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MILITARY.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer, PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 27, 1847.

Gentlemen—As I am frequently informed by your countrymen with respect to the credit due to the publication of Mr. Warden, surgeon of the Northumberland; and being constrained to declare, that, as far as regards that part of it which treats of military affairs, it contains many erroneous assertions, may I not venture to suppose that your readers would receive, with some share of interest, several proofs in support of that opinion? They would meet with some in a note annexed to the French translation of the letters of Mr. Warden, published in the *Abeille Americaine*, in which a friend of Marshal Grouchy disproves the censure which it is pretended was attached, at St. Helena, to his conduct the day of the battle of Waterloo. Other more important information, relative to Marshal Ney, Count Frelon, and other distinguished officers, might hereafter be laid before you, supported by the testimony of ocular witnesses, at present in the United States; for although it be now the province of history, whose pencil it is probable, will not always be guided, in France, by foreign bayonets and prevotal courts, to record the annals of Marshal Ney; and although many of the persons last referred to, have not yet reached your hospitable shores, it is, nevertheless, at all times proper to reader to every person what he is justly entitled to, and to contradict Mr. Warden whenever his narration is unfounded. You will, perhaps, be startled at the length of the note in question; but persuaded, as I am, that the love of truth, that prominent and honorable feature in the American character, inclines them resolutely to encounter the irksomeness of long and minute details, when the object of research is the attainment thereof and the dissipation of groundless illusions, the offspring of party spirit and the passions of the moment. I hesitate not to beg you will publish it in one of your numbers.

Accept, gentlemen, the assurance of my consideration.

NOTE.

Are we not warranted in withholding our belief of the accuracy of many of the assertions contained in the work of Mr. Warden, when we find him stating that the conduct of Marshal Grouchy, at the battle of Waterloo, was disapproved of at St. Helena?

Now, if Napoleon had cause to attribute the loss of that battle to the errors of the Marshal or to the non-execution of orders which had been given him, he certainly would have done so, in the official bulletin inserted in the *Moniteur*, on the 22d June. Let this document be consulted, and it will be found that he was far from thinking so, as from having any ground for such an idea. The instructions given on the 17th June to Marshal Grouchy, enjoined him to pursue the Prussian army and to follow up the advantage gained the preceding day at Fleurus. The Prussians had retreated in a direction diverging from that which the Emperor took to form a junction with Marshal Ney, in order to engage the English army. He did not then apprehend, the day after the battle of Fleurus, at which time he separated from Marshal Grouchy, that he stood in need of the troops entrusted to him, to vanquish the English; and when the Emperor detached him from his operations, he could no longer place any reliance on the immediate co-operation of the army of the Marshal. A simple narrative of the facts will enable us to judge, if the orders of Napoleon were executed with fidelity, celerity and intelligence.

Detached on the 17th of June, at half past 12, P. M. in pursuit of Marshal Blucher, who had commenced, fifteen hours before, that is, on the evening of the 16th of June, his retrograde movements, and who, favored by a dark and rainy night, had effected his retreat in several columns, it was as difficult for Marshal Grouchy to impede his march, as to ascertain the course in which he had moved; however, discovering the route which the main body of the Prussian forces had taken, he marched immediately with the principal part of his troops towards Gembloux, at which place he did not arrive till long after the day had closed. Having allowed a few hours of necessary rest to the soldiers, he moved thence on the 18th of June, before sunrise, in the direction of Wavres.

At 8 o'clock in the morning he received a letter from Napoleon in approbation of his procedure and of his ulterior arrangements, which he had communicated to him as soon as he had procured the necessary information at Gembloux. At ten in the morning, near Tarvelle, two leagues from Wavres, he came up with the extreme rear guard of the enemy, which he caused to be attacked—it was routed, and pursued to Wavres; that part of this city situated on the left bank of the Dyle was carried by the French. Nevertheless, the Prussian

army, supported by numerous batteries, displayed itself in battle array on the opposite shore covering the heights which commanded that river; it was also in possession of the bridge, which had been strongly fortified and entrenched. An attempt to carry it by assault proving unsuccessful, a general and combined attack became necessary to force the passage of the river and carry the position. Orders were immediately given to that effect. The corps of Gen. Vandamme, supported by the cavalry of Gen. Exelmans, was ordered to renew and maintain the engagement in Wavres, whilst the body of infantry and cavalry of Generals Gerard and Pajol, was to cross the river at Bielge and Limelette, villages situate to the left of Wavres. Whilst these arrangements were carrying into effect, towards four o'clock in the afternoon orders arrived from the Emperor. They were dated from the field of battle on the 18th, and directed Marshal Grouchy to march by the way of St. Lambert to Waterloo. The only mode of effecting this, was to open the passage of the Dyle, and overthrow the Prussian army in order of battle behind it; had this even been immediately succeeded in, the distance from Wavres to Waterloo, and the nature of the soil, which is covered with woods, without roads, and broken up, would not have afforded sufficient time to arrive soon enough to prevent or repair the misfortunes of that disastrous day. However, as the attack which had been ordered, was the only means of rejoining the operations of Napoleon, and accomplishing his views, they were urged and executed with vigor. At first they did not succeed; Gen. Vandamme was unable to carry the bridge of Wavres; Gen. Gerard was wounded in the breast by a ball, in the fruitless attack on the mill below Bielge. New efforts were directed to be made, and Marshal Grouchy, who himself led the attack on the left, after Gen. Gerard was wounded, succeeded in passing the Dyle, beyond the village of Limelette, with a few thousand men, but that part of Wavres on the right of the Dyle was still occupied by the enemy. Such was the state of things on the 18th, at 11 o'clock at night. Five or six thousand men, with whom was the Marshal, were on the other side of the Dyle; the corps of Vandamme occupied that part of Wavres, of which it had possessed itself in the morning, and the Prussian army in possession of the bridge and other parts of the city, still covered the heights and surrounded the small numbers with which the Marshal had succeeded in gaining the right bank of the river. Without news from the Emperor since his dispatch, received at four o'clock in the afternoon, Marshal Grouchy then thought him conqueror of the English, engaged in pursuing them, and in full march to Brussels.

Impatient to extricate himself from the disadvantageous position in which he was placed, and to move also towards the capital of the Netherlands, he hastened to re-attack the Prussians, which was done on the 19th of June, before the dawn of day—they had also prepared to do the same thing, but pressed by the troops which had crossed beyond Limelette, and who annoyed them on their flank, they soon gave way.

Wavres was occupied by the French, and the enemy in full retreat was pursued, on the road to Brussels beyond the Rosierne. It was at that time, which was about eleven in the morning of the 19th of June, that a Polish officer, who had been despatched the preceding evening by the Major General (Marshal Soult) but who had not been able to join Marshal Grouchy, brought him intelligence of the disasters of the grand army, and the verbal order of the Emperor to retreat whither and in the best way he could.

The retreat made by Marshal Grouchy, the details of which would be superfluous here, was as glorious to the arms of France, as it might have been serviceable to his country, if personal interest, treachery and an ill timed policy had not presided over the destinies of France.

Being attacked on the morning of the 20th of June, at Namur, the Prussians were so vigorously repulsed, that they were unable to possess themselves of the city, and it was not until evening that it was evacuated, and soon losing all hope of cutting off the Marshal's army they abandoned the pursuit.

Although during his march he was nearly surrounded by the coalesced forces, he reached Soisson without suffering any loss; there rallied the remains of the Emperor's army, and after causing Napoleon the 2d to be proclaimed at Reibel, he returned to Paris with 150 pieces of cannon, and more than 50,000 men, the command of whom he gave into the hands of Marshal Davoust, who had been entrusted by the provisional government with the defence of the capital.

This statement; the instructions given on the 17th June to Marshal Grouchy by the Emperor; his letter of the morning of the 18th in approbation of the march and arrangements of the Marshal; the order of Napoleon, the only one which the Marshal received, the day of the battle of Waterloo, to march thither; an order dated at half past one, and received at 8 o'clock P. M. impossible to be executed so as to be of any service, for the Marshal was many leagues from the Emperor, separated from him by a river, and by an army with which he was engaged; and finally the destiny of the fatal day being decided at the very hour of the reception of the orders of Napoleon, all this concurrent testimony, I say, incontestably proves, that, far from deserving the slightest degree of censure, the arrangements and the conduct of the Marshal would, under more fortunate circumstances

have secured to him testimonials of the gratitude of his country, as they have given him new claims to the esteem of men of military science. And if it be reserved to him fully to disclose the secret causes of the failure of Napoleon in his last campaign, and the reasons of his defeat at Waterloo, many of them may now be perceived by the eye of the impartial observer, and they should principally be sought in the division of the French army immediately after the passage of the Sambre, at Charleroi, and the day after the battle of Fleurus.

To accuse Marshal Grouchy of the fatal consequences which were the result of this separation, to advance that in so short a space of time he could have annihilated an army at least equal to his own, that he could have surmounted the obstacles opposed to his march, by the nature of the soil and strong position occupied by the enemy, and that he could have moved with the rapidity which he displayed in the order of the Emperor, is as unjust as it is inaccurate to assimilate his situation to that of Gen. Dessaix at Marengo, when in an open plain, a league and a half from the field of battle, no impediment, no enemy separated him from the first consul; to join whom he had only to advance, the moment he received the orders, and he received them in time. Marshal Grouchy, on the contrary, was at more than thrice that distance from the Emperor; to join him it was necessary that he should effect the passage of a river, that he should destroy a numerous army; and, in addition to this, the orders were not received in time.

In conclusion, though victory escaped Napoleon in his last and decisive campaign, he will not on that account be the less entitled to rank amongst the greatest military chieftains; none have been wholly exempt from error, & his dispositions on this occasion were perhaps not wholly invulnerable to criticism.

But history will inscribe on her tablet, that the Prussian army, notwithstanding the loss of the battle of Fleurus, when joined at Wavres by the corps of Bulow, which had not been engaged on the 16th, consisted of 90,000 men; that that of the Duke of Wellington numbered 70,000; that Napoleon had with him but 60,000 soldiers at Waterloo, and Marshal Grouchy 37,000 at Wavres. Impartial posterity will thus be enabled to estimate what share of glory and talent is to be attributed to those Generals, to whom an overwhelming superiority of numbers presented so many facilities of disconcerting the plans, and paralysing the first successes of Napoleon, whilst he as yet in a manner possessed not the means to secure a victorious result.

FOREIGN SUMMARY.

ENGLAND.—I continue, this week, the extract from the English papers, respecting the attack on the prince regent; and the proceedings of parliament on the state of the nation.

The particulars of the attack on the Prince Regent, are thus given in a London paper of Jan. 30th.

On the return of the Prince Regent from the house of lords, the crowd assembled in the streets, had increased greatly. At St. James' Park, in particular, the mob was immense and they began to utter the most violent and indirect expressions the instant the royal carriage appeared. When the cavalcade had reached the stable yard gate, it appears that the glasses of the state carriage were broken on both sides, almost instantaneously. The general impression was, that stones were the missiles employed, and yet the glasses, which are of an uncommon thickness, were broken as cleanly as if done by a discharge from a musket or pistol.

On the Prince royal alighting from the state carriage at St. James' Palace, he immediately sent for Lord Sidmouth; and after waiting a considerable time for the arrival of Lord Sidmouth, at St. James' Palace, left it in his private carriage for Carleton-house; and the refractory part of the populace having left the Park, he was then received with loud huzzas. His royal highness left his commands for Lord Sidmouth to follow him to Carleton-house, where his lordship arrived shortly afterwards, as did the duke of York, and the duke and duchess of Gloucester; their royal highnesses having heard of what had happened lost no time in repairing to Carleton-house, to make inquiries.

Lord J. Murray, who attended the regent in the state carriage as a lord in waiting, received a blow over his right eye from a piece of the strong plate glass being struck against him.

Whilst the more serious occurrences just alluded to were taking place in the Park, a farce was got up in Palace-yard, for the amusement of the rabble there assembled. The actors were Mr. Hunt and Lord Cochrane. About three o'clock, the attention of the passengers in Parliament street were attracted by a man, in a dirty blue greatcoat, carrying a pole on his shoulder, to which a heavy bundle of parchment was suspended. This person was orator Hunt, for as such he speedily announced himself.—About fifty boys preceded and followed him, called out, "Make way for Mr. Hunt!" and in this way the procession arrived in New Palace yard. Here Mr. H. stopped, and rapping at the door of No. 7, asking if Lord Cochrane was come? being answered in the affirmative he deposited his burden in the passage and presently Lord Cochrane came forth. Hunt then barabuged his followers from the step of the door, the noise was

so great, that no person could hear a word, if we except his worthy colleague, who stood behind him, in humble reverence of his superior spouting faculties. A board or plank, and an arm chair were then produced by Mr. H. and upon the chair Lord Cochrane was placed. His lordship was, in this manner, conveyed on the shoulders of his admirers across Palace-yard to the door of Westminster Hall, where he was set down, amid three cheers, and entered with his bundles of parchment. Hunt, who had preceded Lord Cochrane clearing the way, now got, unbidden, into the chair, and was conveyed to the place from whence they had set out. Here he made another speech to the chairmen who carried him, and then entered the house. The mob then left him, taking the direction of the Park.

Several persons had been arrested and examined, on suspicion of being concerned in the assault upon the prince regent, and one of them had been committed for trial, on the charge of high treason.

Lord J. Murray, in answer to certain questions put to him by the chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. Curwen, Mr. Wayne, and some other members, stated that he is a lord of the Bed chamber to the Prince Regent, and was in attendance on his royal highness in the carriage on their passage from the House of Lords. On their return between Carleton House and St. James, the glass of the carriage was fractured; it was the glass on the Prince's left hand. The fracture appeared to be produced by two bullets, for round apertures had been made in the glass, and the remainder of it was not broken; he had not the slightest doubt that the fracture was caused by bullets. About a minute after this happened a very large stone was thrown at the other glass, and then three or four other stones with great violence; he had examined the first glass that was broken minutely; there was no crowd near the carriage at the time; but if a pistol had been fired with gunpowder the person firing it, he thinks must have been recognized; he supposes, as no report was heard by him, they came from an air gun. There was no bullets found in the carriage; he supposed they were shot from some one of the trees; the opposite glass was up, it was not broken at all; he got out of the carriage immediately after the Prince Regent; did not search the carriage; nor did he know whether any bullets were found at the bottom of it. The master of the Horse was in the carriage; splinters of the glass were found; the stone which struck the opposite glass did not enter the carriage, the glass was very thick.

FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

Twenty-two years ago, that is, in the year 1795, an attack precisely similar in all points, was made on the person of his present Britannic majesty, while proceeding in his own carriage to the house of Parliament on the first day of the session.—That the reader may compare these two accounts, we extract from a publication in the year 1795, the following paragraph:

"Amidst an immense crowd collected in St. James' Park, most of them from motives of true loyalty, there was mixed a desperate mob, who evinced a most malicious and mischievous disposition. As his majesty went through the Park it was with great difficulty that the guards could keep the way clear for the carriage to pass. Somewhere between the horse-guards and palace-yard, a bullet is said to have been fired from an air gun, which perforated the glass of the carriage, but most happily for the nation, failed to accomplish the diabolical purpose which it was evidently intended to effect.

"The bullet is supposed to have proceeded either from an untenanted house, in which it was very extraordinary, at such a time, that not a single soul should appear at one of the windows; or else from a dray, on which stood a number of ill-looking fellows, apparently intent on mischief.

"In palace-yard a stone was thrown, which shattered one of the side windows. On his majesty's return from St. James', the same gang of ruffians followed his coach, and just as it turned under the gateway of the palace, a stone was thrown, and also an oyster shell, which went through the glasses of the coach."

But this analogy does not end here; for Lord Castlereagh on the floor of the House of Commons has already declared, that the ministry intend to follow the precedent adopted in 1795, so that we have here a prospective into the measures that parliament will take. The precedent of 1795, to which his lordship refers, consists of an act for the preservation of his majesty's person, &c. The first section of this act provides, that if any person should compass, or imagine, or intend death, or bodily harm to the king, or to levy war against him within the realm, or without, or to move foreigners to invade the realm, or should utter, or express any such intent either by speaking or writing, they should suffer the penalties of high treason. That any person who should by speaking or writing move, and incite the subjects of his majesty to the dislike and hatred of his majesty's person, or government, should, on conviction, suffer transportation for seven years. This is a broad outline of the law which Lord Castlereagh assures us that he intends to bring before parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—January 28.

The prince regent's speech.—The speaker informed the house, that the house had been