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LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

DOWNING-STREET—SEPT. 4. 1806.

A dispatch has been this day received by the Right Honourable William Windham, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General Sir John Stuart, commanding his Majesty's troops acting in Calabria, of which the following is a copy :

Camp on the Plain of Maida,
July 6. 1806.

SIR,

It is with the most heartfelt satisfaction that I have the honour of reporting to you, for the information of his Majesty, the particulars of an action, in which the French army quartered in this province have sustained a signal defeat by the troops under my command.

General Regnier, having been apprised of our disembarkation at St Euphemia, appears to have made a rapid march from Reggio, uniting, as he advanced, his detached corps, for the purpose of attacking, and, with his characteristic confidence, of defeating us.

On the afternoon of the 3d instant, I received intelligence that he had that day encamped near Maida, about ten miles distant from our position, that his force consisted at the moment of about four thousand infantry and 300 cavalry, together with four pieces of artillery, and that he was in expectation of being joined within a day or two by three thousand more troops, who were marching after him in a second division.

I determined therefore to advance towards his position, and, having left four companies of Watteville's regiment, under Major Fisher, to protect the stores, and occupy a work which had been thrown up at our landing place, the body of the army marched the next morning, according to the following detail.

[Price Sixpence.

Advanced Corps—Lieutenant-Colonel Kempt, with two four-pounders.
Light Infantry Battalion.
Detachment Royal Corsican Rangers.
Detachment Royal Sicilian Volunteers.

1st Brigade—Brigadier-General Cole, with three four-pounders.

Grenadier Battalion.
27th Regiment.

2d Brigade—Brigadier-General Ackland, with three four-pounders.

78th Regiment.
81st Regiment.

3d Brigade—Colonel Ofwald, with two four-pounders.
58th Regiment.
Watteville's Regiment, five companies.
20th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, landed during the action.

Reserve of Artillery—Major Lemoine.

4 Six-pounders and 2 howitzers.

Total—Rank and file, including the Royal Artillery, 4795.

General Regnier was encamped on the side of a woody hill, below the village of Maida, sloping into the plain of St Eufemia; his flanks were strengthened by a thick impervious underwood. The Amato, a river perfectly fordable, but of which the sides are extremely marshy, ran along his front; my approach to him from the sea side (along the borders of which, I directed my march, until I had nearly turned his left) was across a spacious plain, which gave him every opportunity of minutely observing my movements.

After some loose firing of the flankers to cover the deploiments of the two armies, by nine o'clock in the morning the opposing fronts were warmly engaged, when the prowess of the rival nations seemed now fairly to be at trial before the world, and the superiority was greatly and gloriously decided to be our own.

The corps which formed the right of the advanced line, was the battalion of light infantry commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Kempt, con-

sisting of the light companies of the 20th, 27th, 35th, 58th, 61st, 81st, and Watteville's, together with one hundred and fifty chosen battalion men of the 35th regiment, under Major Robinson.—Directly opposed to them was the favourite French regiment the 1st Légère. The two corps at the distance of about one hundred yards fired reciprocally a few rounds, when, as if by mutual agreement, the firing was suspended, and in close compact order and awful silence, they advanced towards each other, until their bayonets began to cross. At this momentous crisis the enemy became appalled. They broke, and endeavoured to fly, but it was too late; they were overtaken with the most dreadful slaughter.

Brigadier-General Ackland, whose brigade was immediately on the left of the light infantry, with great spirit availed himself of this favourable moment to press instantly forward upon the corps in his front; the brave 78th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, and the 81st regiment, under Major Plenderleath, both distinguished themselves on this occasion. The enemy fled with dismay and disorder before them, leaving the plain covered with their dead and wounded.

The enemy being thus completely discomfited on their left, began to make a new effort with their right, in the hopes of recovering the day. They were resisted most gallantly by the brigade under Brigadier-General Cole. Nothing could shake the undaunted firmness of the grenadiers under Lieutenant-Colonel O'Callaghan, and of the 27th regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Smith. The cavalry, successively repelled from before their front, made an effort to turn their left, when Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, who had that morning landed from Messina with the 20th regiment, and was coming up to the army during the action, having observed the movement, threw his regiment opportunely into a small cover upon

