

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, SEPTEMBER 8, 1796.

MANHEIM, June 15.

The attack of yesterday lasted until five o'clock in the evening. It appears to have been very serious—the cannon and musketry, the sabre and the bayonet, were all employed, and the cavalry were warmly engaged. The French took, lost and retook, a redoubt upon the Rhinebach—and they must have lost many men, for the soldiers were obliged to pass the water with their guns over their heads, and under the fire of the Austrians. The attack extended all the way from Rheingensheim and Lipsheim, opposite Oggerheim. The French in the morning, dislodged the Austrians from Frankenthal, but in the afternoon the post was retaken from them.

This morning every thing is quiet—the Austrians have concentrated their position between Mundach and the old redoubt of the Rhine. The French have it in contemplation to employ the Imperialists in such a manner here as to prevent their detaching troops to the Lahn.

June 16. Last night a variety of skirmishes took place among the out-posts, on the side of Mundach, in which the Austrians were successful.

The following article is official.

The intrenchments in front of Manheim and Mundenheim being completed, general Wurmsfer, in the night of the 15th, stationed a sufficient number of troops in them for their defence. The remainder of the detachment which occupied the position from Rheingensheim to Frankenthal, have passed the Rhine to take possession of the ground that is marked out for their encampment.

June 17. The action on the 14th June was very bloody. On each side the greatest obliquity was evinced, but the loss of the French was infinitely more considerable than ours; for after having been driven from several redoubts, which they scaled three different times, our cavalry pursued them to a great distance. In the environs of the Rhebutte, the ground is covered with dead bodies.

The head quarters of general Wurmsfer are at Scherzengen. The troops, which on the night of the 15th, repassed the Rhine, are going to Schwetzingen. The intrenched camp upon the left bank of the Rhine, is defended by 150 pieces of cannon, and by a great number of troops extended from Manheim to Rheingensheim. The French since yesterday, have occupied Oggerheim and Frankenthal.

BANKS OF THE MAINE, June 15.

According to letters from the left bank of the Rhine, the French were not at Worms on the 13th. On the 12th, one of their patrols shewed themselves on the Pfedersheim road.

MENTZ, June 16.

Every thing is quiet in our environs. The enemy are not seen within 3 leagues of us. It is on the side of Bingen they approach the nearest. Their detachments advance beyond the Sieg, levy contributions on the villages, and then return.

WEITZLAR, June 16.

Yesterday was an alarming day, but it ended fortunately for us, as the French were compelled to retreat. Weitzlar, Franckfort, and the neighbouring country, are now delivered from the enemy.

The following is the account of the bloody action:

Yesterday at noon a cannonade began near our town. The French made two false attacks on Lenu and Wehrdorf, of both which places the Austrians had again possession. General Werneck immediately sent a reinforcement to Wehrdorf. About two in the afternoon, the French under general Lefebvre and Grenier, attacked the town from the side of the forest of Abergberg, with 11,000 men. The Austrians had only their advanced troops and light troops on the side of the town. The affair was at first considered as of slight importance, and Werneck, therefore, only brought up the regiments from the camp behind town. But these were not sufficient, as the corps of Werneck only consisted of 7 or 8000 men.

The Austrians in the first two hours lost many brave men; but between four and five the archduke Charles arrived, and headed the troops himself. This inspired the soldiers with new courage, and turned the battle in our favour. Till seven o'clock the event of the day was doubtful. Had the Austrians been compelled to retreat, our city would have been exposed to the most imminent danger. Towards evening arrived some Austrian regiments, and about 7 o'clock 9000 Saxons. These decided the victory.

General Werneck in person at the head of the regiment of Karatzky, forced up the mountain, took five pieces of cannon, and the Saxons, on the left wing, two. The heavy artillery also now came up, of which the Austrians had before been in want, and,

about 9 o'clock the French were reduced to flight, and driven beyond Altenberg. To-day the Austrians are five leagues in advance. The event of this battle was of the utmost importance to this city, Franckfort, and the whole neighbouring country.

Another letter, same date.

Yesterday was to us a day of anxious expectation. At eleven in the morning we heard a firing of small arms and platoons in the Klosterwald, about half a league from this city. About one, the chateaux of Saxe Weimer had dislodged the French from thence; on which the Austrian grenadiers, and the cuirassiers of Nassau, advanced, and a warm action, with a very heavy cannonade, ensued. About 5 o'clock the archduke Charles arrived, and brought up the grenadier post at the Galzenberg opposite Franckfort. The victory was obstinately contested on both sides, until the Saxon cavalry arrived, and turned the scale in favour of the Austrians, and the enemy took flight.

We were now all busily employed in bringing in the wounded Austrian soldiers.

The archduke Charles gave us the pleasing intelligence, that we had nothing more to fear, as the French were retreating with the utmost precipitation. The Austrians are already at Sinn, four leagues from this place. Ten pieces of cannon and a number of prisoners have been just brought in.

Same date—ten o'clock at night.

Our brave defenders are following up the advantages they have obtained with the utmost alacrity and resolution, and excite in us the hope of still greater successes.

Fifty French fusiliers have been brought in here, made prisoners at Herborn, four leagues from hence; as also seven chasseurs and a French commissary with his chest from Dillenburg. On the chasseurs alone were found 2000 Louis d'Ors. One train of artillery after another is now passing through this city towards Dillenburg and Weilburg. The Austrians are at Lahnberg, three leagues from hence, on the road to Weilburg—the latter town was yesterday morning evacuated by the French. As the French are already driven from the vicinity of Herborn and Dillenburg, the whole of the Austrian army will, to-morrow, pass the Lahn, in pursuit of the enemy.

The Austrians have suffered considerably in the late actions; but the French still more—Some estimate the loss of the latter at from two to three thousand men killed, and from 1700 to 2000 made prisoners.

It is asserted that general Lefebvre is among the prisoners.

P. S. The part of the Austrian army which is already on this side of the Lahn, continues to advance. The French have already retreated to Limbourg. The archduke Charles passed the last night here, his head quarters are at Weilburg.

June 17. The following is a more particular account of the actions which took place on the 14th, 15th, and 16th, near this city and Altenberg.

Those of the 14th consisted chiefly of slight skirmishes without any formal attack, the French, however, were driven from Werdo, Berhausen, Phrinhausen, Dalheim, and Koffenfort. All these places suffered much when they retreated.

On the 15th, the action began to be warm. The French, informed that Austrian reinforcements had arrived on the Lahn and the Dill, endeavoured to force the centre of the Austrians, and general Lefebvre undertook to do this with 29,000 men; for as he had commanded in the expedition of last September, he was well acquainted with the country. He therefore, on the 15th, in the morning, attacked the Austrians at Berhausen and Wehrdorf, and endeavoured to penetrate with all his force through the wood of Berhausen and Altenberg. The Austrian grenadiers, the regiment of hussars of Verzay, and the Saxon chasseurs, who had come up, opposed them. The French had erected masked batteries from the heights near the Lahn to Altenkirchen, and made a terrible fire of cartridge shot and small arms on these troops, by which the Saxon chasseurs suffered exceedingly.

Field-marshal lieutenant Werneck advanced to their support with the troops posted behind the town. The firing was terrible, and the Austrians began to give way in several places. The ground and the weather were both unfavourable to them; every thing was adverse, and a retreat appeared unavoidable. Such was the state of the affair at 7 in the evening, when the archduke Charles came entirely unexpectedly, on the full gallop, to the field of battle. During the hottest fire of cartridge shot, he rode through all the ranks, conjured the troops to hold out only a little longer, as reinforcements were on their march.

The Austrians now bravely sustained the enemy's fire, and immediately after struck the Austrian troops from Weilmunster, and Nussheim, and drew towards Königsburg. At the same time the brave Saxon troops advanced by Rachtelberg to the field of battle, and also a number of pieces of artillery, of which the Austrians had before been greatly in want. Batteries

were immediately erected, and a vigorous fire commenced. The Austrian and Saxon cavalry surrounded the wood, the infantry advanced against the batteries with bayonets fixed, seized them while the cavalry cut their way into the wood, and the French were obliged to retreat, and victory decided in favour of the Austrians about ten o'clock. Both sides have lost a great number of men. The cartridge shot was very destructive to the Austrians. The Saxons achieved miracles of bravery, and to them we are principally indebted for this important victory. Many French prisoners are not yet brought in—a wounded colonel of cavalry is one of the principal, twelve pieces of cannon have been taken. One Saxon regiment lost 10 killed, and 147 wounded; the Saxon chasseurs, however, have suffered most.

We have this moment received the news, that after the battle to-day, which lasted from four to six in the morning, the French were driven from Lahn, Stockhausen, Biseberg, and Weilberg.

Yesterday the hussars of Blankenstein passed the Lahn, and made several prisoners.

FRANCKFORT, June 16.

Eight P. M.

An estafette this moment arrived from Weitzlar, brings us news that the action yesterday was wholly favourable to the Austrians. The enemy, 18,000 strong, under general Lefebvre, was driven four leagues back, and four pieces of cannon were taken. The archduke's head quarters are at Neuborn, half a league from Weitzlar.

June 17. In the evening.

Letters from Wurges and Limbourg, dated this day, announce the French have entirely retreated from the environs of the Lahn. They added, that the Imperial army during the night made further progress. At ten the next morning a heavy cannonade was heard at Limbourg—the enemy, to cover their retreat, cut up the roads and filled them with trees. The roads were full of shoes, coats, &c. belonging to the French.

June 18. Nine at night.

An estafette is at this moment arrived, with the news that the head quarters of the archduke Charles were this morning at Hackenberg, the advanced posts of the Imperial army are already before Altenkirchen. The retreat of the French army is very rapid. Several pieces of cannon, powder, powder waggons and baggage, have already been taken from them.

According to accounts received here this day, one column of the army of Jourdan is passing the Rhine at Neuwied, and the remainder retreating to Duffeldorf. The greater part of the army of the archduke is advancing beyond the Lahn. The communication is now open with Ehrenbriststein, the blockade of which is raised.

A part of the French army has already passed the Sieg, on its retreat.

General Lefebvre has had his hand cut off by a Saxon horseman, and his brother is killed. The report that the general was taken prisoner is not confirmed.

SCHWALBACH, June 16.

Yesterday morning the Imperial troops who were in the environs of Limbourg, were put in motion for the purpose of proceeding to the other side of the Lahn.

The Austrians proceeded directly to Montaubur, to pursue the enemy, who were in full retreat on that side.

The French also retired yesterday morning from Elms and Nassau, and were pursued by gen. Finck.

LUGANO, June 18.

It is the plan of the French to erect Austrian Lombardy into an independent republic. Nobility and titles are already abolished all over the Milanese. The French republic will, it is said, grant Pavia, with its territory and some other portion of Lombardy, to the king of Sardinia. It is certain, beyond any doubt, that a new army now forming in Piedmont, with the consent of the French, is destined to garrison a part of Lombardy.

COLOGNE, June 20.

General Lefebvre, whom flying reports announced to be mortally wounded, made prisoner, killed, arrived here on the 18th instant. He is indeed wounded, but his wound cannot be dangerous, for he walked about the town the same evening he arrived. He has already set off for Duffeldorf; his div. hon. and a quantity of baggage and artillery follow him.

June 21. The Austrians have arrived at Deutz, and point this city. It is said they intend to attack Duffeldorf. We hear this moment that some men of the army of the north, and several battalions of Batavians, marched from Holland, to reinforce the French at Duffeldorf.