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FROM FRIDAY, JULY 12. TO TUESDAY, JULY 16. 1799.

DOWNING-STREET, July 10.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are copies, have been this day received from the Right Honourable Lord WILLIAM BENTINCK by the Right Honourable Lord GRENVILLE, his Majesty's Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

MY LORD,

Placenza, June 22. 1799.

Before I begin to relate the different actions which have taken place, and which I am happy to say have terminated in the most complete success, it will be necessary to state to your Lordship the situation of the allied army, by which you will be better able to understand the views of the enemy, and the movements by which they have been defeated. The great and extensive plan of operations undertaken by Field-Marshal Suwarrow have necessarily very much divided his force. Besides the siege of Turin—Mantua, Alexandria, and Tortona were blockaded. The passes of Susa, Pignerol, and the Col d'Assiette, have been occupied. Major-General Hohenzollern was posted at Modena with a considerable corps: Lieut.-General Ott, with ten thousand men, at Reggio, observed the movements of the enemy on that side, while Field-Marshal Suwarrow remained at Turin with the rest of the army. This divided state of the army appears to have presented to General Moreau the most favourable opportunity of retrieving the French affairs in Italy. He hoped, by strongly reinforcing the army of Naples, that General Macdonald would be able to defeat the separate corps of Generals Ott and Hohenzollern, and afterwards to effect a junction with the army under his own command; and he probably conceived that the Field-Marshal was too distant to afford assistance. With this view the army of Macdonald, which had advanced very far to the North of Italy, was joined by the division of Victor, and, from the report of the French officers taken, must have amounted to near thirty thousand

men, composed entirely of French, with the exception of one Polish legion. Field-Marshal Suwarrow having received information of the intentions of the enemy, immediately collected all the force at Alexandria, whence he marched on the 15th with seventeen battalions of Russians, twelve battalions of Austrian dragoons, and three regiments of Cossacks. In the meantime General Macdonald had fallen upon Major-General Hohenzollern, and had obliged him to cross the Po with considerable loss. Lieutenant-General Ott had also been obliged to retire from Reggio to Placenza. On the 17th, the French attacked General Ott, and compelled him to fall back upon Castel St Giovanni, when the arrival of the army, under the command of Field-Marshal Suwarrow, enabled Lieutenant-General Ott to repulse the French behind the Tidone river with the loss of one piece of cannon and several prisoners.—On the 18th, the army marched in three columns to attack the enemy. The Russian General Rosenberg commanded the right column, the Russian General Foerster the centre, and General Melas the left. The Russian Major-General Prince Prokration commanded the advanced guard, Prince Licktenstein the reserve. The columns moved at twelve o'clock. The country is perfectly flat, and very much intersected with ditches and rows of vines. It does not appear that the enemy occupied any particular position. An advanced corps of two battalions and two guns at Casaleggio was attacked by the Russian grenadiers, and the whole made prisoners. The French line retired behind the Trebbia. It was too late, and the troops were too much fatigued to make a general attack, which was ordered for the next morning. The Trebbia is the most rapid torrent in Italy. The distance from one bank to the other is near a mile. The in-

(R.)

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