cause with Russia, and to exert every effort to bring into action the resources he has left.

It appears that considerable apprehensions are entertained by the Danes, that attempts may be made by the French to violate their neutrality, and force them into measures inconsistent with their interest. They are, therefore, making preparations to vindicate their rights; and particularly several ships of the line are to be equipped for the protection of their coasts.

It is reported from Hamburg, that the Deputation sent to Bonaparte to procure some mitigation of his Decrees, as far as they affect the trade of that city, have not been successful.