

THE NORTH-CAROLINA MERCURY

A N D

SALISBURY ADVERTISER.

SALISBURY: PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY FRANCIS COUPEE.

NUM. 87.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1799.

VOL. II

DUTCH AND FRENCH ACCOUNTS.

H A G U E, September 21.

In the sitting of yesterday (Friday) a letter was read from the Executive Directory of the same day, inclosing three letters received the day before, from the Secretary of the General-in-Chief, to the French Minister Guyot, containing further accounts of the last battle; after reading of which, the President made a suitable speech, extolling the glorious advantages obtained over the enemy, the honor of the brave men who had distinguished themselves on that memorable day, for their heroism and good conduct.

A letter was then read from the Executive Directory, inclosing an extract from the Minister of War, received from Major-General Van Boecop, at head-quarters, Sept. 19, of the following tenor:

"Citizen Minister,
"I had the honour to mention to you this morning about ten o'clock, that the enemy had attacked our line; and this evening at seven o'clock, I am able to give you a further account of what has taken place, though not very circumstantial, as I have received no official account. At break of day the enemy attacked and turned the left wing (the French troops) along the Downs before Petten, whereby the French troops were obliged to retreat over Snoorl to Bergen, where the forty-second half brigade charged the enemy with the bayonet, who were all Russians, and drove them back, and cut off their retreat to Petten, having driven them into the Downs, and slain a great number of them, and made many prisoners; by what I have seen, their number must amount to 500, among which were several officers, with the Russian General Hermann, their Commander; several cannon, and two stands of colours, have been taken, and the troops as I understand, have gained their former position, and are even further advanced. At the same time that the left wing was attacked, the division commanded by Lieutenant-General Dumonceau was also, and he was obliged to abandon the post of Schoorl-dam, but retook it, and is again in his former position in good order. As I have learned, the right wing, the division Lieutenant-General Daendels, held its position until the afternoon, after having beaten off several attacks; but about two o'clock General Daendels was again attacked in front on Old Karspel, by the English, and in the flank by 2000 Russians, and with all the endeavours of Adjutant-General Durutte, he could not keep the troops on the banks of their entrenchments, which occasioned a retreat, and obliged Lieutenant-General Daendels to abandon his post at Old Karspel; and a retreat would have been effected in good order, had not an ammunition waggon, in the camp of St. Pancras, blown up, and occasioned confusion.

"According to the report of the prisoners, the day before yesterday, and yesterday evening, the Russians landed to the number of 16,000 and the English were believed to amount to the number of 20,000, commanded by the Duke of York. I cannot ascertain the loss of the enemy; it may nevertheless, without exaggeration, be estimated at 3 or 4000. I cannot ascertain our loss, but I can say we have not received many wounded in the hospitals. Directly when we receive the returns, I shall have the honor of transmitting you our loss."

Finally, there was read another letter from the Executive Directory, inclosing a copy from the Adjutant General d'Arden-

ne, from head-quarters at Alkmaer, Sept. 19, to the Minister of War, to the same purport.

September 22.

In the sitting of yesterday, in the First Chamber, a letter of the same date was read from the acting administration, accompanying a copy of a letter received the evening before by the Agent of War, from Major-General Van Boecop, dated the 20th Sept. containing the following:

"I hasten myself to inform you, that General Daendels acquaints me in person, of his having, during the present night, retaken his former position of Old Karspel, &c. as likewise all his lost cannon, with many additional prisoners."

At the same time was read a message from the acting administration, communicating the official accounts sent in by General Brunet, dated head-quarters at Alkmaer, 19th instant.

"Burghers Directors,

"Since the battle on the Sliperdyke, the English have retained their entrenchments in the Zyp, without daring to venture anew; but being reinforced by 14,000 Russians, they have made a severe attack along our whole line. Their principal strength was directed against the left wing, consisting of French troops under General Van Damme, which they attacked by a respectable corps of Russian troops, supported by an English division which composed the rear. The Batavian division under General Dumonceau, which formed our centre, was also severely attacked by an Anglo-Russian corps; while a sham attack was made by the enemy on the right wing, commanded by General Daendels.

"In the beginning of the battle the Russians forced their way into the village Bergen and Schoorl-dam; our front then fell back to close in together, and to stand better prepared for a move, which I contemplated to make with the centre and right. The rear of the division of General Dumonceau then marched to Bergen; and part of the division under General Daendels, also made a move to the left; and the battle, of which the result, during a few moments, appeared uncertain, terminated completely in our favor. The enemy was driven back to their entrenchments: we made upwards of 2000 prisoners, and their loss in killed and wounded exceeds largely 3000. Twenty-five pieces of cannon, and five colours, among the latter those of the regiment of Suwarrow made part of our conquest. Among the prisoners we discover M. Hermann, General in Chief of the Russian troops. The Russian General Essen is severely wounded, and says, the English General Knox is slain. The battle lasted from five in the morning till four in the evening.

"Our loss, in comparison to that of the enemy, will hardly bear mentioning. Several corps of Batavian troops, among others the artillery, have done prodigies of valour. The names of the officers and soldiers who have distinguished themselves most for the love of their country during this memorable day, you shall be furnished with.

"General Daendels by his firmness and talents has considerably added to the day and was very worthily supported by General Barbou, and the Adjutant General Durutte. General Dumonceau received a wound in the breast by a buck-shot. The English and Russian armies have committed the most unheard of outrages in the villages which they had surrounded during the engagement. The unhappy Batavian husbandmen and villagers have in numbers been murdered and

burnt in their own houses—many of the villages are yet burning. The British in particular have distinguished themselves above the Russians, in these acts of barbarity.

"P. S. A considerable number of volunteers, from among the armed burghers, have taken a part in the engagement."

LONDON, October 1.

On motion of Mr. Pitt, the following resolutions were moved and agreed to in the House of Commons:

"That 120,000 seamen, including 22,600 marines, be granted to his Majesty for the service of two lunar months, commencing 1st of January, 1800. A sum of 444,000*l.* for wages for the same, at the rate of 1*l.* 17*s.* per man for the above period. A sum of 456,000*l.* for maintenance at the rate of 1*l.* 18*s.* per man. A sum of 720,000*l.* for wear and tear of ships, at the rate of 3*l.* a man per month. A sum of 60,000*l.* for ordnance, at the rate of 5*s.* per month. That a sum of 300,000*l.* be granted to his Majesty to pay off the Exchequer Loan of last session and payable on the first day of the session.

FRANCE.

P A R I S, September 13.

From Brest, under date of the 5th inst. they mention, that on the 4th arrived a convoy, consisting of 80 sail, with provisions from l'Orient, under convoy of four ships of war; and the 5th, a convoy of 12 sail. A still greater supply is daily expected from Rochfort, under protection of the squadron.

The division of Barthelemy, of 11 ships of war, under the Admiral Corand, was sent to meet the Spanish Squadron—the frigate Vengeance was sent off with orders from Brest for a secret expedition.

The 10th inst. a message was sent to the Legislative Body, informing them of the capture of the Dutch fleet by the English, in the Texel.

"By treachery (say the Directory) in the Texel, have the English conquered as they once did at Toulon; but the surest measures are taken to repeal their rapacity, by sending all the troops which can be disposed of on the emergency to the Batavian Republic; and report says, that unity and concord reign in the Batavian Legislature."

September 22.

Though our army left the field of battle at Novi, that action must cause the dreadful sensations to our enemies. Moreau brought back our troops, with complete success to their former posts, and they were so little dispirited, by what they suffered, that eight days after, the enemy, thinking to surprize one of our divisions, was surprized himself, and we took 5000 prisoners. This intelligence is authentic. Our soldiers have less suffered from the swords of the Russians than from the want of subsistence. They are in want of provisions and cloaths, and if not furnished with them, every thing is lost. Desertions has already commenced among them, and upwards of 3000 of them have deserted to the enemy, almost famished and naked.

The Directory have decreed that there shall be formed between Maestricht and Brussels, a new army, to be called "The army of the North."

There was in the night of the 24th Fructidor a meeting of a number of the members of the two councils at the apartments of Barras, composed of the leaders and the