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LONDON GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY,
MONDAY, SEPT. 9, 1799.

DOWNING-STREET, SEPT. 9, 1799.

A dispatch, of which the following is a copy, has been received this day from the Right Hon. Lord William Bentinck, by the Right Hon. Lord Grenville, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

My Lord, Novi, Aug. 19, 1799.

The column under the command of General Kray arrived at Alessandria, from Mantua, on the 12th, and on the day following was to have proceeded to the place of its destination, on the left of the whole, according to the plan of operations which I sent your Lordship some time ago. On the 12th, the enemy was in motion in different points, and it appeared as if he meditated some attack. General Kray was therefore ordered to remain at Alessandria till further orders. General Bellegarde, with 8500 men, was at Serzo, and the Field Marshal, with 6500 Russians, was at Poggio Fomigoio; his advanced posts in front of Seravalle. The remainder of the troops was at Revalta.

On the 13th, the enemy continued to advance in great numbers. The Marshal had given orders, that no partial action should be engaged in with the French; in consequence of which General Bellegarde was directed, upon the approach of the enemy, to march to Ritorta, upon the Orba. The advanced posts before Seravalle were also driven in, and the French took possession of Novì. On the 14th, General Kray advanced to Trebbiana. It was hoped that General Kray might have been able to have cut off a small French column which had followed Gen. Bellegarde as far as Calteferro; but it had early in the morning of the 14th, turned to its right, and had marched to Novì, where the whole French force was concentrated.

Princè de Saxe.

The great and extensive plain of Piedmont is terminated at Novì by a very long ridge of hills, which rise so suddenly, and are so steep, that the ascent is extremely difficult, though the height is not very great; they extend towards Basaluzzo on one side, and towards Seravalle on the other, and upon these heights the enemy was encamped on the 15th, their right towards Seravalle, their centre at Novì, and their left towards Basaluzzo, overlooking the whole plain. The army was commanded by General Joubert, and consisted of six divisions, amounting to about thirty thousand men; their object was to raise the siege of Tortona, and they were to have attacked the Allied army on the 16th; the Field Marshal, however, determined to anticipate them in their intentions, and orders were given to General Kray to take under his command the corps of Gen. Bellegarde, and to fall upon the left of the enemy, and the Russians were to attack the front of their position. As it was reported that the enemy had detached a considerable corps in the mountains towards Tortona, General Melas remained at Rivalta with the remains of the army, in order to cover the siege of Tortona, or to march to the support of the Marshal, if necessary. The attack was made by General Kray at five o'clock in the morning of the 15th; it continued with great violence for several hours; but the difficulty of the ground and the numbers of the French obliged him to retire. The Russians also engaged the front of the enemy, but they were repulsed with very great loss. About two o'clock, General Kray made a second attempt upon the enemy's left, while the Russians at the same time again endeavoured to penetrate the centre of the enemy's line.

Notwithstanding the utmost bravery of the allied troops, the French maintained their position. Most fortunately at this moment General Melas arrived with sixteen battalions of Apulian infantry, attacked the enemy's right, which he beat back without difficulty. Having turned the flank of the enemy, he pursued his advantage, and got possession of Novì. The Russians immediately marched to the support of the Marshal.

