



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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Downing-Street, July 21, 1801.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies; have been this Day received at the Office of the Right Honorable Lord Hawkebury, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from the Earl of Elgin and Major Holloway:

*Imperial Ottoman Camp of the
Grand Vizier, Benalhaffer,
May 20, 1801.*

MY LORD,

IHAD the Honor of addressing your Lordship on the 2d May from Salahich; which Place His Highness the Grand Vizier left the 7th, and the following Day arrived at Belbeis, where the Advanced Corps of his Army had been encamped for some Time before.

On the 15th Instant, His Highness received Intelligence that the Enemy had early that Morning marched a considerable Force from Cairo on the Road towards Belbeis, where His Highness was then encamped. In the Evening, a further Confirmation of this Intelligence was brought, when the Enemy was in full March. The Vizier after Dark ordered Tahir Pacha with Three Thousand Cavalry, and Three light Field Pieces, to advance to meet them, and if a favourable Opportunity offered during the Obscurity of the Night to attack, if not, to impede their Progress as much as possible. About Ten o'Clock at Night they met, Three Leagues from Camp, when each halted and lay on their Arms during the Night, and until Eight o'Clock in the Morning, at which Time Tahir Pacha commenced an Attack. He was soon after reinforced by Fifteen Hundred Cavalry. It was now found the Enemy had come forward with about Fourteen Pieces of Artillery, Six Hundred Cavalry and Four Thousand Infantry. His Highness therefore ordered Mehemmed Pacha to move forward with Five Thousand Men, Cavalry and Albanian Infantry, and Nine light Field Pieces; the Enemy

had Eight-Pounders in the Field. His Highness afterwards advanced himself, and took the Command, which was attended with the happiest Effect.

The Enemy moved into a Wood of Date Trees, where they were attacked by the Cavalry and Infantry with great Spirit for Three Hours, when the Enemy retired from the Wood, taking Position on the Plain, their Left to the Wood, and forming a Hollow Square on the Right. The Albanian Infantry advanced to the Edge of the Wood, and in this Situation galled them considerably; and upon the Turkish Cavalry threatening their Right, they changed Position, and attempted to gain the Heights, in which they were prevented by a rapid Movement of Cavalry, who gained the Summit. In this Manoeuvre they were annoyed by Two Guns, which were advanced by His Highness on the Occasion. At this Time the French commenced a decided Retreat, and were driven beyond El Hanka, a Distance not less than Seven Miles from the Place of the First Operations. The Grand Vizier, who had commanded his Troops with great Gallantry and prompt Decision, then gave Orders for them not to pursue any further. The Loss on either Side for the Time they were engaged was small. The Turks had about Thirty killed and Eighty wounded. The French I think had about Fifty killed and One Prisoner; the Number of their wounded could not be ascertained, as they took them off the Field.

The Turkish Force engaged on this Occasion did not at any Time exceed Nine Thousand.

Whilst I was congratulating his Highness in the Field of Battle on the Success of the Day, we received additional Satisfaction by the Arrival of the Intelligence of the Capture of Fort Leslie at Damietta, and two smaller Forts depending on it, by a Detachment from the Vizier's Army. I had the Honor of acquainting your Lordship, in my Letter of the 2d May, that His Highness intended sending a Force against Damietta. This Intention

