

LONDON GAZETTE EXTRA.

Downing-Street, April 25.

A despatch of which the following is a copy, has been this morning received at Lord Liverpool's office, from Lieut. Gen. Viscount Wellington:

VILLA FORMOSA, APRIL 9.

MY LORD.—When I last addressed your Lordship the Enemy occupied the Upper Coa, having his right at Rovina, and guarding the ford of Rapoilla de Coa, with a detachment at the bridge of Ferrerías, and his left at Sabugal, and the 8th corps was at Alfayates.—The right of the British army was opposite Sabugal, and the left at the bridge of Ferrerías.

The militia under Gen. Trant and Col. Wilson crossed the Coa below Almeida, in order to threaten the communication of that place with Ciudad Rodrigo and the enemy's army.

The Coa is difficult of access throughout its course, and the position which the enemy had taken was very strong, and could be approached only by its left.

The troops were therefore put in motion on the morning of the 3d to turn the enemy's left above Sabugal, and to force the passage of the bridge of that town; with the exception of the 6th division, which remained opposite the 6th corps, which was at Rovina; and one battalion of the 7th division; which observed the enemy's detachment at the bridge of Ferrerías.

The 2d corps were in a strong position with their right upon a height immediately above the bridge and town of Sabugal, and their left extending along the road to Alfayates, to a height which commanded all the approaches to Sabugal from the fords of the Coa, above that town. The 2d corps communicated by Rendo with the 6th corps at Rovina. It was intended to turn the left of this corps; and with this view the light division of the cavalry under Major Gen. Sir W. Erskine, and Major Gen. Slade, were to cross the Coa by two separate fords upon the right, the cavalry upon the right of the light division; the 3d division under Major Gen. Picton at the ford on their left, about a mile from Sabugal; and the 5th division under Major Gen. Dunlop, and the Artillery at the bridge of Sabugal.

Col. Beckwith's brigade of the light division were the first that crossed the Coa with two squadrons of cavalry on their right. Four companies of the 95th and 3 companies of Col. Elder's cacadores drove the enemy's piquets, and were supported by the 43d regiment. At this moment a rain storm came on, which rendered it impossible to see any thing; and these troops having pushed on in pursuit of the enemy's piquets, came upon the left of their main body, which it had been intended they should turn. The light troops were driven back upon the 43d regiment and as soon as the atmosphere became clear, the enemy having perceived that the body, which had advanced, were not strong attacked them to a solid column, supported by cavalry and artillery. These troops repulsed this attack, and advanced in pursuit upon the enemy's position, where they were attacked by a fresh column on their left, and were charged by the 1st hussars on their right. They retired and took post behind a wall, from which post they again repulsed the enemy; and advanced a second time in pursuit of them, and took from them a howitzer. They were, however, again attacked by a fresh column with cavalry, and retired again to their post, where they were joined by the other brigade of the light division, consisting of the two battalions of the 52d regiment, and the 1st cacadores. These troops repulsed the enemy, and Colonel Beckwith's brigade and the 1st battalion of the 52d regiment, again advanced upon them. They were attacked again by a fresh column supported by cavalry, which charged their right, and they took post in an inclosure upon the top of the height, from whence they could protect the howitzer, which the 43d had taken; and they drove back the enemy.

The enemy were making arrangements to attack them again in this post, and had moved a column on their left, when the light infantry of Major General Picton's division, under Lieutenant Colonel Williams, supported by the honorable Major General Colville's brigade, opened their fire upon them.

At the same moment the head of Major General Dunlop's column crossed the bridge of the Coa, and ascended the heights on the right flank of the enemy; and the cavalry appeared on the high ground in rear of the enemy's left, and the enemy retired across the hills towards Rendo, leaving the howitzer in the possession of those who had so gallantly gained and preserved it, and about two hundred killed on the ground, and six officers and three hundred prisoners in our hands.

Although the operations of this day were, by unavoidable accidents, not performed in the manner in which I intended they should be, I consider the action that was fought by the light division, by Colonel Beckwith's brigade, principally, with the whole of the 2d corps, to be one of the most glorious that British troops were ever engaged in.

[Here his Lordship states that the 43d and 95th regiments, under the command of Major Patrickson and Colonel Beckwith, and the 1st battalion of the 52d, particularly distinguished themselves.]

It was impossible for any officer to conduct himself with more ability and gallantry than Colonel Beckwith. The action was commenced by an unavoidable accident to which all operations are liable; but having been commenced, it would have been impossible to withdraw from the ground without risking the loss of the object of our movements; and it was desirable to obtain possession of the top of the hill, from which the enemy had made so many attacks with advantage, on the first position taken by the 43d regiment. This was gained before the 3d division came up.

When the firing commenced the 6th corps broke up

from their position at Rovina, and marched towards Rendo. The two corps joined at that place, and continued their retreat to Alfayates, followed by our cavalry, part of which was that night at Soito. The enemy continued their retreat that night and the next morning; and entered the Spanish frontier on the 4th.—They have since continued their retreat, and yesterday the last of them crossed the Agueda.

I have the honor to inclose the return of killed and wounded from the 18th of March. I am concerned to have to report that Lieutenant-Colonel Waters was taken prisoner on the 3d, before the action commenced: He had crossed the Coa to reconnoitre the enemy's position, and he was surrounded with some hussars and taken. He had rendered very important services upon many occasions in the last two years, and his loss is sensibly felt.

I sent six squadrons of cavalry, under Major General Sir W. Erskine, on the 7th, towards Almeida, to reconnoitre that place, and drive in any parties which might be in that neighbourhood, and to cut off the communication between the garrison and the army.—He found a division of the 9th corps at Junca, which he drove before him across the Turou and Duas Cafas; and he took from them many prisoners; Captain Bull's troop of horse artillery did great execution upon this occasion. The enemy withdrew in the night across the Agueda.

The allied army have taken the position upon the Duas Cafas, which Brigadier General Crauford occupied with his advanced guard in the latter part of the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo: having our advanced posts upon Gallegos and upon the Agueda. The militia are at Cinco Villas and Malpartida. The enemy have no communication with the garrison of Almeida, from whence they have lately withdrawn the heavy artillery employed in the summer in the siege of that place.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

WELLINGTON.

Total British loss—1 General Staff, 2 Lieutenants, 1 Serjeant, 15 rank and file; 8 horses, killed; 1 Gen. Staff, 1 Major, 2 Captains, 5 Lieuts. 2 Ensigns, 8 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 117 rank and file, 11 horses, wounded; 4 rank and file and 1 horse missing.

Total Portuguese loss—1 rank and file killed; 9 rank and file wounded; 1 Lieutenant-Colonel missing.

LONDON, APRIL 24.

A report prevailed last night, that a mutiny had broken out among the sailors in the Scheldt fleet. This intelligence is very probable, as there were several Dutch sailors and Norwegians on board the fleet, who may have been induced to mutiny when they heard of the serious insurrection in Holland.

APRIL 25.

The keys that were restored to his Majesty, on Sunday morning last, were only those of his private drawers; the keys of the state Boxes remaining, as usual, with the Prince Regent. We have learnt, with concern, that this well intended indulgence has had a contrary effect to that which was expected to be the felicitous consequence. The Queen, we understand, did not concur in the opinion under which it was too prematurely granted. The Physicians unanimously recommend the King's going down to Weymouth, for the benefit of the sea-air; but his Majesty is not at present disposed to quit Windsor Castle upon any excursion.

We have received Paris Papers to the 20th; their contents are unimportant. The only news from Spain is, that great rejoicings took place at Madrid, on account of the birth of Bonaparte's son. The Empress Maria Louisa is recovered from the effects of *accouchement* and has already received the dignities and great officers of state. The 2d of June is fixed for the baptism of young Bonaparte; on which occasion, his grandfather, the Emperor Francis will stand, by proxy we presume, as godfather. The Turkish fleet has entered the Black Sea, and in considerable force—12 sail of the line.

Notice was last night given, that the Thanks of Parliament would be moved for to Lord Wellington, for the glorious success of the campaign; and however men may have differed on the original policy of the Expedition, all parties must concur in bestowing on him the meed of most gallant and exemplary conduct.

Our accounts from the North mention, that the fortifications of Dantzic have been repaired and augmented, under the expectation of an attack by the fleet commanded by the gallant Admiral who will soon make his appearance in the Baltic.

We understand that farther accounts have been received from Holland, confirming the reports of an insurrection in many parts of that country; and if the seamen, on board the fleet at Antwerp, have set the example, there is but little doubt of its spreading throughout Holland, and Flanders also.

The Bullion Brokers to the Bank have, formally declared, that silver has within a few days fallen in value in such proportion, as to reduce the intrinsic value of a dollar to five shillings one penny and a fraction.

FOREIGN OFFICE, APRIL 25.

Extract of a despatch this day received by the Marquis Wellesley from Charles Stuart, Esq. his Majesty's Minister at Lisbon, dated April 13, 1811.

Marshal Beresford having completed the bridges over the Guadiana, crossed that river on the 5th inst.—On the 7th the French attacked his advanced posts in the neighbourhood of Olivenca, but were repulsed with loss.

The French withdrew the garrisons, excepting three hundred men from Olivenca, and three battalions from Badajos, on the same day. The whole corps of Mortier, consisting of six thousand men, took up a position between Albaeira and Sta Martha on the 8th.

Telegraphic accounts, dated the 12th, mention that

the French have since retired by the road to Seville; and that Marshal Beresford's head-quarters were on the 11th in Albaeira, and on the 12th in Sta Martha. The division of General Cole besieges Olivenca.

The accounts from the frontier of Algarve, dated the 4th, state, that until the 1st of this month Marshal Soult had not quitted Seville.

PORTSMOUTH, APRIL 21.

Arrived the Impetueux, of 74 guns, Capt. Lawford, in nine days from Lisbon; she brings despatches, but they are not of very great importance. A Gentleman went to London with them immediately. Marshal Beresford did not feel himself strong enough to attack Badajos: he had retired from it, to commence other operations.

DOVER, APRIL 22.

Last night the Speculator lugger arrived in the Downs, with intelligence of a Revolution having broke out in Holland. Rotterdam is the principal scene of action. I have not learnt particulars.

A Cadiz Mail which has arrived brings letters to the 6th ultimo. It appears, that the Hon. H. Wellesley has succeeded in his application to the Regency to effect a similar plan with the Spanish armies, to that from which so much good has emanated in the Portuguese troops; namely, to have the Spanish soldiers organized and commanded by British Officers.

The Acteon frigate, which sailed a few days ago for the Cape of Good Hope and India, took out despatches to those Governments, apprizing them of the critical situation of affairs between England and America, together with instructions as to the conduct to be adopted in consequence.

Similar despatches have likewise, we hear, been forwarded to our Commanders in the West Indies and at Halifax.

Sir Charles Cotton is appointed Commander in Chief of the Channel fleet, in the room of Lord Gambier.

Admiral Young is to hoist his flag on board the Christian VII. as Commander in Chief in the North Sea; he will leave town this day for Deal.

LONDON, APRIL 27.

Mr. Foster the British Minister to America is expected at Portsmouth this day and will immediately take his passage in the Minerva, Capt. Hawkins, for Washington.

Extract of a Letter from Lisbon, dated April 12.

"The news here is glorious! We have not a Frenchman now in Portugal, but such as are prisoners. Lord Wellington has been in constant pursuit of Massena since the 5th ult. when he took French leave. I cannot detail the numberless actions that took place on the retreat and pursuit, but all have ended gloriously to our armies, particularly at Guarda, where the light troops, marching different roads, arrived exactly at the destined hour, and unexpected by the French, when they suffered immense loss, and the best part of their baggage, &c. &c. In consequence of this great defeat, General Ney was sent prisoner to France by Massena, who accused him of neglect. General Loison lost all his baggage.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

The Antelope merchant vessel, and the Intelligent gun-brig arrived at Plymouth, from Lisbon, on Thursday last, both of them having quitted the Tagus on the 17th inst. four days later than the date of the despatches from Mr. Stuart. The letters by the former have not yet reached London, but we understand Government have received accounts by the latter, in which it is said that Lord Wellington has made a more limited proposal to the Cortes, under which he has only required permission to raise two corps of Spaniards, of 20,000 each, to be clothed, subsisted, officered, and paid, at the expense of this country.—We have reason to believe that this application has also been unsuccessful, and that in consequence of this disappointment, it has been determined by the British commander not to enter Spain after the objects immediately in view are accomplished, but to establish an army in three divisions for the exclusive defence of Portugal. The Northern to be stationed at Almeida and Guarda; the Central at Idombra, Veliha and Castel Branco, and the southern at Elvas and Evora.

NORTHERN POWERS.

Two Anholt bags arrived to-day with letters from Russia, Prussia, and Sweden. The date from Petersburg was to the 6th, and from Stockholm to the 13th inst. The most important fact is one that will excite no small surprise, and no inconsiderable speculation. It is, that the Eurydice, Swedish frigate, is actually sailing in the Baltic, with orders to take and send in all Danish vessels she can meet with. This account has also derived a sort of official confirmation from the Lords of Trade this morning. It is probable that Bonaparte has ineffectually applied to Denmark, to pass a French army through her territory to Sweden, and that she, fearing that it is his intention to add Norway to the Swedish Crown, had refused her consent. We shall be happy to find, that the coalition of the Northern States against Great Britain should be broken, be the cause what it may.

APRIL 29.

We learn from a passenger by the last packet with the Anholt mails, who had lately been at Petersburg, that large bodies of troops were on their march to Poland, in consequence of a misunderstanding between the Emperor and Bonaparte; and that it was certain, in the event of licences being refused by the English Government for vessels to trade to Russia, a war would have been inevitable; but as licences have been granted the Russians will be more moderate.

The Mail from Cadiz brings private letters from thence till the 14th inst. which contain some history of the expedition which sailed from Cadiz, under the command of General Zayas. It is stated that General