



THE

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FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 7. TO TUESDAY, APRIL 11. 1797.

DOWNING-STREET, April 8. 1797.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an extract, has been received by the Right Honourable Lord Grenville, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from Colonel Graham, dated head-quarters of his Royal Highness the Archduke Charles, at Vippach, March 20. 1797.

In my last dispatch from Udine of the 14th instant, I had the honour of informing your Lordship that the Archduke's head-quarters were just going to be moved forward to Paperiano, near Codroipo, in consequence of a report of the French army being in motion towards the Piave. This intelligence was soon after confirmed; with the additional account of General Massena's having penetrated by Keltri into the upper valley of the Piave, and defeated General Lusignan near Bellerno; but it was still doubtful whether their principal corps was advancing towards the Tagliamento merely to cover General Massena's column, or to undertake offensive operations. On the 15th General Hohenzollern, who had been left with a detachment on the Piave, retired behind the Tagliamento, where the Imperial army was cantoned. On the 16th, about ten A. M. the enemy advanced by the high road of Valvasone, and pushed some small parties of cavalry and infantry across the river, which, from the extraordinary drought of the season, was every where fordable, but these were driven back with some loss. A distant cannonade was then kept up during the rest of the day till four P. M. when the enemy, having formed a very strong column of a demi-brigade in front, intermixed with cavalry and artillery, advanced ra-

pidly, and crossed the river near the upper end of the extensive and open plain; occupied by twelve weak squadrons. His Royal Highness's personal exertions could not prevent these from yielding to such superior force. After this successful attack by the enemy's left, their right wing crossed the river without opposition; but the progress of their numerous cavalry was checked by the steady behaviour of the regiment of Puis, posted at the end of the plain next to Codroipo.

The rest of the infantry was under arms further back, near their cantonments, and was not engaged. On seeing the enemy's force, which both in cavalry and infantry was greatly superior to that of the Imperial army, the Archduke ordered a retreat after sunset. The head-quarters were that night at Ontagnaul, and were removed on the 17th to Visco, behind Palma, which, not being in a state of defence, was evacuated on the 18th; the head-quarters being removed to Gorice.

On the 19th the enemy advanced towards the Isonzo, in two columns above and below Gradiska, which served as a tete du pont over that river. Their left was repulsed in an attempt to storm Gradiska, but their right found little difficulty in crossing the river Casseglano, though in ordinary seasons it is scarcely any where fordable; and as they might there turn the left of the position of Gorice it became necessary to abandon it.

The head-quarters came here this morning.

CARLTON-HOUSE, April 5. 1797.

The Right Honourable Lady Southampton is appointed one of the Ladies of the Bedchamber to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

(A.)

[Price 4d.]

