

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, M A R C H 26, 1795.

T H O R N, December 6.

HE troubles in South-Prussia, on both sides of the Vistula, are nearly terminated. Notwithstanding that the regular post between this place and Polesna is not as yet re-established; we know positively, that on the other side of the river there are only a few wandering parties of insurgents who plunder the unfortunate villagers, and have proceeded even to the confines of Silesia.

We have just heard that the grand Polish army, which, after the capture of Warsaw, had become united under the command of Wgrzecki, has dispersed itself. It consisted of 20,000 men, but was so closely pursued by the Russian and Prussian generals, Desion and Kleist, that it had no alternative left.

The Poles have buried the principal part of their artillery, which was very numerous; a considerable quantity, however, has fallen into the hands of their pursuers.

A M S T E R D A M, December 26.

Our rejoicings on the supposed approach of peace have been as short as the motives were slight, on which they were founded. To-day the opinions of the people here are turned entirely to the continuance of the war. The movements which are taking place in the several kingdoms around us,—the secret agitation of their cabinets,—and the appearance of new armaments, entirely destroy every pacific hope, notwithstanding the show of negotiations, by which we are no longer to be amused. Our attention is now turned towards England. Our misery and our distress sufficiently bespeak our wishes, and Europe, whose councils Great-Britain at present appears to direct at her will, looks with anxiety on the fate of our provinces. Every bosom here is distressed and discouraged, and the pacific assurances, which we have lately received, serve but to add to the bitterness of our disappointment.

The checks which we daily receive, and the advances made by the enemy on our territory, increase and strengthen their feelings. We just now learn that our troops have evacuated fort St. Andre, and at the same time the Bommel-Waert.

By this retreat we are reduced to the mere defence of the right bank of the Waal, where our troops may be continually harassed by the enemy, who are encamped on the other side, without any apprehension from the fire of those ramparts to which we before owed our protection.

R O T T E R D A M, December 25.

Letters received here this morning state, that the fort St. Andre has been evacuated by the allies, and that the Bommel-Waert is in the possession of the French. The Meuse is already frozen, and if the present weather continues ten days longer nothing can prevent the enemy from taking the province of Holland. You may therefore easily perceive the consternation that pervades the minds of the people.

M A N H E I M, December 10.

We hear from Mayence, that the French, far from making any fresh attempt on that place, now keep at a greater distance, and that a courier has been dispatched to Paris, since the last ineffectual attack, to announce to the committee of public safety that it would be impossible to get possession of Mayence while the place could be supplied with ammunition and provisions from the other side of the Rhine. A French trumpet came to the governor, to require that the French prisoners should be well used, promising that the Germans would meet with similar treatment.

H A G U E, December 28.

At a very early hour this morning, a courier arrived here with the following intelligence:

On the 27th (yesterday) the French made a general attack on all the points of the frontier of the state: they were the more successful because the ice in the rivers and inundations had been rendered so strong by the severe and continual frost as to enable them to cross without difficulty, and to attack our out posts in the front and rear. They thus forced the troops of the state to retreat, to prevent their being entirely cut off.

In this way the enemy became masters of the Canton of Bommel, and as they had crossed the Waal, a part of the troops stationed in the aforesaid Canton near Bradaal, retreated during the night to the vicinity of the Dyke of Dalem, to prevent their being cut off on either side of Gorinchem, which would otherwise have been the case. The other troops in the Canton of Bommel, who had repaired to the second position, retreated towards Gorinchem, leaving behind them several hundreds of men.

In the Longstraat all the posts were attacked at the same time; and from thence the enemy proceeded to the posts of Capellen and Waspick, which, after an

obstinate resistance, were obliged to retreat towards Gertrudenberg.

At ten in the morning the enemy also attacked the right wing of the line of defence, stationed in the wood between Gertrudenberg and Breda: they turned the lunette constructed there; and, at the departure of the courier, were employed in attacking the forts of Steelhoven.

The posts of the pass of Swartenberg and Lomgat, having been both forced by a great superiority, the troops at Zevebergen, to prevent their being cut off retreated to Williamstadt.

The only account we have received respecting the post of Jer Heyde, states, that the dragoon guards belonging to that post had reached Williamstadt. By this it would appear that the line of Breda has been also forced, and the communication with that fortress thus cut off. We are in the mean time impatiently waiting for further details.

Jan. 8. The fate of Holland has probably been decided by this time, as it was determined by general Walmoden, who is commander in chief of the British and Hanoverian troops, in the absence of the duke of York, in concert with general Harcourt, that a general engagement with the French should be hazarded on the last day of the old year.

The allied forces amounted to fifty thousand effective men; those of the enemy were computed at one hundred thousand, but so circumstanced from situation and disposition, as to warrant a hope, that the decision would be highly advantageous to the general cause of the allies and prove the salvation of Holland.

In this belief we are warranted in saying, that the best informed men from Holland now in England are exceedingly sanguine; and they do not hesitate to declare, that they entertain no doubts for the safety of their country.

A few days, perhaps a few hours, after this appears, it will be known how far they are justified in their presumptions.

G O R C U M.

This place may now be considered as the key of Holland: and the following account of the true position of the French near that fortress, is inserted, lest the well informed part of the public should be amused with false hopes, and led into a fool's paradise by cunning or designing men.

The French are in possession of Bommel-Waert, on the island side formed by the confluence of the Meuse and the Waal, save only the castle of Lovenstein, a fortified house, where count Byland is confined for life, for the surrender of Breda.

This place is surrounded only by a ditch. Gorcum may be bombarded from thence across the river, and that town is neither casemated nor strong in itself, independent of the inundations.

Having crossed the Waal at Bommel, after the Dutch had lost all their gun-boats, &c. and part of three regiments at this place, they occupied the digue, or road upon the back of a ditch about eight feet high, along the Waal towards Gorcum, about three hours as they call it there,—about nine miles to that town.

Gorcum was the place where the principal column of the Prussians marched towards Amsterdam in 1787, and it was taken after a very slender resistance. From thence to Rotterdam is four hours, and to the Hague about seven hours journey.

Hence the absurdity of the idle report that gained ground on Tuesday, of their being repulsed and driven across the Waal by general Dundas; because our troops, in that case, must have marched across a plain covered with water, or perhaps frozen over.

L O N D O N, January 6.

The messenger left Arnheim on Tuesday last. At that time the army had not moved, but it was expected they would next day, as such orders had been issued on the 23th as plainly indicated the intentions of the commanders to cross the Rhine with all possible dispatch. Several regiments were on their march to London; a brigade was going to Aghesfort to take a position between that place and the Zuyder Sea; and, in short, the preparations on all hands seemed plainly to indicate a speedy march—probably for Hanover.

In Holland some little consternation prevails, but in general much less dismay than might have been expected from the rapid advances of an enemy so near their doors.—Some of the letters absolutely express more curiosity to know the issue, than alarm at the consequence. It was reported at Rotterdam when the mail came away, but there were no certain accounts of the event; that the French had taken Gorcum. It was also generally believed that they had possession of Tiel. At Dort the Dutch are endeavouring to keep the river open, by breaking the ice, to prevent the French from approaching that place; above 4000 men are employed in this occupation, but the frost is so intense that it is feared all their labour will in the end prove fruitless.

Unless the Dutch commissioners succeed in the negotiation on what they have been sent, we may soon expect to hear of the French being in possession of Rotterdam—Leerdam, where the advanced posts of the French are said to be stationed, being only ten miles from that place, and eight from Utrecht.

Some of our accounts state, that the Cautionary towns given up to the English in the reign of queen Elizabeth have never been properly redeemed by the Dutch, and are therefore now to be garrisoned by the British; for which purpose 300 troops are stated to have been expected at Helvoet when the mail came away. The progress of the French will, however, defeat this well planned project. The same letters inform us, that they have some thoughts of applying to England for a loan, to enable them to purchase the forbearance of the French, who among other conditions, it seems, require an enormous sum of money to consent to withdraw their forces; and the Dutch hope soon to repay the money by the lucrative trade which a peace would immediately enable them to carry on with all the powers at war. This demand is so very reasonable, that it should instantly be complied with; it is the least we can do for so faithful and brave an ally as the Dutch have proved themselves.

For an account of the operations of the French on the Waal, we refer our readers to the following letters from our correspondents in Holland and with

T H E B R I T I S H A R M Y.

December 25.

The bridge at Panneden, as well as that at Arnheim, has been carried away by great bodies of ice from the upper part of the river. This circumstance straitens us much for forage, an article of which before we had not a full supply; for now we have only left to us a difficult communication with the other side of the Rhine, by means of boats; but Providence is likely soon to remove this difficulty, for there is every appearance, that not only the Rhine, but also the Waal will soon be frozen over.

The bombardment at Grave has ceased for some days. The general opinion is, that the hardness of the ground, occasioned by the frost, prevents the besiegers from proceeding with their works against that place.

December 26.

We are so circumstanced at present that the most fertile imagination cannot form any opinion respecting our future operations. Our army which occupies the grounds along the banks of the Waal, is so posted, and had taken such precautions, that with every hope of success, we might have disputed with the enemy the passage, if the river had continued open; but already it is frozen over in different places, especially at Tiel. This circumstance, to which our tactics do not apply, should the frost continue only for two days longer, is likely to make our situation most critical,—for, by all accounts, the enemy are so numerous, that it will be hardly possible, with such a disparity of force, to present any effectual opposition to their progress.

The British troops are very sickly: such, however, as are in health are in good spirits and actually wish for a field day to relieve them from the mortifying situation in which, circumstanced as we are, we have for some time found ourselves. Let the issue be what it would, winter quarters they think would be one consequence of an action.

December 27.

We have just received information that, early this morning, a strong column of the French crossed the Meuse, on the ice, near the village of Driel. The Dutch, either unable or not inclined to oppose them, gave way in every direction. The enemy soon made themselves masters of the Bommel-Waert; for even the town of Bommel itself made little or no opposition, such of the troops as could get off retreating with precipitation across the Waal. The French have taken a number of prisoners, besides possessing themselves of the gun-boats and hospital vessels.

December 28.

The French after making themselves masters of Bommel, lost some little time in attempting to cross the Waal, from which they were then only a little distance. From the superiority of their numbers they soon bore down all opposition—indeed they hardly met with any. We have not yet learnt the particulars of the attack: we only know in general that they have fairly established themselves on this side of the Waal.

December 29.

Orders were issued last night for the army to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's warning. Orders were at the same time issued to general de Barch, to remove the hospital with all possible expedition. Our army, which lately consisted of 17,000, is now reduced to less than 10,000 effective men.

The Rhine as well as the Waal is now frozen over. The French, we learn, are moving towards Gorcum; but we are ignorant of their numbers. We expect