



ached to Colonel Coburn (who commands a brigade consisting of the light companies of the several regiments) they had no there in the action, but were on the other side of the French infantry, who were drawn up in the rear of their cavalry opposed to the 3d and 4th Dragoons were about two miles in the rear of the French infantry, and our infantry (few of whom had yet come up) were marching in the rear of the 3d and 4th Dragoons. Such was the position of things when we came to the top of the hill, upon which General Long (who commands the cavalry) rode up to Colonel Hrad, and pointing to the three regiments of French cavalry, told him, that was his object; upon which Colonel Hrad immediately ordered the two squadrons to charge, which he conducted himself in the most gallant style. We charged in line; the French received us in a column of three regiments, the front of their column considerably outflanking that of our line. When we reached the bottom of the hill, they trotted up about half a mile to meet us, upon which both sides cheered, and the conflict began.

After a short struggle we dashed through the centre of their column, and of course left them on our rear, upon which both sides wheeled about and came to the charge again. The fight now became a personal conflict, man to man. The French made a short stand, but falling in their point they could not long resist the impetuosity of our fellows, (who cut them up like mince meat), and in the most dastardly manner ran off; here a general pursuit took place, and as we passed the French infantry they gave us a broadside by which we lost a few men, but not so many as might be expected, considering what a mark they had made our situation full more critical was, that while we followed the main body of their cavalry, the greater part of the last regiment of their column was in the rear, so that we had to dispose of them also; however, in passing through it to regain their main body, we were quite enough of it. We followed those three regiments to the bridge of Badajoz, a distance of twelve miles; the slaughter was very great, but the greater part of them threw themselves off their horses, and surrendered, which we admitted, supposing that Marshal Bredow had sent the 3d and 4th to our assistance. We took 75 pieces of cannon on the way to Badajoz, and having killed the artillery division, mounted our horse in the order to carry off the cannon, having arrived at the bridge of Badajoz, we made a halt to collect our fellows together; on our march, we found that our whole force now come up was composed of the officers of the remaining Squadron and about thirty privates, the remainder of our men had either hopped on the road to plunder, or from not being able to proceed further, their horses being completely done up. We had not remained above five minutes before the Bridge of Badajoz, when the French infantry who had got in previous to our coming up with the cavalry when we first charged them, opened a tremendous fire of artillery from the ramparts of the town. We of course made out of our range of their guns (several things having passed, and some on and torn up the ground before us) and having retired at a civil distance, we halted again, and collected our men, who had come up by this time, for the purpose of securing our prisoners, which (together with the pieces of artillery) to the number of one thousand, we carried along with us about two leagues, not doubting that the 3d and 4th Dragoons had been sent to support us; but what was our astonishment when we perceived at the distance of about a mile and a half, a strong column of French infantry, with a regiment of Cavalry in front of them, marching directly in our front, on their retreat to Badajoz. There was now no other alternative but flight, and we immediately got off the road and took a direction to our right, across the country, leaving our prisoners and cannon behind us. After crossing an immense extent of country, we fell in with Marshal Bredow's Aid de Camp, who informed us, that he had been sent by the Marshal to see whether there was a refuge for the 13th remaining, consisting of cavalry, that we had been cut off. He conducted us to the British Army to Camp Major, which we reached at nine o'clock, and lay out that night under its walls. Yesterday we marched into the town, where we continue a short time to recruit our horses and men. Our loss is about 200 killed, wounded, missing, and prisoners. Lieutenant Smith wounded mortally, our Adjutant Lightly. Frederick has got a slight cut on his wrist, which prevents his writing; it is however, of no consequence. The chains of my helmet saved my life, having received a cut from a sabre, which could not penetrate them; our Regiment is immortalized.

#### PLOT DISCOVERED AT LISBON.

By the Growth gun-brig which arrived last week from Lisbon, we learn that a dangerous plot had been discovered, the object of which was to burn the British shipping in the Tagus. The following general orders were issued in consequence by Admiral Berkeley:

"The Squadron to row guard with one boat from each ship every night, prepared with fire apparatus, to be in three divisions viz. First Division, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd; second division, 4th, 5th, and 6th; third division, 7th, 8th, and 9th. To be ready to start at a moment's notice, and to be in the water at ten o'clock, and the third division from ten till two in the morning; and the third division from two till four in the morning; to charge every night and always to

keep a head of the ships, according to the tide; as intelligence has been received of an attempt to be made by the enemy's emissaries, to burn the ships and transports in the Tagus. Boats or vessels drifting after sunset to be most carefully examined.

#### FRENCH PAPERS.

##### INTELLIGENCE FROM THE ARMY OF PORTUGAL

PARIS, APRIL 15.

An Aid de Camp of Marshal the Prince of Eising, has arrived at Paris. He set out on the 23d of March, from Celorico, which was the headquarters.

All the magazines which the army had formed, were entirely exhausted on the 28th February. The forage, which were sent twenty leagues from headquarters, no longer brought in anything.

On the 10th March they were reduced to furnish for the reference of biscuit, which could only furnish 15 days food, and it was impossible to wait for the harvest, as no resource could be expected from it before June. There remained, therefore, to the Prince of Eising, only three measures to adopt.

One was to attack the English in their lines before Lisbon, but the principles of military tactics forbade this, inasmuch as his heavy artillery could not be brought up.

Another was to pass the Tagus to form a junction with the army of Andalusia, and by that means opening a communication by the great road with Seville and Madrid, sending the artillery to Badajoz, drawing his provisions from the Alentejo, changing his line of operation, and maintaining the double line de pont, which the army had constructed on the right and left banks of the Zézere, at Ponte-lere.

General Eble, with an activity and a true knowledge of all the resources of his art, which did him the greatest honour, as well as the artillery, was preparing to construct 200 boats. We might think, by throwing at once two bridges across the Tagus, menacing a passage in front of Ponte-lere, effecting one lower down opposite Santarem, bearing then upon the rear of the division of General Hill, which the English kept before Ponte-lere, or leaving the English army at Lisbon, and by a movement upon Leyria, obliging them to recall the division of General Hill in order to succour Lisbon; profiting by this movement to throw over a bridge in the environs of Ponte-lere. The Tagus being passed by one or other of these operations, a communication would have been opened with Seville and Madrid, and we might have been reinforced with all the resources of the army of Andalusia.

The third measure which presented itself was to retrace the Mondego, bearing upon Guarda, and opening a communication with Ciudad Rodrigo, where there were stores, clothing, ammunition, &c. Jerry, magazines, and money for the army, which had not been paid for six months.

On the 3d of March the Prince of Eising decided on the last measure.

On the 4th, all the baggage and sick were placed on a great number of mules and asses which were with the army; they were sent forward on the road, and gained two marches. The rear guard was composed of the Duke of Elchingen, who advanced from Leyria to Mollino, threatening to turn the position of Certazo. On the 10th the rear guard was at Pombal.

Our sharpshooters, who remained in front of the town, and the English advanced guard, were engaged, which gave rise to the combat of Pombal. Our advanced posts retired, and the English advanced guard entered the town. The first brigade of the first division of the Duke of Elchingen charged the enemy with the bayonet, and killed and wounded 2 or 300 men. Our loss in this combat amounted to 5 killed and 18 wounded. The English advanced guard had no artillery; the artillery of our rear guard was in battery, and played constantly upon them.

On the 11th the French rear guard was on the heights of Redinha. The English General advanced with his whole army. At two in the afternoon he deployed about 25,000 men under the fire of 40 or 50 pieces of artillery, which played with great activity. All the shot bore upon the mass of the enemy, they being unsheltered by any battery. Disorder manifested itself several times in their columns. About five, their artillery arrived, and they mounted some batteries. We saw with pleasure that one of their divisions manoeuvred on their right to turn our left, by the valley of Redinha. We let them do it. As soon as they were sufficiently engaged, the 50th and the 27th of the line charged them on the bayonet, and put them completely to the rout. The English Officer who commanded was killed. The 3d Hussars made a fine charge. The loss of the English, who were several hours under the fire of our artillery, was considerable. Our loss amounted to 80 killed and wounded.

On the 15th, the advanced guard was at Foz de Arome.

Our artillery was in a position on the right bank of the Cora which commanded much of the left bank. We engaged the enemy very actively in an affair of advanced posts, which embarrassed him. We drew him under the fire of the artillery on the right bank, whilst the 39th and 69th charged him.

The village was taken and retaken several times. The English were exposed to the fire of our batteries, disorder prevailed in their ranks, and from communicating itself to the whole of the enemy's line; fatigued with the inconceivable of such a position, some fugitive English straggled to Louza and Pombal.

The village of Foz de Arome remained with the French rear-guard.

Our loss amounted to 200 men; that of the enemy to 1,200. An English General Officer was killed.

This was the moment to march against the English army, and to ruin it. This resolution was for an instant agitated in the French army, but it was the 15th, and the retreat had commenced on the 5th. We had only marched one and a half or two leagues per day, and there only remained provisions for two or three days, at a half ration. It was, therefore, impossible to stop; there was not a day to lose, and the army continued its movement.

On the 17th the rear guard had wholly passed the Alva.

Influenced by the combats of Tombal, of Redinha, and of Foz de Arome, the enemy no longer feared himself.

These three combats were advantageous to the French army. Not a single cannon, not a carriage with baggage, not one sick man, was left behind. It took twelve days to march from Santarem to the banks of the Alva. All the movements of the retreat were calculated, not upon the movements of the English, but upon the necessity of subsistence.

At length, on the 22d, the army was in the bell position, and the soldiers in the bell spirit. Convoys had set out from Salamanca, and Ciudad Rodrigo, and every day the army received clothing, shoes, and every thing that was necessary for their subsistence.

Thus the army of Portugal has lived six months upon the resources of the country; it has changed its place when all those resources were exhausted, and when the difficulties of transport and of roads left no hope of drawing any thing from the depots. The most difficult precede the harvest are in general the most difficult for subsistence, because then the grain is scarce; these difficulties have of course existed in a much longer degree in an enemy's country already laid waste.

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Let a man of common sense analyse such a system and see what it amounts to. Men in the prime of life are removed from their native soil to be put at free men into the hands of those who have to enjoy the benefit of their labours for seven—perhaps 14 years; and in return to find them in food and clothing—such food and clothes as they may think proper. The master shall receive the labour of his indentured man during his prime. The term of his service at length expires, finds him worn out with labour and pining with disease! but he is now a free man!

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The King of Rome, it appears, is charmed wherever he hears any martial airs performed. The astonishing youth, before he is treasured, is expected to be enabled to command armies, he is, in every particular, so very like "his dear papa!"

#### BRITISH PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

To-morrow, in the Religious Assembly of the METROPOLITAN, an appeal will be offered to public Charity, in behalf of the British Prisoners in France. The exertions which have been made in England, and are still making, in favour of these unfortunate sufferers, are such as accord with the character of a great and generous people. That compassionate spirit, which originated in the Metropolis, and gave evidence of its sincerity and ardour by numerous and liberal donations, has spread itself with an irresistible and efficacious enthusiasm, not only over the principal cities and towns, but almost every village of England and Scotland. The wealthy have largely deducted from their abundance; the labourer and the mechanic have cheerfully contributed a part of the fruits of their toils; and Religion has given her sacred sanction to their bright and redeeming deeds of mercy. To whatever character men may be considered—whether as the children of that benevolent and universal Parent, from whom all their blessings flow—whether as members of the great community on earth, and bound by the most endearing and awful ties to the performance of every social obligation—whether as Agents of that Fountain of impartial and unlimited Goodness, before whose dread tribunal they are hereafter to account for the occupation of the talents with which they have been entrusted—whether as candidates for that unsweated Crown, from whose happy shores indefeasibility of right shall forever be debarred—nor all the lights in which they can be viewed, Charity stands amongst the first of their duties, the testimony by which the truth of their professions can be appreciated, and the great foundation on which their eternal destiny is suspended. At this interesting point, if no other, at this ground upon which all tread with the feet of equality, the angry and unwholesome tones of religious contention and hatred must be silenced, and the dictates of that brotherly affection prevail which is the chief foundation of social comfort and felicity. There is here no subtlety—no escape from the commands of duty; there is but one law to all, and that law must be obeyed by all; for the sentence of condemnation upon those who violate its injunctions has already issued from the lips of Omnipotence!

Who, then, are the persons in whose cause the exertions of an active and generous charity are followed? They are not those, whose misfortunes are ever before the public eye, and who are themselves able to keep their benevolence alive on which they depend for the removal of their necessities. Neither are they those, who impose upon credulity, and who, by false professions and vicious conduct, deserve punishment rather than compassion. Over the circumstances of the persons in view no doubt is suspended, and no plea wanting, which can awaken the feelings and justify the liberality of the Man and the Christian. In the pursuit of honest industry, or in the defence of their country's rights, they have been torn from the bosom of family and friendship, from the shores of their native land, and made to exchange the blessings of liberty and home for the torments of exile and imprisonment! They are deprived of the means of earning a comfortable subsistence, and doomed to rest fatigued on that scanty support of life which they are furnished by the hands of humanity. The dearest ties of nature are broken asunder; fear null between them and the objects of their tenderest affection; days and years pass on in fruitless desire to be restored, and hope itself becomes a painful and unfulfilling dream!—This is a fearful description of their situation; but let the parent—the child, the husband, the wife, and the friend—let the man and the Christian, lay it to the hand of Providence had fallen thus heavily upon them—let them say, what they ought to do, to the widely distressed and far happier condition in which that Providence has placed them—and then let them relate the boon and that the hand of a sympathizing charity, if they can! In the whole compass of human words, no calamities can surpass those which are endured by the British Prisoners in France; in the whole extent of human obligations, no duty is more impressive or binding, than that which commands their Countrymen to alleviate their sufferings, to the very utmost of their power. Amongst their sufferers many are natives of this city and its vicinities, or intimately connected with them—circumstances which merit peculiar consideration, and holds forth an ardent inducement to prompt and beautiful exertion. We shall here leave this subject for the present, with the expression of a fervent wish, that the Methodist Society, setting as do a most laudable example in this important cause, may experience general countenance, and be successful to the utmost extent of their exertions.

The service, we understand, will begin at seven o'clock to-morrow evening, in the Methodist Meeting House.

Hannan has again addressed us on the foregoing subject, in all the warmth of his Dracopel heart. Our attention, we are inclined to agree with him in his explanation of a particular point; but we shall make full inquiry concerning it.

The Star has ably anticipated us in the observations which we proposed to submit to our readers, on the new plan of providing substitutes for the slaves in the West Indies. The article is well entitled to particular attention.