



AND North-Carolina State Gazette.

Ours are the plants of fair delightful Peace, Unwar'd by party rage, to live like Brothers.

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EUROPEAN NEWS.

SPAIN.

TWENTY-FIRST BULLETIN

Of the French Army in Spain.—(No date.)

The English entered Spain on the 25th Oct. During the months of Nov. and Dec. they beheld the destruction of the army of Galicia at Espinosa; of that of Arragon and Valencia at Tudela; of the army of reserve at Somosierra; in fine, they beheld the fall of Madrid without making a single movement, and without any attempt to succor the Spanish armies, to whom, however, a division of the English troops would have proved of considerable assistance. In the beginning of December, information was received that the columns of the British army were retreating on Corunna, where they were to re-embark. By later accounts, it afterwards appeared that they had halted, and that on the 16th December, they set out from Salamanca, in order to take the field. As early as the 15th, the light cavalry had marched from Valladolid. The whole of the English army passed the Duero, and arrived on the 23d, in presence of the Duke of Dalmatia at Saldanha. As soon as the Emperor was apprised at Madrid of this unexpected termination in the part of the English, he recommended in order to cut off their retreat, and pursue their rear. But notwithstanding the diligence exerted by the French troops, the passage of the mountain of Guadarrama, which was covered with snow, the incessant rain and overflowing of the torrents, delayed their march all two days. On the 22d the Emperor left Madrid. His head-quarters were on the 23d at Villa Casan, on the 25th at Tordesillas, and on the 27th at Medina de Rio-Secco. On the 24th, at break of day, the enemy had begun to move, in order to outflank the left of the Duke of Dalmatia, but having been informed, during the morning, of the movement that took place at Madrid, they immediately began to retreat, abandoning their Spanish adherents—whose passions they had inflamed, the remains of the Gallician Army that had conceived fresh hopes, some of their hospitals, a part of their baggage, and a great number of stragglers. They committed great devastations, the inevitable result of forced marches of troops in retreat;—they carried with them, mules, horses and several other effects—having pillaged a great number of churches and convents. In the abbey of Sahagun, which contained sixty monks, and which had all along been respected by the French army—they committed every sort of depradation.—Every where the priests and monks were seen flying at their approach.—This disorderly conduct exasperated the country against them, and the difference of their language, manners and of religion contributed not a little to that disposition of men's minds. They reproached the Spaniards with having no longer any army to unite with theirs, and with having deceived the English government. The Spaniards returned no answer, that Spain had numerous armies, but that the English had allowed them to be destroyed, without having made any effort to assist them. During the fifteen days that have just elapsed, they did not fire a single musket.—The light cavalry only had given a few blows with their swords. General Duresnel, at the head of 400 light horse of the guard, fell in, at the close of the evening, with a column of English infantry on their march, sabred a number of soldiers and carried disorderly into the ranks. Gen. Lefebvre, Chief-marshal, Colonel of the chasseurs of the guard, detached two days before, with three squadrons of his regiment, having taken a great quantity of baggage, of women and stragglers—and having destroyed the bridge of Ezela cut down, imagined that the town of Benavente was evacuated. Carried away by that impetuosity which the French soldiers have been so often reproached, he swam across the river, in order to make for Benavente, where he fell in with the whole of the cavalry of the rear-guard of the English; a long contest here ensued, of four hundred men against two thousand. There was no resisting numbers.—Those brave fellows recrossed the river. He had himself received a wound from a pistol shot, and being dismounted, was made prisoner. Ten of his chasseurs,

who had also been dismounted, were likewise taken, 5 were drowned, and 20 were wounded. This sharp affair must have convinced the English what they would have to dread from such men, in general action; Gen. Lefebvre undoubtedly committed a fault, but it was the fault of a Frenchman—he ought to be blamed and rewarded at the same time. The number of prisoners taken from the enemy, up to the present moment, and who are chiefly composed of scattered individuals and stragglers, amounts to 300. On the 24th, the head-quarters of the Emperor were at Valdeira; the head-quarters of the Duke of Dalmatia at Villatorra. On his departure from Madrid, the Emperor appointed King Joseph his Lieutenant-General, with the command of the garrison of the capital, together with the corps of the Dukes of Daizic and Belluno; the divisions of cavalry of Laselle, Milhaud and Latour Maubourg are left for the protection of the centre. The weather is extremely bad. To a piercing cold, heavy and continued rains have succeeded. We suffer, but the English must suffer still more.

Twenty-second Bulletin.

BENAVENTE, Dec. 31.—On the 30th, the cavalry commanded by the Duke of Istria passed the Ezela. On the evening of the 30th, it traversed Benavente, and pursued the enemy as far as Puenade la Vilana. On the same day, the head-quarters were established at Benavente. The English were not satisfied with destroying an arch of the bridge of Ezela, but they also blew up the buttresses with mines, a damage wholly unprofitable and which could only be harmful to the country; the rest betook themselves to the most shocking plundering. The soldiers, in the excess of their continual intemperance, gave rein to all the licentiousness of brutal in-briety. Every thing in their conduct bespoke rather a hostile army than one which came to the assistance of a friendly power. The contempt of the English for the Spaniards gave a sharper edge to the impression made by so many outrages. This experience will throw a salutary damp on those insurrections, instigated by foreigners.—One cannot help regretting that the English had not sent an army into Andalusia. The army that passed through Benavente, ten days ago, triumphed already in hope, and already having their colors hung with trophies—nothing could equal the audacity and security which they displayed. On their return, their countenance was sadly changed. They were harassed with fatigue and seemed to be borne away with the shame of retreating without a battle. In order to anticipate the just reproaches of the Spaniards, the English continued incessantly to repeat that they had been promised to be joined by numerous forces; and the Spaniards repelled their calumnious assertions by arguments to which there was no answer. Ten days ago, when the English were traversing the country, they well knew that the Spanish armies had been destroyed.—The commissaries whom they employed to accompany the armies of the left, of the centre and of the right, knew full well that it was 50,000 men only, but 180,900 men that the Spaniards had put under arms; that these 180,000 men had fought, while, for six weeks, the English had remained unconcerned spectators of their troubles. These commissaries could not but have made it known that the Spanish armies had ceased to exist. The English, therefore, could not be ignorant that the Spaniards were without armies. When ten days ago, they again moved forward, intoxicated with the silly hope of deceiving the vigilance of the French General, they fell into the snare which the French General had laid for drawing them into the open country. They had before made some marches on their return to their ships.—You ought, observe the Spaniards, to have persisted in that prudent determination, or else you should have been in force enough to balance the destinies of the French.—Above all, you ought not at first to have advanced with such confidence, only afterwards to fall back with so much precipitation. You should not have drawn the theatre of war among us, and exposed us to the ravages of the two armies. After having brought down upon our heads such accumulations of disasters, you ought not

throw the blame upon us.—We have not been able to resist the French troops, nor do you seem more able to make head against them.—Forbear, therefore, to accuse us; to outrage us—all our misfortunes we owe to you.—The English had reported throughout the country that they had defeated 5000 of the French cavalry on the banks of the Ezela, and that the field of battle was covered with their dead. The inhabitants of Benavente were much surprised, on visiting the field of battle, to have found there only 3 Englishmen and 2 French. The contest of 400 men against 2000, does great honor to the French. During the whole of the 29th, the river continued to swell considerably so that at the close of the evening, it became impossible to ford it. It was in the middle of the river and at the moment he was on the point of being drowned, that General Lefebvre, being carried away by the current to the side occupied by the English, was made prisoner. The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, in that affair of the posts, has been far greater than that of the French. The flight of the English was so precipitate, that they left at their hospital their sick and wounded, and were obliged to burn a fine magazine of tents and cloathing.—They killed all the horses that were over fatigued or wounded, and which might embarrass their retreat. It is scarcely here to be credited how that spectacle, so shocking to our manners, of hundreds of horses shot with pistols, is revolting to the Spaniards. Many persons look upon it as a sort of sacrifice—some religious rite—which gives rise, in the minds of the Spaniards, to very strange pictures of the religion of England. The English are retreating in the utmost haste. All the Germans in their pay are deserting. Our army will, this evening, be at Astorga near the borders of Galicia.

Twenty-third Bulletin.

BENAVENTE, January 1.—The Duke of Dalmatia arrived on the 30th Dec. at Mancilla where was the left of the enemy, consisting of the Spaniards under Gen. Romana. Gen. Franceschi overthrew them in a single charge, killed a great number, took two standards, and made prisoners a Colonel, two Lt. Colonels, 50 officers and 1500 men. On the 31st, the Duke of Dalmatia entered Leon, where he found 2000 sick. Romana succeeded Blake in the command after the battle of Espinosa. The remains of that army which, while before Bilbao, consisted of 50,000 men, were reduced to almost 5000 at Mancilla. These wretches, without clothes, and oppressed with every misery, filled the hospitals. The English are held in detestation by these troops whom they despise, and by the peaceable inhabitants whom they abuse, and whose substance they devour, in order to support their own army. The mind of the people of the kingdom of Leon is much changed. They loudly cry out for peace and their king; they curse the English and their fallacious insinuations. They reproach them with being the cause of the shedding of Spanish blood in order to feed the English monopoly and perpetuate the war on the continent. The perfidy of England and her motives are now obvious to the meanest and most illiterate Spanish peasant. They know what they suffer; and the authors of their sufferings are before their eyes. Meantime the English retreat with the utmost haste, pursued by the Duke of Istria, with 9000 cavalry. Among the magazines which they burnt at Benavente were, independent of tents, 4000 blankets, & a great quantity of rum. We picked up upwards of 200 waggons of baggage and ammunition, left on the road from Benavente to Astorga. The shattered remains of Romana's army threw themselves into the latter town, and increased the confusion.—The events of the English expedition to Spain must furnish materials for a fine opening speech to the English Parliament. The English nation must be informed, that her army remained three months in a state of inaction, while it was in their power to assist the Spaniards; that its leaders, or those whose orders they executed, have been guilty of the extreme folly of making a movement forward after the Spanish armies had been destroyed, that, in a word, it entered upon the new year by running away, pursued by an enemy, whom it did not dare to fight, &

by the curses of those whom it had stirred up to resistance, and whom it was its duty to support. Such enterprizes and such results can belong only to a country that has no government. Fox or even Pitt, would not have been guilty of such blunders. To contend against France by land, who has one hundred thousand cavalry, fifty thousand horses for all sorts of military equipment, and nine hundred thousand infantry, was, on the part of England carrying folly to the utmost extreme; it betrays indeed a greediness for disgrace; it is, in fine, to administer the affairs of England just as the cabinet of the Thuilleries could wish them to be administered.—It betrays no small ignorance of Spain, to have imagined that any importance could be attached to popular commotion, or to indulge the smallest hope that by kindling in that country the flames of sedition, such a conflagration could be attended with any decided result or any material duration. A few fanatical priests are quite sufficient to compose and propagate libels, to carry a momentary disorder into the minds of men: but something else is required to cause a nation to rise to arms. At the time of the French revolution, it required three years and the presence of the convention to prepare the means of military success; and who that does not know to what hazards France was nevertheless exposed? France was, however, stirred up. Supported by the unanimous resolution to reassert rights of which she had been deprived in times of obscurity. In Spain, it was a few men who stirred up the people. Those who fought for the acquisition, for the Franciscans, and for feudal rights, might be animated by an ardent zeal for their personal interests, but could never infuse into a whole nation a firm resolve or a permanent opinion. In spite of the English feudal rights, the Franciscans, and the inquisition, have no longer any existence in Spain. After the capture of Rosas Gen. Gouvion Saint Cyr shaped his march against Barcelona, at the head of the 7th corps. He dispersed every thing that he found before that place, & formed a junction with General Dubesme. That junction brought his army to 50,000 men. The Dukes of Treviso and Abrantes have carried all the outworks at Saragossa. The General of engineers, Lacoste, is preparing the means of getting possession of that city without loss. The King of Spain has gone to Aranjuez, in order to review the first corps, commanded by the Duke of Belluno.

Twenty-fourth Bulletin.

ASTORGA, Jan. 2.—The emperor arrived at Astorga on the 1st of Jan. The road from Benavente to Astorga is covered with dead horses belonging to the English, with travelling carriages, artillery, caissons & warlike stores. There were found at Astorga magazines of sheets, blankets, and the tools and implements of pioneers. As to Romana's army, it is reduced almost to nothing. The small number that remain are without coats, shoes, pay, food, and is no longer to be considered any thing. The emperor has charged the Duke of Dalmatia with the glorious mission of pursuing the English to the place of their debarkation, and of driving them into the sea, at the point of the sword. The English will learn what it is to make an inconsiderate movement in presence of the French army. The manner in which they have been driven from the kingdoms of Leon & Galicia, and the destruction of a part of their army, will, no doubt, teach them to be more circumspect of their operations on the continent. All that remains of the Spanish insurgent troops has been without pay for several months back.

Twenty-fifth Bulletin.

BENAVENTE, Jan. 5.—The head of Merle's division, forming part of the Duke of Dalmatia's corps, came up with the advanced guard on the 3d. At 4 P. M. it reached the rear guard of the English, who were upon the heights of Prieros, a league before Villafraanca, consisting of 5000 infantry & 600 cavalry. This position was a very fine position, and difficult to attack. General Merle made his dispositions. The infantry advanced, beat the charge, and the English were entirely routed. The difficulty of the ground did not permit the cavalry to charge, and only

200 prisoners were taken. We have some fifty men killed or wounded.—General Colbert advanced to see if the cavalry could firm, his hour was arrived—a ball struck him on the forehead, and he lived but a quarter of an hour.

There are two roads from Astorga to Villafraanca. The English took the right, the Spaniards the left—they marched without order—we cut off and surrounded by the Stanove jan chassours. A general of brigade & a whole division laid down their arms. Since the 27th ult. we have taken above 10,000 prisoners among whom are 7500 English. We have taken also more than 400 baggage waggons, 15 waggons of firelocks, their magazines and hospitals. The English retreat in disorder, leaving magazines, sick and equipage. They will experience still greater loss, and if they be able to embark, it is probable it will not be without the loss of half their army. But informed that that army was reduced below 20,000 men, the Emperor resolved to remove his head-quarters from Astorga to Benevente.

We found in the barns several English, who had been hanged by the Spaniards. His Majesty was indignant, & ordered the barns to be burnt—the peasants, whatever may be their resentment, have no right to attempt the lives of the waggons of either army. His Majesty has ordered the English prisoners to be treated with all the respect due to soldiers who have manifested liberal ideas and sentiments of honor.

On the 4th, at night, the Duke of Dalmatia's head quarters were ten leagues from Lugo.

Governor de St. Cyr's division entered Barcelona on the 17th. On the 15th, he came up with Genls. Redding's and Viv's troops at Eleras, and completely routed them. He took 6 pieces of cannon, 30 waggons, and 3000 men.

[We omit the intervening Bulletins, to make room for those of the Battle of Corunna.]

Thirtieth Bulletin.

VALLADOLID, Jan 21.

"The Duke of Dalmatia left Betanzos, on the 12th inst. Having reached the Mero, he found the bridge of Burgo cut. The enemy was lodged from the village of Burgo. In the mean while, General Franceschi ascended the river which he crossed at the bridge of S. La. He made himself master of the high road from Corunna to Santiago, and took 6 officers and 60 soldiers prisoners. On the same day, a body of thirty marines, who were fetching water from the bay near Mero, were taken. From the village of Perillo, the English fleet could be observed in the harbor of Corunna.

"On the 13th, the enemy caused 2 powder magazines, situated near the heights of St. Margaret, at half a league from Corunna, to be blown up. The explosion was terrible, and was felt at the distance of 3 leagues.

"On the 14th, the bridge of Burgo was repaired and the French artillery were able to pass. The enemy had taken a position, at 2 leagues distance—half a league before Corunna. He was seen employed in hastily embarking his sick and wounded, the number of which, according to spies and deserters, amounts to 3 or 4000 men. The English were, in the mean time, occupied in destroying the batteries on the coast, and laying waste the country on the sea shore. The commandant of the fort of St. Philip suspecting the fate intended for his fortification refused to admit them in it.

"On the evening of the 14th, we saw a fresh convoy of 160 sail arrive—among which were four ships of the line.

"On the morning of the 15th, the divisions of Merle and Mermet occupied the heights of Villaboa, where the enemy's advanced guard was stationed which was attacked and destroyed.—Our right wing was stationed on the point where the road from Corunna to Dugo, and that from Corunna to Santiago, meet. The left was placed behind the village of Elvina. The enemy was stationed behind some beautiful heights.

"The rest of the 15th was spent in fixing a battery of twelve pieces of cannon—and it was not till the 16th, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, that the Duke of Dalmatia gave orders for the attack. The assault was made upon the English by the first brigade of the division of Mermet, which overthrew them