

THE NORTH-CAROLINA MINERVA, AND RALEIGH ADVERTISER.

RALEIGH.—PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY BY HODGE & BOYLAN, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

VOL. V.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1800.

225.

The following judicious Observations on the situation of the contending armies in Germany and Italy, are taken from a London Paper of June 2d.

"THE intelligence received by government on Saturday morning, and which we gave to our readers in our paper of that day, exclusively, was yesterday published in a London Gazette Extraordinary, to be found in our preceding columns.

"We shall not here undertake to comment on the happy events of which we receive information, nor to recapitulate the intelligence brought us by the late Hamburg mail. We shall prefer taking a systematic view of the situation of affairs in Germany and Italy, according to the most recent intelligence. Some weeks commonly elapse in every campaign, before the plans of both parties are developed. The moment is arrived when those formed by the French and the Austrians are fully manifested, and we cannot suffer it to pass without notice.

"It cannot be doubted that general Melas, before he entered upon the campaign, must have estimated much better than all those who venture to criticise his conduct, what he might have to apprehend from the French army of reserve. Not willing to wait for the moment in which he would find himself pressed in the plains of Piedmont, between the two armies of Massena and of Buonaparte, descending the one from the Upper Alps, and the other from the Maritime Alps, he felt the necessity of getting rid of one of them, and took advantage of the moment when the former was yet abandoned to his own forces, in order to attack him with all those under his command. The capital manœuvre by which he cut in two the army of Massena, is yet recent in the memory of every one: it was the same which general Beaulieu attempted against Buonaparte, on the same spot, in 1796, but he had too few soldiers to succeed, and was badly seconded by general D'Argenteau. General Melas, having a stronger army, and better officers, obtained the most complete success, and pursued it as far as it could be carried. After several difficult movements, and a number of murderous engagements, he forced Massena to shut himself up in Genoa. This object being accomplished, the Austrian general had nothing to do, but to secure, by well chosen and intrenched positions, the blockade of that city. Till that was done, and till Massena was reduced in Genoa to a state of siege, the imperial army took no repose. By that time the month of April had elapsed. During this time Berthier and Buonaparte, were ostensibly preparing for the invasion of the north of Italy, and General Melas must have been fully sensible that he should be obliged before the end of May to make head against the co-operation of Massena, but Suchet yet remained master of the mountains in the countries of Finale and of Oneglia, and could descend from them into the plain at the same moment that Berthier came thither from the Upper Alps.—General Melas wisely judged that he ought to get rid of the first before the second could come up.—He therefore quitted Genoa, reinforced general Elsnitz, and while a corps detached from Corni forced the Col de Tende, he marched with a superior force against Suchet, and gained over him the great and decisive advantage, the recital of which we find in the Gazette extraordinary. Thus, as early as the 11th ult. the French were no longer in possession of an inch of ground in the Maritime Alps; they could no more threaten Piedmont. The rear of general Melas was secured, and he had no enemy remaining in Italy excepting Massena, shut up by superior forces in the lines of Genoa, and wholly incapable of affording, or being assisted by any co-operation. All this happened five days before the first French Piquets had passed the St. Bernard, and more no doubt than ten before a sufficient number of troops, and quantity of artillery and cavalry could have advanced beyond the Valley of Aosta, and undertaken any thing serious. General Melas has therefore had as much time as he wanted, to march with all the forces, henceforth at his dispositions, to the Po, and to go to meet the army of reserve, which we may be assured is far from being as numerous as the French and their partizans would make us believe. Thus we see that in a few days general Melas has by address and by the valor of his troops, drawn himself from the embarrassment in which he was supposed to be, that the military horizon has been cleared, and that it now presents but two armies in opposition to each other; Suchet and Massena are both kept on the other side of the Maritime Alps and cannot again appear upon the scene.—We should be inclined to anticipate future events by our conjectures, if we were not fearful of wanting the time of our readers, and had not also some observations to make respecting Germany. In that quarter also we have seen the assailants successful to a certain degree. Moreau, availing himself of the decisive advantage which the

possession of Switzerland affords for attacking Suabia, which it flanks, and being able at pleasure to concentrate all his forces, while his adversary could not do so, succeeded in turning the Black Forest, in reaching the Danube, and in detaching the Austrians from the Lake of Constance. Compelled still more by local circumstances than by the fate of engagements, to retreat, general Kray has done so, slowly and in order, as far as the Iller. All the ground which the French have gained as far as that river, was almost the necessary result of their success; but were they were obliged to stop. General Kray although inferior in number, has taken his measure with courage and ability.—He has sent all his forces to his two wings, and has supported his right by the strong position of Ulm: his left, reinforced by the corps of the prince de Reufs, has proceeded to take post at the foot of the mountains and the defiles of the Tyrol. The space between these two passes has remained open, and the French appeared to have it in their power to push into Bavaria.—All those who rejoice or who are alarmed too easily at their successes, have not for a moment doubted that Moreau would hasten to advance into the plains between the Iller and the Lech, but that general has been fully sensible that he could not without danger, at least at present venture thither; and that if he did so, he would have the two corps of the Austrian army on his flanks, while he would meet in the centre the line of troops which the Elector of Bavaria was assembling on the Lech, and which all the force from Austria and Bohemia were about to reinforce. This situation of affairs must have kept Moreau in suspense, and we see it has done so for several days. It is impossible for us to say whether it will keep him any longer in that state, but ten or twelve days were, with respect to the future, every thing in the present circumstances, and General Kray has gained them.

"Having thus pointed out what appears to us to have been hitherto the system of the two plans of offensive attack; if we proceed to take a general view of the whole of the campaign, we see that the French had this year, as in 1799, formed a general plan, in which the army of Moreau was the left, the army of Reserve the centre, and the army of Massena the Right Wing. This latter was to remain on the defensive, to endeavour to passy the Austrian army in the mountains of the Maritime Alps. The left was, during the same time, to advance in Germany, and to endeavour, by taking possession of the Tyrol, to cut off the communication between General Kray and Melas. Buonaparte was then to come into the centre, to overwhelm the latter, and to retake Italy a second time. This vast plan has failed where it was natural to suppose it would, in its weak point. One of the three parts of the French army is no longer in existence, or at least has lost the position in which it would be useful. The line of the French is therefore broken, and their centre and left will feel the reverse. We shall terminate these observations by remarking, that on considering all the forces opposed to each other, from the Danube to the Mediterranean, as a single line, the left has on each side obtained success; but besides those of Moreau being far from possessing such importance as those of Melas, the first is marching against the centre, whence all the Austrian Monarchy set out, while the second is on the most remote frontiers of France. Moreau is attacking the strongest part of the line of the Imperialists, Melas the weakest part of that of the French."

GENOA.

The city and state of Genoa, in Italy, being at present the subject of conversation, on account of the military operations carrying forward there; we are happy in being able to lay before our readers, the following Historical Account of the same, together with that of the Botchetta and Savona.

Genoa—Is a republican state of Italy; bounded on the north by Piedmont, the Milanese and the Parmesan, on the east by the states of the Duke of Tuscany, on the south of the Mediterranean sea, and on the west by the county of Nice; it is about one hundred and twenty miles in length, but scarcely in any part more than twenty in breadth. The country is mountainous, and part of it covered with barren rocks, which serve for its defence. Some of the mountains are covered with wood, and some yield good pasture. There is but a small quantity of arable land, so that the inhabitants are obliged to purchase part of their corn from other countries; however throughout the year they are supplied with excellent legumes and other vegetables for the table. They make a considerable quantity of wine, and abundance of excellent fruit, especially citrons, oranges, pomegranates, almonds, and figs. A great many mulberry trees are raised to feed silk worms, and olives grow in great plenty, especially

round the gulph of Spezzia. Salt is produced sufficient for exportation. The inhabitants are Roman catholics, and submit to the tribunal of the inquisition. The Protestants, who dwell in the town, are not beloved, but are suffered by the magistrates to dwell in peace. The manufactures are not so flourishing as they formerly were; the most considerable are velvet, plush, damask, different kinds of silk, gold and silver stuffs, lace, gloves, stockings, ribbons, soap, paper to imitate the Indian, &c. The manufactures are greatly reduced; too great a price being paid for the articles they manufacture; and the insecurity of their ports contribute greatly to enfeeble their commerce. The banking business of Genoa is very considerable, and the bankers are esteemed the richest in Europe.

The city of Genoa was formerly the capital of Liguria. It was destroyed by the Carthagenians, and rebuilt by the Romans, whose ally it became, and whose fortune it followed.

In the last century, the intestine dissensions about the form of government so debilitated the state, that the Genoese were obliged to put themselves sometimes under the protection of the duke of Milan, and sometimes under the king of France, but the latter treating them with intolerable haughtiness and rigour, they struggled hard, but unsuccessfully for liberty, till that naval hero, Andrew Doria, in 1528, rescued his country out of the hands of its tyrannical masters, settled in perfect freedom, and established the present constitution. In 1684, it was cruelly bombarded by the French, and to save itself from total destruction, was obliged to submit to very hard terms; two of which were, that the Doge and four Councillors should appear in person at Versailles, and ask pardon; and that the state should disarm all gallees except six, with a promise not to fit out more without consent of the King.—The ancient nobility consists of twenty eight families, and are those whom Andrew Doria, in 1528, separated from all the rest, and declared only capable of holding the chief offices, and dignity of Doge; all the other inhabitants of Genoa being reduced by him to the class of commoners. Since that time it has been found necessary to create other nobility, who are allowed to keep manufactures of velvet, silk, and cloth, to form the duties, and to have shares in merchant vessels; but all other handicrafts are forbidden. The form of government is aristocratic. The Chief is called Doge, or Duke, to which dignity no person is promoted till he is fifty years of age, and has for fifteen years left off all trade or occupation not consistent with nobility. Every two years a new Doge is chosen, and the former is incapacitated during five years, to hold again the same post; however he has a procurator's office assigned him, and a pension of 500 scudi for life.

In times of peace, the Republic usually keeps on foot a body of 5000 regular troops. Besides these, it has also a militia, which in case of necessity, is obliged to take the field. The cavalry, in time of war, amounts only to about 600, who are of little service, by reason of the badness of horses. The fleet of the Republic, anciently so celebrated for its victories over the Saracens, Pisanese, Venicians, Spaniards, and Turks, and for continuing a considerable time, masters of Sardinia, Malta, Majorca, Minorca, Candia, Cyprus, and many other places in and near the Mediterranean and Archipelago, and even the Black sea, the Crimea, and other places, is now reduced to six gallees. The City is about ten miles in circumference, and defended towards the land by a double wall. Several bastions are erected along the sea shore, on rocks which rise above the water. The streets are narrow; but clean and well paved; two are filled with magnificent palaces fronted with marble. It is a see of an Archbishop. The cathedral is built in the gothic stile, and paved with black and white marble, in the treasury of which is preserved a curious hexagon dish, said to be a single emerald, found at Cesarea in the time of the Crusades, which the Genoese received as their share of the plunder. Besides the Cathedral, it contains thirty-two parish churches, many of which are magnificent and adorned with sculptures and pictures by the best masters. The Doge's palace is large, without decoration, except two statues of John Andrews Doria, and Andrew Doria, larger than life, at the entrance. The arsenal contains arms for 34,000 men, machines, models for bridges, the armour worn by a number of Genoese women in the crusades, a shield containing 120 pistols, made by Julius Cesar Vacche, for the purpose of assassinating the Doge and senate at one time, &c. They reckon at Genoa, 69 convents of men and women, and the number of inhabitants is estimated at 150,000.

THE BOTCHETTA,

Otherwise, a chain of Mountains, situate in the