# NORTH-CAROLINA G

(VOL. 8.) Saturday, August 31, 17


## LONDON, *June* 10.

*Extract of a letter from an Officer of distinction.*

*Camp, near Valenciennes,* June 2, 1793.

FROM the Village of St. Sauveur we can approach within 300 yards of Valenciennes.—The Enemy seem busy in repairing the Works, &c. On that side I believe the principal attack will be made, as the ground is very favourable. On the left is a Height, which in a great measure commands the Hornwork, which is likewise commanded and enfiladed from the East side of Mount Ansin.

We break ground to-night, and I have just seen the first Working party, under the command of Lord Charles Fitzroy, march off.—The Duke of York commands the Siege. Ferraris, the celebrated Austrian Engineer, conducts it. Moncrieff will, I hope, have a good deal to say, as he has that bustle and activity which is too often wanting in the Germans. From the situation of the place, which is commanded on every side, and from every appearance, I do not think it will be a tedious business.

Conde holds out, and will do so while it has provisions, being totally unattackable. from the extensive inu ations and is besides one of the best and most regular fortifications in France.

The garrison of Valenciennes is supposed to be about 4 or 5000, and is said to be very badly supplied with munition de guerre. They have killed a great number of horses, the carcases of which we can perceive round the glacis; a proof they do not abound in forage.

If, like uncle Toby, you have a mind to carry on the siege along with us, you will probably find a plan of the town in the memories of Turenne or Luxembourg, by one of whom, I think, it was first taken, and I do not believe the works have been much added to since.

The enemy have just begun to fire on the working party. They are also cannonading the Austrians on mount Ansin, who are likewise at work. Us they have not yet discovered, and I hope will not till the men are under cover.

Tuesday, June 4.

We have had two parties out, but without any loss. Since writing my with last, I have examined the heights of Ansin, and the wood on the left of the French, through which Clairfayt attacked them. They had fortified themselves so strongly, and thrown so many obstacles, in the way, that on his first attack he was beat back, and at last succeeded no farther than in getting possession of the wood. The entrenchments on the hill were abandoned by the enemy on the morning of the 24th, after the other part of the army had made their retreat through Valenciennes. Had he succeeded at first, it appears highly probable, that the whole army would have been shut up in that town; and doubtless that was the great object of the day. At present, they are reported to be between Bouchcain and Cambray.

Cobourg has crossed the Scheldt, and his Camp is already placed. The Hanoverians occupy the Camp of Famars with the greater part of their troops. One side the Ronelle are three Battalions of Hanoverian Grenadiers, with their left at Preau; two Regiments of their Cavalry, and one Regiment of Hanoverian Infantry. The second British Brigade on the left of Aren; the Guards on the right of it: then two Austrian Battalions, extending nearly to Onaing. In front of them the Esterhazi Hussars, and then in the village of St. Sauveur, which covers the right of the whole position, two Companies of Croats, and two Free Battalions (viz. O'Dopnel and Melechowski) whose out-posts extend almost to the glacis of the horn-work. Clairfait invests all the other side of the town, each wing extending to the Scheldt, and Mount A[illegible] nearly in the centre. With the assista[illegible] Ferrari's Map, this will give you an [illegible] the manner in which the place is i[illegible] and nothing can be more complete.

Of miscellaneous articles, great [illegible] are of course in circulation—the [illegible] however. is certain: In the bagga[illegible] the 11th dragoons, was a portm[illegible] officer, in which was found an [illegible] ter, where, among other thi[illegible] that ever since the d[illegible] the discipline of the army w[illegible] worse; that at Famars all [illegible] insubordination: that the [illegible] were heartily sick of the ca[illegible] and hated the others; a[illegible] from the 8th to the 12th [illegible] been less then 8000 men.

Custine is said to be at [illegible] imagine will endeavor to bre[illegible] in that quarter. For my part, [illegible] that it is of much consequence, [illegible] keep the navigation of the Scheldt [illegible] which there can be but little doubt.

The utmost harmony prevails betwe[illegible] and the Austrian troops; they seem to lo[illegible] upon us with much partiality, and consider us as their old and natural friends. When you consider what has been done before the season in which a campaign generally opens, I do not think you can accuse them of delay: at the same time it is evident that the rapidity of their success has put it out of their power to reap every possible advantage from it. Great reinforcements of men, artillery and horses, are on the road, and part of them near at hand.

Adieu, for this time—I am in perfect health, and so in general is the army.

I have just time to add, that Colonel Percyn is this moment returned from Bouchain, which place is completely invested. Cambrai is in the same situation, so that we have at present no less than four fortified places within the line. The French are between Cambray and Douay, in small numbers; Custine is with them. Once more adieu.

## PETERSBURG, *April* 23.

The departure of Count d'Artois is fixed for Friday next, the 26th. He will proceed to Revel, in order to embark in a finall division of frigates, which will conduct him to England. The Empress has presented this Prince with a gold-hilted sword, having on it this inscription—*With God, for my King;* a diamond solitaire, fit for being worn as a button to the hat; and a small basket, containing various articles of jewellery, destined to be distributed as presents to the persons of his court, and others who have been in the service of his Royal Highness. The Empress being desirous of defraying his expenses in every respect, has made him a present also of a considerable sum of money. The Empress has extended her munificence even to those persons of distinction who accompanied the Prince, all of whom have received presents. The object which induces his Royal Highness to visit England is not well known, and perhaps it is not yet fixed: It is probable that the situation in which he finds affairs in London will direct his future destination. It appears only that a negotiation is now on the carpet between the British Court and ours, respecting a body of land forces to be furnished by Russia, for the purpose of carrying on the common operations against France. Some days ago Mr. Whitworth, the English Minister, had a conference on this subject with the members of our cabinet: To-morrow he will have another; in which it is supposed that every thing will be definitively settled respecting the number of men, their destination, and transportation by sea, &c.

The Hereditary [illegible] ter, dated May 24, [illegible] tinesses the particulars of the [illegible] Mouchin, and of the taking of [illegible] Orchies by the Dutch troops.

A second letter from the same [illegible] written two days after, contains de[illegible] a less agreeable nature. They are [illegible] low:

"*High and Mighty Lords,*

"By my letter, which I had the [illegible] to address to your High Mightinesses [illegible] 24th instant, you will have learnt [illegible] brother having passed the Lys at [illegible] cover my right flank from a sortie [illegible] might be made, had taken post at [illegible] and repulsed with advantage som[illegible] from the enemy. Soon after the [illegible] of Colonel Zilluhardt had occupied [illegible] of Tu coin, he was attacked there [illegible] great a superiority of the enemy [illegible] that, after an obstinate defence, [illegible] cording to all the reports was we[illegible] he found himself no longer in [illegible] make resistance: The consequent [illegible] 150 men were left dead on th[illegible] the rest escaped by flight. As a[illegible] ment I have not more circum[illegible] counts of what passed, I am und[illegible] possibility of giving your High [illegible] a complete recital; but all the r[illegible] that the battalions defended t[illegible] the greatest courage, and [illegible] the too great superiority of [illegible]

"The village of Rouc[illegible] brother had made himself [illegible] tacked at the same time [illegible] whose battalion suffered [illegible] wounded in the shoul[illegible] an action of thirteen [illegible] masters of the field [illegible] my brother, havin[illegible] which was his obje[illegible] in Lisle from att[illegible] near Orchies, r[illegible] Menin.

"*Head-Qua*[illegible]

## LO[illegible]

The chief [illegible] throughout t[illegible] will be dist[illegible] eastern, sou[illegible] district will [illegible] bury, Harw[illegible] ern distric[illegible] Tunbridge [illegible] ern distri[illegible]

*Extract* [illegible]

"Th[illegible]