

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

(VOL. 9.)

Saturday, July 26, 1794.

(No. 446.)

LONDON, May 8.

BY letters from different parts of Flanders, we find, that although there is no positive account of the French having wholly evacuated West Flanders, there is no sort of apprehension of their making further progress, or doing any further mischief than plundering a few defenceless and unarmed inhabitants. We know that they are on their retreat; and there is very strong reason to hope, that a part of their invading banditti will be cut off in their retreat. The Emperor and the Duke of York have both marched to the relief of General Clairfait. The Duke, by letters of yesterday, reached St. Astand on the 11th instant. Some of the advanced part of the Austrian army had already joined General Clairfait, whose camp is at Esierre, on the Scheldt, and distant 20 miles north of Tournay.

We are happy to find that the loss of the allies, in consequence of Pichegru's attack, is not so considerable as was at first estimated. The troops fought with the greatest bravery, and did not retreat from Menin till they were actually overpowered by numbers. The garrison of Menin held out for a considerable time, when surrounded by the French; they were summoned to surrender, and to deliver up the French Emigrants to be dealt with as the enemy thought proper, this was refused. The garrison sallied from the town and cut their way through the French army. We are happy to say, that in this desperate attempt the greater number of them escaped. The garrison at this time consisted of some battalions of Hanoverians, and the French Emigrants; and it is with pleasure we record this act of heroism and valour to the honour of the Hanoverian officer who commanded, and who proposed to sell, the moment the terms of capitulation respecting the Emigrants were made known to him.

In respect to the grand operations of the allied armies, they are rapid and brilliant. No sooner was Landrecy reduced, than the Austrian General Latour marched to invest Aveynes, while the Prince de Cobourg besieges Cambray. Indeed, it is mentioned in a private letter from a very respectable quarter, that the garrison of Aveynes have offered to capitulate.

By several letters received yesterday, in town from on board the fleet under the command of Lord Hood, off Bastia, dated April 14, it appears, that the attack of that place had commenced on the 11th. Several formidable batteries had been opened against the fortress. On the day before the attack begun, Lord Hood had sent to Lacombe St. Michael, requiring the surrender of the place; but he returned for answer, "that republicans would never submit to despots." The attack commenced upon the receipt of the above answer, and the batteries were so constructed as to enfilade the city in various directions.

A gun-boat, commanded by Captain Seroceld, owing to the weather, had not been able to get into the situation proposed, and upon that account been much exposed to the fire of the enemy. Captain Seroceld had, however, with the utmost bravery, continued to cannonade the town with great effect; but on the 13th the boat was set on fire by the red-hot shot of the enemy. Captain Seroceld withdrew his men, who were all saved, and his boat burnt to the water's edge.

From the judicious manner of erecting and placing the batteries on shore, and the effect produced by them, the most sanguine expectations were entertained of soon being masters of the place.

Extract of a letter from Plymouth Dock, May 3.

"Thursday last sailed the Minotaur, of 74 guns, Admiral M'Bride, Captain Louis; Druid, 32 guns; Euridice, 24 guns; and Echo, 16 guns, in quest of a squadron of French frigates.

"Yesterday arrived the Dauphin, of 20 guns, Captain Southby: Also the Pilot cutter, with the William transport for the 11th regiment, which were embarked for Corsica.

"It is to be remarked, that only seven French prisoners in the Mill-Prison, have died for these thirteen months, which shows what attention is paid to them, and that English beef agrees with them better than English bayonets."

Accounts from Genda, state, that on the 6th ult. the French passed through Vintimiglia, and part of the territories of that Republic, in order to attack Dolie-Aqua, fortress belonging to the King of Sardinia which they took. The next day their columns advanced along the sea coast, and rendered themselves masters of Lorno. One of the French columns, however which advanced in order to attack Saorgio, has been repulsed by the Sardinian troops and obliged to retreat to Oneglia and Loano.

It was yesterday reported that Mr. Archibald Hamilton Rowan, apprehensive that his life was in danger, from certain spies and informers in Dublin, who would not hesitate to charge him with high treason, made his escape from his loathsome prison, on Thursday last; in consequence of which the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland with the advice of his privy council, has offered a reward of 1000l for his discovery. It is apprehended that he set off instantly for Belfast, and sailed immediately for America.

Letters from Rome state, that the government there, on receiving intelligence of the discovery lately made at Naples of a conspiracy against the royal family and the court, has given strict orders to arrest every stranger that shall arrive in that capital. Several foreigners have already been taken up and confined in the fortresses.

May 8. The king of Sardinia is now entirely cut off from any assistance or direct communication with the island in the Mediterranean from whence derives his legal title; nor has he a sea-port in Italy from whence the Piedmontese silks, raw and ornamented, may be exported, as not only Nice, but Oneglia, are in the possession of the French. His situation is desperate, for the republican army can have very few obstacles to prevent their marching to besiege Susa; and even Turin, his capital.

TOURNAY, May 20.

I hoped in this letter to have announced to you the total defeat or capture of the French army of the North: but my hopes are in a great measure disappointed. I know that the Jacobins and friends of France will magnify this, as they did when Clairfait ordered a retreat; it can be considered in no other light than the temporary interruption of a scheme, which had it completely succeeded, would have nearly ended the war.

On the evening of the 17th inst. the Duke of York raised his camp, and having sent off his tents and baggage to a place of safety, marched early in the morning of the 18th in four columns; with the design, it would appear, of surrounding the French army in and near Courtray, and of cutting off its retreat to Lisle.—The Duke had previously received a reinforcement from the Emperor's army, which was commanded by the Arch Duke Charles; the army might therefore be between 30 and 40,000 men

strong, and the four columns amount each to between 8 and 10,000 men.

The column commanded by his Royal Highness had to march through a country where the French were known to have placed very strong posts; his column consisted of the four regiments of British light dragoons, the guards, and the brigade of the three regiments of British infantry, viz. the 14th, 37th, and 53d; he had also under his command a considerable number of foreign troops, both cavalry and infantry.

General Abercrombie commanded the right brigade, which consisted of O'Donnel's Austrian regiment, and of the flank battalion of the guards, with a regiment of Austria hussars.

The left brigade was under the command of Major Gen. Fox, and comprised the three regiments of British infantry mentioned above.

Sir Wm. Erskine was at the head of another column, which marched on in front from where they were encamped, and took its direction towards Lille; it was to clear the country through which it passed, and perhaps to keep in check, or prevent any succours arriving from Lisse. His column was composed of the British heavy cavalry, and of a number of foreign troops, both infantry and cavalry, but it was not quite so numerous as that commanded by the Duke of York. He was on the left of the whole.

The Arch Duke Charles commanded a third column, composed of Austrian troops—he was on the right of the Duke's column, and marched nearly on the road from this place to Courtray.

The 4th column was commanded by Gen. Kinck, and was on the right of all: it consisted mostly of Hessian troops.

The Duke marched to Templeuve, where, as the morning was very foggy, he halted till it cleared away; he then proceeded to Lannoy, where the French were said to have a strong post; but the enemy retreated at his approach. His advanced army continued to skirmish with the enemy in the skirts of the wood that lay in his way, but they made no stand against him.

He then arrived in the same manner at Roubaix, a large and strong village, not more than four miles from Lisse, which was also abandoned by the French. He was advancing towards Torcoin, a strong post, by which the enemy had attacked Menin, and entered Courtray, when the flank battalion of the guards having fallen in with a party of the French near the woods which skirt the village, he ordered back the rest of his army, that it might not be too far separated from the guards, who were then driving the French before them in a direction towards Lisse.

The guards came up at sun set to a redoubt which the French had thrown up a little out of the village on the road to Lisse, defended by about 400 men, with two pieces of cannon: they entered it with fixed bayonets, and took about sixty prisoners; the rest were making their escape, when the light dragoons came up with them and cut them to pieces.

The army was then ordered to lay upon their arms all night, and the brigade of British infantry to take up an advantageous position facing a post which the enemy had on the opposite side of the village, but 2 or 3 miles distant.

Thus far did every thing seem to promise the most happy success, and to add to that éclat which the brave little army commanded by the Duke had acquired by undaunted valour and uninterrupted success, since the commencement of the campaign.

It would appear, that Pichegru had sent for every part of the mass during the night, that could be collected from Lisse, from Turcoin, and every contiguous post, to op-