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FROM FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1809.

DOWNING STREET, JANUARY 10, 1809.

Dispatches, from which the following are Extracts, were, on the 8th instant, received at the office of Lord Viscount CASTLEBLAUGH, one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Lieutenant-General Sir JOHN MOORE, K.B., Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Forces employed in Spain.

Benevente, December 28, 1808.

Since I had the honour to address you upon the 16th, from Toro, the army has been almost constantly marching through snow, and with cold that has been very intense. The weather, within these few days, has turned to rain, which is much more uncomfortable than the cold, and has rendered the roads almost impassable. On the 21st the army reached Sahagun; it was necessary to halt there, in order to refresh the men, and on account of provisions. The information I received was, that that Marshal Soult was at Saldana with about 16,000 men, with posts along the river from Guarda to Carrion.

The army was ordered to march in two columns at eight o'clock on the night of the 23d, to force the bridge at Carrion, and from thence proceed to Saldana. At six o'clock that evening, I received information that considerable reinforcements had arrived at Carrion from Palencia; and a letter from the Marquis de la Romana informed me, that the French were advancing from Madrid either to Valladolid or Salamanca. It was evident that it was too late to prosecute the attempt upon Soult, that I must be satisfied with the diversion I had occasioned, and that I had no time to lose to secure my retreat.

The next morning, Lieutenant-General Hope, with his own division, and that of Lieutenant-General Fraser, marched to Majorga. I sent Sir David Baird, with his division, to pass the

river at Valencia, and followed Lieutenant-General Hope on the 25th, with the reserve and light brigades, by Majorga, Valderas, to Benevente. The cavalry, under Lord Paget, followed the reserve on the 26th; both the latter corps entered this place yesterday. We continue our march on Astorga. Generals Hope and Fraser are already gone on; Sir David Baird proceeds to-morrow from Valencia; and I shall leave this with the reserve at the same time; Lord Paget will remain with the cavalry, to give us notice of the approach of the enemy; hitherto their infantry have not come up, but they are near, and the cavalry is round us in great numbers; they are checked by our cavalry, which have obtained, by their spirit and enterprise, an ascendancy over that of the French, which nothing but great superiority of numbers on their part will get the better of.

The diversion made by our march on Sahagun, though at great risk to ourselves, has been complete; it remains to be seen what advantage the Spaniards in the south will be able to take of it; but the march of the French on Badajoz was stopped when its advanced guard had reached Talaveira de la Reina, and every thing disposable is now turned in this direction.

The only part of the army which has been hitherto engaged with the enemy has been the cavalry; and it is impossible for me to say too much in their praise. I mentioned to your Lordship, in my letter of the 16th, the success Brigadier-General Stewart had met with in defeating a detachment of cavalry at Rueda. Since that, few days have passed without his taking or killing different parties of the French, generally superior in force to those which attacked them. On the march to Sahagun, Lord Paget had information of 6 or 700 cavalry being in that town. He marched, on the night of the 20th, from some villages where he was posted,

in front of the enemy at Majorga, with the 20th and 15th hussars. The 10th marched straight to the town, whilst Lord Paget, with the 15th, endeavoured to turn it. Unfortunately, he fell in with a patrol, one of whom escaped, and gave the alarm. By this means, the French had time to form on the outside of the town before Lord Paget got round. He immediately charged them, beat them, and took from 140 to 150 prisoners, amongst whom were two lieutenant-colonels and eleven officers, with the loss, on our part, of six or eight men, and perhaps twenty wounded.

There have been taken by the cavalry from 4 to 500 French, besides a considerable number killed;—this since we begun our march from Salamanca. On his march from Sahagun, on the 20th, Lord Paget, with two squadrons of the 10th, attacked a detachment of cavalry at Majorga, killed 20, and took above 100 prisoners. Our cavalry is very superior in quality to any the French have here; and the right spirit has been infused into them by the example and instruction of their two leaders, Lord Paget and Brigadier-General Stewart.

Astorga, December 31, 1808.

I arrived here yesterday. Major-General Fraser, with his division, will be at Villa Franca this day, and will proceed on to Lugo. Lieutenant-General Hope, with his division, stopped yesterday two leagues from this, and proceeds this morning, followed by Sir David Baird. The two flank brigades go by the road of Penferada. I shall follow, with the reserve and cavalry, to Villa Franca either this night or tomorrow morning, according as I hear the approach of the French. The morning I marched from Benevente, some squadrons of Bonaparte's guards passed the river at a ford above the bridge. They were attacked by Brigadier-

Price Sixpence.



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