

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U N E 8, 1797.

BRUSSELS, March 26.

THE division of the army of the North, commanded by general Macdonald, as also all the French troops in the pay of the republic of Batavia, who are still in the different provinces, have received orders to march immediately to the borders of the Rhine, where the republican armies are daily increasing, by the numerous reinforcements which arrive from the old and new departments of France. Yesterday and to-day, passed by this place on their way to the army, reinforcements of cavalry, artillery with their ordnance, and riflemen. Convoys of ammunition, cannon, and military stores regularly arrive.

Letters from the borders of the Rhine mention, that they every moment expect hostilities to commence. Several generals and principal officers belonging to the army of the Sambre and Meuse are arrived at Bonn, from whence they will proceed to Coblenz, and general Hoche who is now at Cologne, will delay no time in following, as soon as he shall have concluded the organizing the administration of the conquered countries, and the different forms of the army.

The French generals at Dusseldorf and Cologne, are preparing to open the campaign immediately.

The French army on the right bank of the Rhine amounts to 36,000 men; it is under the command of general Macdonald, who acquitted himself with so much honour during the campaign of 1794, with the army of the North.

The division of Bernadotte which was to have joined the army of Buonaparte, is replaced by a division of the army of the Ocean.

VIENNA, March 25.

The information received from Italy is by no means favourable. The French have attacked the Austrian lines in Venetian Friaul, which brought on a bloody contest, in which a number of men were lost on both sides.—The Austrians were obliged to leave their advantageous position after the French had been four times repulsed, but returned with fresh troops, which compelled the Imperialists to retire behind the river Lizonza—the French, then entering Udine, threatened Palma, Nuova, and even Trieste.—Two Austrian generals are made prisoners, and two squadrons of hussars nearly cut in pieces.

Nothing could equal the courage of the Austrians in general, except that of the archduke himself, who was exposed to the most imminent danger. Two French hussars were within a few paces of him, who being observed by some of the archduke Joseph's hussars, they flew to his relief, and cut down the French hussars, and thus saved the prince—but the most unpleasant circumstance is, that at present this general can no longer receive any reinforcements immediately from the Rhine through the Tyrolian country.

The circumstance of the archduke's being attacked on the same day on which he intended to have attacked the enemy, has given rise to a number of speculations.

FRANCFÖRT, March 25.

A great number of letters, which arrived yesterday from Basle, bring advice, that a conference, which lasted two days, has taken place between the archduke Charles, prince d'Aremberg, on one part, and generals Buonaparte and Clarke, on the other. The proposals of peace, made by the French generals to the archduke, are said to have been equitable, and indeed very advantageous to Austria; and they only waited the return of the courier, whom his highness dispatched to Vienna, to publish the armistice which was to precede the further negotiations in Italy. Baron Degelmann is said to have frequent conferences with Barthelemi at Basle, who has sent several couriers to Paris.

The French division of general Championet is now gone from the environs of Coblenz to Dusseldorf, but the troops refused to march.

Accounts from Venice state, that the French government has offered to Austria the restitution of Mantua and Milan, besides a large tract of territory in Italy, as an indemnity for Belgium, and the provinces on the left bank of the Rhine. That part of the Venetian state, which has declared itself under the protection of the French, is even said to be defined for that purpose.

PARIS, April 7.

ARMY OF ITALY.

Buonaparte, commander in chief of the army of Italy, to the Executive Directory.

Head quarters at Valvasone, March 17.

Since the battle of Divoli, citizens directors, the army of Italy occupied the banks of the Piava and Lavis; the emperor's army commanded by prince

Charles occupied the other bank of the Piava, had its centre behind the Cordevole, and supported its right on the Adige, from the side of Salurne.

On the 10th Ventose, in the morning, the division of general Massena repaired to Feltré; at his approach the enemy evacuated the line of Cordevole, and marched to Bellune.

General Serrurier's division advanced to Asels, amidst the most horrible weather; but wind and rain, on the eve of a battle, have always been an omen of success to the army of Italy.

On the 12th, at day break, the division crossed the Piava, facing the village of Vider; notwithstanding the rapidity and depth of the water, we only lost a young drummer.—The chief of the squadron, Lafalles, at the head of a detachment of cavalry, and the adjutant-general Le Clerc, at the head of the 21st light infantry, worsted the hostile corps which waited to oppose our passage, and advanced rapidly to St. Salvador; but the enemy, at the first news of the passage, were afraid of being surrounded, and evacuated their camp of Le Campanu.

General Guieux, at two o'clock in the afternoon, passed the Piava at Opeladetto, and arrived in the evening at Coneglianor.

Our cavalry, in the course of that day, encountered several times that of the enemy—had always the advantage, and took 80 hussars.

On the 13th, general Guieux, with his division, arrived at Sacile, fell on the enemy's rear guard, and notwithstanding the darkness of the night, took 100 prisoners from them. A corps of hulans wanted to capitulate. Citizen Stabeck, chief of the squadron, was killed, and general Dugna slightly wounded.

At the same time, general Massena's division having reached Cellurne, pursued the enemy, who has retreated to Cadore, hemmed in their rear guard, took 700 prisoners, among whom were 100 hussars, a colonel, and general Lusignan, having disgraced himself in his conduct towards our sick at Breicia, I gave orders to conduct him to France without being exchanged.

On the 16th, general Guieux's division set out from Pardepone, at 5 o'clock in the morning, that of general Serrurier left Pafiano at 4, both directing their march to Valvasone.

General Guieux's division passed beyond Valvasone, and arrived on the banks of the Tagliamento at 11 o'clock in the morning.—The hostile army was entrenched on the opposite side of the river, of which it pretended to dispute the passage. My aid-de-camp, the chief of squadron Croisser, went at the head of 25 guides, to reconnoitre it as far as the intrenchments, and was received with grape shot.

General Bernadotte's division arrived at noon. I immediately gave orders to general Guieux to march to the left, in order to cross the river on the right of the enemy's intrenchments, under the protection of 11 pieces of artillery. General Bernadotte was to cross it on the right; both divisions formed their battalion of grenadiers, ranged themselves in order of battle, having each half a brigade of light infantry before them, supported by two battalions of grenadiers, and flanked by the cavalry. The light infantry manœuvred as riflemen; general Demmerin on the left, and general Depinasse on the right, made their artillery advance, and a brisk cannonade was opened. I gave orders to every half brigade to file off to a close column on the wings of the second, and of their first and third battalions.

General Duphot, at the head of the 17th light infantry, threw himself into the river, and presently gained the opposite bank. General Bon supported him with the grenadiers of Guieux's division. The whole line put itself in motion, each half brigade *en echelon*, with squadrons of cavalry to fill up the empty spaces from behind. The hostile cavalry wanted several times to charge our infantry, but without success—the river was crossed, and the enemy was routed in every direction. They attempted to assail our right with their cavalry, and our left with their infantry. I sent general Dugna, and the adjutant-general Kellerman, at the head of the cavalry of reserve, assisted by our infantry, commanded by the adjutant-general Mireur; we worried the enemies cavalry, and took prisoners the general commanding them.

Guieux ordered the village of Gardisca to be attacked, and notwithstanding the darkness of the night, he captured it, and completely routed the enemy; prince Charles had just time enough left to save himself.

General Serrurier's division passed the river, in proportion as it arrived, and ranged itself in battle array to serve as a corps of reserve.

In that day we took from the enemy six pieces of cannon, one general, several superior officers, and made from four to five hundred prisoners. The quickness of our display and manœuvre, and the superiority of our artillery, alarmed the enemy to such a degree, that they would not make a stand, and profited by the night to take flight.

The adjutant general Kellerman received several cuts with the sabre in charging at the head of the cavalry with his usual courage.

I am going to occupy myself in rewarding the officers who distinguished themselves in the different actions.

(Signed)

BUONAPARTE.

General Buonaparte, to the Executive Directory, Head quarters at Gardisca, 30 Ventose, 20 March.

Citizens Directors,

I have given you an account of the passage of the Piava, of the battles of Longara, of Sacile and Tagliamento.

The 18th, the division of general Bernadotte departed at 3 o'clock in the morning, marched round Palvanova, and took position on the torrent of the Torre where the hussars met him.

The division of general Serrurier took position on the right, that of general Guieux on the left. I sent the citizen Lafalle, with the 24th regiment of chassours, to Udine.

The enemy, at our approach, evacuated Palmanoma, where we found 30,000 rations of bread, &c. It was but 10 days before that prince Charles seized that place from the Venetians; he wished to occupy it—but he had not had time to establish himself there.

General Massena arrived at St. Daniel, at Otopo, at Gemona, and pushed his advanced guards into the defiles.

The 29th, general Bernadotte advanced and blocked up Gardisca; general Serrurier marched opposite Saint Pietro, for the purpose of passing the Isonzo. The enemy had several pieces of cannon, and some battalions on the other side, for defending the passage.

I ordered different manœuvres to alarm the enemy, and the passage was effected without opposition. I cannot forget the trait of courage of citizen Androssi, chief of brigade of artillery, who, ordered to try whether the river was fordable, precipitated himself into the water, and passed and repassed on foot.

Passage of L'Isongo, and the capture of Gardisca.

General Serrurier reached Gardisca, by his march upon the heights which governed this town.

To make a diversion, and to preclude the enemy from the discovery of our manœuvre, general Bernadotte caused the riflemen to attack them in their intrenchments; but our soldiers, impelled by their natural ardour, advanced with their fixed bayonets to the very walls of Gardisca. They were there received by a heavy discharge of musketry and grape shot. General Bernadotte, obliged to support them, brought forward four pieces of cannon to force the gates; but they were defended by a fleche well intrenched.

General Serrurier, in the mean-time, arrived upon the heights which commanded Gardisca, rendering every means of retreat impossible. The enemy, panic struck, saw no possibility of defence, and despaired of making their escape. General Bernadotte presented the summons subjoined, when the enemy capitulated.

Five thousand prisoners, the flower of prince Charles's army, ten pieces of cannon, and eight standards, were the fruits of this manœuvre. We at the same time passed L'Isongo, and took Gardisca.

The division of general Bernadotte conducted itself with that gallantry which guarantees our future success. General Bernadotte himself, his aid de-camp, and generals, braved every difficulty and danger. I solicit the rank of general of brigade for adjutant-general Mireur.

BATTLE OF CASASOLA.

The division of general Massena, carrying the first of La Chiusa, encountering the enemy, who wished to dispute the passage of the bridge of Casasola. The riflemen forced the enemy to fall back, and immediately after the grenadiers of the 32d and 57th demi-brigade, in close columns, forced the bridge, beating the enemy, notwithstanding their intrenchments and chevaux de frize, pursuing them even to Pontieba, taking 600 prisoners, all belonging to the regiments lately brought from the Rhine. All the magazines which the enemy possessed on this side became also our property.

The rangers of the 10th regiment, with sword in hand, rushed forward to the enemy's intrenchments, and have consequently new claims to the esteem of the army.

Signed,

BUONAPARTE.

Buonaparte to the Executive Directory.

Head quarters, Goritz, 2d Germinal, 22 March.

Citizen Directors,

We entered yesterday into Goritz. The enemy's army have effected their retreat with so much precipitation, that it has left in our hands four hospitals, containing 1500 sick, and all the magazines of pro-