

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, D E C E M B E R 3, 1795.

BRUSSELS, September 10.

We learn that the French have at length crossed the Rhine near Dusseldorf, after a long and most bloody conflict, in which the republican heroes achieved, as usual, prodigies of valour. After they had obtained this signal advantage, the French entered Dusseldorf. The conflict must have been attended with great slaughter, since an enormous quantity of wounded soldiers have been brought to the military hospitals at Cologne and other places.

According to all appearances the passage was effected at different points at the same time; but of this we have not received any particular accounts. Towards Coblenz and Neuwied, the firing still continues on both sides with a degree of violence, and so incessantly, that the banks of the Rhine are not only rendered impassable, but absolutely undermined and destroyed. The town of Coblenz begins to suffer very much from the fire of the Austrians the fortrefs of Ehrenbreitstein, several boats on the Moselle have been sunk by the shot.

We hope that this renewal of cruel and bloody hostilities will dispose all the belligerent powers to a general peace. The Empire intimidated by the passage of the Rhine, will doubtless give a spur to its tardy negotiators.

We hear from Luxemburg, that all the republican troops who had been left in that province have received orders to hasten, by forced marches, to Coblenz. Only a few of those corps which suffered most at the siege of Luxemburg will remain in that fortress.

FRANCFORT, September 10.

All that we positively know at present respecting the crossing of the Rhine by the French is, that that enterprise has been made with success. With regard to the details of this expedition, a variety of letters, dictated either by passion or credulity, speak so contradictorily, that we are as yet enabled to form no one precise idea. If we may credit some of our Gazettes, the Austrian troops commanded by general count Erbach, who, on the 6th instant, in the morning, were still at Angerort, two leagues beyond Duisburg, and at Kayersworth, and the troops commanded by the prince of Wirtemberg, which were behind Dusseldorf on the same day, formed a junction on the bank of the Sieg on the 7th or 8th, that is to say, that the former marched from 10 to 12 leagues, and the latter from 15 to 18 in two days; but armies do not travel so fast: We have every reason to think that the troops which were seen near the Sieg were marching to the favour of those which covered the Rhine from Dusseldorf to Angerort, and which will be obliged to retreat by the Wipper to Solingen and Elberfeld, as soon as the French shall have made themselves masters of the right bank of the Rhine, by the possession not only of Dusseldorf, but the territory of Duisburg; for of the four points at which the French are said to have crossed the Rhine, there are only two at which their having crossed is certain. It is now certain, that on the night of the 5th 20,000 French crossed the Rhine below (and not above) Urdingen, turned by the woods of Duisburg, the extremity of the Austrian line at Angerort, and forced them to retreat precipitately on the morning of the 6th. During this operation, which was covered by a false attack opposite Urdingen, the French effected another passage, far more important, and more dangerous to the Austrian army; 3000 of their volunteers crossed the Rhine a league above Dusseldorf during the night, attacked a redoubt constructed in the village of Ham, and took possession of it. It appears that when masters of this post, they received a very considerable reinforcement, and invested Dusseldorf, of which they obtained possession. By this operation the army commanded by general count d'Erbach, might have been cut off from the rest of the troops which defended the Rhine above Dusseldorf; but it would appear, that being seconded by the prince of Wirtemberg, he took advantage of the moment when the French were not yet in force at Dusseldorf, to accomplish his retreat towards the Wipper. There is even a report that he defeated them.

It was yesterday announced, that the French have also crossed the Rhine above and below the Wipper, and that they are in possession of Mulheim and Langerfeld; the number of the troops they already have on the right bank of the Rhine is estimated at 40,000. These events do not carry the face of strong probability: what is more certain is, that field-marshal Clairfayt has ordered a great number of troops and artillery, commanded by general Beauclieu, to proceed from the environs of Mentz or Neuwied, and oppose the further progress of the French. The field-marshal himself has proceeded in person to the army of the Lower Rhine, and has dispatched a courier to count Wurmsler, to advise him of the French having crossed the

Rhine. Neuwied was again bombarded on the 8th, in the morning; and at that point the French seemed determined to effect a passage. Whatever their progress may be, they will find it difficult to pass the strong post of the Lahn. The Austrians have for some days been employed in throwing up defensive works between the Sieg and the Lahn, principally towards the mountains of Uckerath.

NEUWIED, September 8.

Our troops on receiving the news that the French had effected the passage of the Rhine, at Dusseldorf, received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march, and were under arms through the whole of last night. We were here the more apprehensive of an attack from the French, as we had heard for the two preceding days a violent cannonade. The inhabitants, however, having in some measure freed themselves from the fears of a cannonade, had begun to bring back their goods which they had before begun to move for the greater safety, when this day a heavy shower of balls fell upon our town, and several parts of it were set on fire at the same time; happily, however the flames were soon extinguished. At present every thing is quiet again. To-night the battalions which are to reinforce the prince of Wirtemberg and count d'Erbach, who command on the Lower Rhine, will set off. Their place is to be occupied here by a detachment from the environs of Mentz, and vigorous measures are taken to prevent the enemy from crossing the Rhine in this neighbourhood. The Imperialists have taken a strong position near Uckerath.

According to our advices from the Lower Rhine, part of the French, who crossed at Ordingen, met with a vigorous resistance from an Austrian advanced post. Count d'Erbach, with several troops, came to its aid, but was obliged to retreat, being in danger of being surrounded by another French column. He afterwards joined the duke of Wirtemberg behind the Sieg.

GROSSGERAU, September 11.

General Beauclieu, attended by a great many officers, set out yesterday from this place for Limburg on the Lahn. Field-marshal Clairfayt has sent a courier to count Wurmsler, to inform him of the passage of the Rhine being effected by the French, on whose return the head quarters will probably be transferred near the Lahn. Count Clairfayt left us yesterday, to acquaint himself personally with the present state of affairs on the Lower Rhine, and the farther progress of the French, who are already in possession of Selingen, Elberfeld, the whole dutchy of Bergues and of Mulheim on the Rhine, where the head quarters of general Kleber are.

DUSSELDORF, September 11.

We begin to recover from our alarm, the tempest having partly blown over, and the din of arms been carried past our doors to other places. French troops have been landed at Ham till now from large boats, and as soon as the landing of any particular regiment is effected, it marches thence forward into the country. The Austrians are retreating towards the Sieg, closely followed by the French. The French do not seem inclined to follow the Austrians farther than the environs of Mark. According to our accounts, the French have not only possession of Solingen, a place famed for its manufactories of fire-arms, and especially swords, Elberfeld, and the whole country of Berg, but also of Mulheim on the Rhine; where general Kleber commands. Though several houses in this place have suffered materially by the fire of the French, fortunately no part of the town was burnt down. The inhabitants who left the town for fear of a bombardment, are returning. Lieutenant-colonel Winter is at present commandant of this place; the garrison is not very strong. The French among other things, have made a requisition of 2000 horses in Dusseldorf.

COLOGNE, September 11.

Nothing material has happened since yesterday on the other side of the Rhine. To-day the French army are allowed to repose themselves in the fields of Dentz—It amounts to between 60 or 70,000 men, and extends far above Kalk, towards the mountains. Their advanced posts are on the other side of the Sieg, where they are continually skirmishing with the Austrians. To-morrow the army will march again to follow the Austrians.

HAMBURGH, September 19.

A report was current here a few days since, that the French were pursuing the Austrians through the Prussian dominions in Westphalia; but we now know from the best authority, that this report is without foundation. The Austrians are retreating into the country of Nassau, towards the Upper Rhine, and will no doubt endeavour to cover Mentz. Francfort

is within the line of demarcation, which is respected by the French.—For the rest it is generally supposed that the late passage of the Rhine will greatly disconcert the plan of count Wurmsler's intended operations, and oblige him to detach such a large body of forces for the reinforcement of field-marshal Clairfayt's army; that he will scarce be able to act in an offensive manner.

Citizen Reinhard, who is appointed by the committee of public welfare, French minister at Hamburg, left Paris on the 7th instant, to proceed hither.

In the enclosed news-papers and letters, you will find every circumstance known here of the progress of the French after crossing the Rhine.

HAGEN, September 9.

Austrian troops are passing through here continually; the duke of Wirtemberg is also arrived here. The poor Austrians have had no bread for these three days; but, notwithstanding, they behave exceedingly well.—All the French emigrants have left us. General de Manstein, and Counselor Repentrop, from Ham, are here, providing accommodation for these troops. Yesterday we heard a heavy cannonade.

AMSTERDAM, September 22.

A letter has been received at Cologne, dated the 16th instant, containing the following particulars:—"According to advices from head quarters of Championnet, the division that forms the right wing of the French army upon the right bank of the Rhine had taken posts yesterday evening at Dentz. It has this day continued its march to Neuwied, where it will be joined by the divisions of Bernadotte and Chapel, which are to cross the Rhine to-morrow. The enemy are negligent in covering their retreat along the Rhine, and confine their whole efforts to the left wing under the command of general Lefevre; nevertheless, their efforts to check the victorious career of the republicans, will be as ineffectual as their attempt to save their artillery. There is not a day passes without the capture of some of their cannon."

TOULON, September 13.

Yesterday the English Squadron had the audacity to come within the reach of our batteries. Sixty discharges from the cannon of Sablettes obliged them to sheer off. The English fleet consists of 23 sail. Previously to the appearance of the English fleet, a division of six sail had been got ready to leave the harbour the first fair wind.

PARIS, September 17.

The leaders of the convention no longer make a secret of their intention of quitting the metropolis; already do their journals propose this means, as being just and reasonable. It is certainly just to ruin the city which brought about the revolution; it is necessary to remove to a distance from those who have displayed knowledge, courage, and a just sense of their own rights. It will also be just and necessary to surround themselves with a considerable armed force, and to govern a free people from the recesses of a bastille.

An important question will doubtless be submitted by the convention to the primary assemblies; those who have been silent will be officially asked in what manner their silence is to be explained, and whether they meant to accept or reject the decrees?

The sections of Paris still evince the same firmness and preserve the same tranquillity. Of 160,000 voters, four or five hundred have voted for a king; and an equal number for the convention; all the rest have accepted the constitution and rejected the decree.

The section of the arsenal has resolved that it will consider null all the votes which do not make express mention of the decrees. This resolution is a good one; and may produce a good effect.

It is but too true, that all the letters which we receive from the departments, confirm the intelligence that the principal terrorists have been set at liberty.

SCOTLAND, September 10.

Copy of a letter found tied to the neck of a hawk, which was caught by Mr. Malcolm, of Kinghorn, on his passage from Gottenburg, arrived at Holy Island. It was picked up by him the same day it had been written, and had come at least 50 leagues, the Texel being then 70 leagues distance.

"On board the Lion, September 4, 1795.

"I sent this from on board the Lion of 64 guns; 25 leagues off the Texel, in chase of a frigate and sloop of war—he that gets this letter will put it in the news-papers.

"RICHARD WILKINSON, Midshipman."

LONDON, September 25.

According to advices received yesterday from France, we learn that M. de Couleux de Canteleu, has set off very suddenly, and in great haste from Paris to Basle.