

John Sienro

THE NORTH-CAROLINA MINERVA, AND FAYETTEVILLE ADVERTISER.

FAYETTEVILLE:—PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY HODGE AND BOYLAN.

Vol. I.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1796.

NUMB. 26.

PHILADELPHIA, August 29.

Yesterday arrived the Hamburg Packet, capt. Clay, by whom we are favoured with London papers to the 9th of July, from which we copy the following Intelligence.

PARIS, June 25.

THE reports of peace, which were believed for several days, and which (says L'Eclair) we only repeated after the public voice, are attributed to the arrival in Paris of an Austrian secretary of Legation to Switzerland. We are assured he came to propose an armistice; but the conditions could not be agreed on. This secretary is returned.—It is believed that there is not now any open negociation between France and Austria.

Adet, minister plenipotentiary of the Republic to the United States of America, had demanded a successor. The Directory long sought for one. That embassy had been offered to several citizens, who had refused it, and particularly to Marey. Circumstances have changed in America, and the anti-English party having recovered their influence, Adet has expressed a desire to retain his situation, which the Directory has complied with.

LONDON, June 29.

In the attack made by the French upon the prince of Wirtemberg's corps, the Austrian regiment of Jordis was cut to pieces, and O'Donnell's free corps suffered immensely, as did also Barco's hussars.

A letter from Copenhagen, of the 17th instant, informs us, that the Swedish fleet, composed of 8 ships of the line and 3 frigates, and commanded by vice-admiral Nordenfliod, arrived there on the 9th instant, and joined the Danish squadron. The combined fleet is, for the present month, to be under the orders of the Danish admiral de Kaas.

We have just received the additional Paris journals of the 25th, to those which came to hand in the morning. We stop the press to convey to the public the following letter from Buonaparte.

Buonaparte, general in chief of the army in Italy, to the Executive Directory.

Head-quarters at TORTONA.

"The instant I heard that the campaign was opened on the Rhine, I marched a column to the Lake of Como, which has taken and destroyed the fort of Fuentes.

"The Duke of Modena has given 1000 fusées with bayonets, and eight pieces of cannon 24 pounders, fifteen pieces 16 pounders, twelve 8 pounders, and fourteen 4 pounders.

"The Imperial Chiefs having revolted, they committed every excess. The chief of brigade Lathie, marched thither with 1200 men; he burned the rebel's houses, and made the chiefs of them prisoners who have been shot.

The same thing has taken place in the environs of Tortona. I caused fifteen chiefs to be arrested, judged by a military commission, and shot.

[Signed]

BUONAPARTE.

The Redacteur of the 25th has the following article from the Editor.

"NB. The French journals of Paris, who are disgraced every day by publishing the ridiculous relations of the French journals of Frankfort, which are at the devotion of the emigrants, have announced an inconceivable defeat of the army of Italy, in an attempt to pass the Addige. What is most remarkable in this news, is its absolute falsehood.—On the 3d of June, gen. Buonaparte announced from Verona, that he was possessed of all the bridges of the Addige; his advanced guards were ten-leagues from thence. No battle had taken place on the 26th. The republican army had advanced almost without a blow far on the other side of that river."

FRANKFORT, June 21.

The French army under gen. Leleve, which had so rapidly advanced to the Lahn, is now retreating still more precipitately towards the Lower Rhine and Duffeldorf.—The whole country in the neighbourhood of the Lahn is now evacuated. They leave their patrols and advanced posts in their places to conceal their retreat, and the greater part of them are consequently made prisoners.

In the action of the 15th near Wetzlar, which has had the most important consequences, gen. Bonnard was killed. On the part of the Austrians, count Schafgotsch is dead of his wounds at Wetzlar. The brother of gen. Leleve was shot, and his body brought off by the inhabitants of Wherdorf, amid a shower of balls, to be buried at Wherdorf. On the 19th the French evacuated Neuwied: a sally was made on them from the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein as they retreated from before it, with considerable effect.

The fortress lost only two men during the blockade. Large reinforcements are now on their march to the Rheingau, to prevent the French crossing the Rhine near Bacherach; 18,000 Austrians are also posted at the Petersberg, opposite Rheinfels.

Marshal Count Wurster has just received the command of the army in Italy. The archduke Charles will be commander in chief of the two armies of the Upper and Lower Rhine.

JUNE 30.

Army of the SAMBRE and MEUSE.

Jourdan, commander in chief of the army of the Sambre and Meuse, to the Executive Directory.

Head-quarters at COBLENTZ, June 20.

Citizens Directors,

"I have the honour to inform you, that that part of the army which was to retreat by Nieuwied, passed the river the day before yesterday in the greatest order, and without losing a single man, tho' in the presence of six regiments of the enemy's cavalry, and of several battalions of infantry, supported by twelve pieces of cannon. The enemy endeavoured to destroy the bridge by two rafts which they lodged against it; the first, without breaking it entirely, so far deranged it, that it required several hours to re-establish it; but this was soon done by the zeal, activity, and talents of citizen Tirtet, captain of artillery, who commanded the workmen on the bridge; the second raft was stopped before it reached the bridge.

"While the bridge was repairing, the army removed and took a position on the Soyndach; whence it resumed its march in the greatest order; the retreat was covered by the cavalry and two battalions of the 30th half brigade, under the command of brigadier Arnaud. These two battalions and the third regiment of light horse, led by colonel Grosjean, distinguished themselves by the coolness and precision which they displayed in their manœuvres, which were executed under the fire of the enemy's artillery. At length, at eleven at night, that part of the bridge of Nieuwied, which extends over the right branch of the Rhine, was restored without accident.

"Gen Kleber, who was retreating on the Sieg, was yesterday attacked in the post of Ulkeradt, at two in the morning. The enemy's attack was so sudden, that he deemed it less dangerous, to risk a battle, than to continue his retreat. He therefore made the necessary dispositions, and marked against the assailants; he even beat back the heads of the enemy's first columns, but perceiving a considerable force, particularly in cavalry advancing on his two flanks, he returned to his first position, and there maintained himself.

"The action ceased at three in the afternoon.—The general was to resume his march in the night, to gain the lines of Duffeldorf. During our retreat, several partial actions took place, the particulars of which I cannot send you, as I have not yet received them; but our troops invariably displayed both courage and skill, and not a single post was forced, so that our retreat was conducted with the greatest order.

"I cannot, citizens directors, sufficiently praise the courage, coolness, and perseverance of the troops, who fought for three days, and pursued their march in the night; neither stragglers nor fugitives were to be seen; never did the army appear to greater advantage than during this retreat; and this is the time to judge of the conduct of both officers and privates.

"The general officers merit the highest commendations; by their talents, their courage, and the precision with which they executed my orders; they confirmed the courage of the soldier, and inspired him with that confidence which averts disaster.

"Health and respect,

JOURDAN.

ARMY OF THE RHINE AND MOSELLE.

Hausman, commissary of the government, to the Executive Directory.

STRASBURGH, July 23.

"Your orders are executed. The army passed the Rhine this morning at two o'clock. Kehl is our own, with all its formidable batteries.—Generals Defaix, Beaupon, and Fernio are pursuing the enemy with vigour. The action still continues. A great extent of territory and a number of villages, are already occupied by our troops. The enemy is quite stupified by an attack as warm as it was unexpected. From five to six hundred prisoners already taken, with several caissons and pieces of cannon.

"It is not possible to bestow sufficient commendation on the bravery of the army, on the precision, and particularly on the discretion with which the business has been conducted. Yesterday morning 30,000 men were in the environs of Strasburg, and

nobody knew their real destination. At Neustadt it was supposed, yesterday morning the quarters were going to Turkheim, when they were directing their march to Strasburg. From such unanimity every thing is to be expected.

I have just left the commander in chief, as he was passing the Rhine. He will send off an extraordinary courier to night with farther particulars of this glorious expedition.

"Health and greeting. W. HASSMAN."

We have at this time 52,000 men in Suabia; the army of Conde is exposed to the greatest danger, and its retreat appears to be cut off.

Yesterday the feast of Agriculture was celebrated at Paris.

We are assured, that at the instigation of the Chevalier Azzara, envoy from the king of Spain, the duke of Parma has been comprised in the treaty of peace between Spain and France. Consequently will not insist on the payment of the contributions which remain unpaid.

It is believed that the chevalier Azzara has already signed the preliminaries of peace in the Pope's name. One of the most curious clauses in this treaty is that by which the Holy Father undertakes to put a stop to the schism which exists between the churches of France and Rome. On the other hand the Ami des Loix affirms that our troops are marching to Rome.

The plan of the campaign formed by the Austrians is known. They were to force a passage near Anwiller and Triptstadt, take possession of the lines of Landau, and immediately attack the army on the Rhine. This project was discovered and frustrated. Landau has provisions for six months. It is reported that 6000 Austrians have been defeated in Italy on their way to join Beaulieu; that we have secured the Swiss of Mantua; that a revolt has broken out at Turin, and that the king has been obliged to take refuge with the French at Coui. We repeat these reports without vouching for their authenticity.

COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED.

June 28. The executive directory sent an answer to the message, in which the council had asked for an explanation of a decree, relative to the completion of the officers of the navy.

The directory consulted the charge of inactivity, by comparing the state of the navy at present with its state six months ago, when it appeared that upwards of 30 vessels have been equipped, and that 42 ships or frigates and 150 corvettes are actually at sea, or stationed to defend our coasts.

A message was received from the executive directory, conceived in nearly the following terms:

"Citizens legislators, we have just received a letter from gen. Jourdan, informing us that the army of the Rhine and Moselle passed the Rhine on the 24th June.

"The false attacks made by gen. Moreau contributed not a little to facilitate this event, by drawing off the attention of the enemy to another quarter.

"We are masters of Fort Kehl, and the bridges are re-established.

"We shall publish farther particulars in the official journals."

The council decreed, on the motion of Boissier, that the Rhine and Moselle had not ceased to deserve well of their country.

LONDON, July 4.

We yesterday received by express Paris journals, to the 30th ult. inclusive. By these we learn, that the French very unexpectedly crossed the Rhine at Strasburgh on the 23d ult. with a very considerable force, and taking the Austrians by surprise made themselves masters of the strong fort of Kehl, and after making from 6 to 700 prisoners, extended their destructive incursions into the neighbouring country.

The Hamburg mail due yesterday arrived in town, this morning, and brought an account of some farther advantages gained by the victorious Austrians over the flying French.

Different accounts from Frankfort of the 21st mention a second action to have been fought at Okeroth on the 20th, in which the French were defeated with the loss of 1800 men left dead on the field, 700 prisoners and several pieces of cannon. These accounts farther state, that the column of French retiring from Nieuwied is cut off, and must either surrender or be drowned in the Rhine. But it appears from gen. Jourdan's letter to the Directory, that they have effected their passage over the river.

The French are retreating with precipitation to Duffeldorf, and the Austrians are pursuing them thi-