

contradictory, that I am not enabled to form an Opinion of their Designs or Numbers.

When General Mendizabel retired across the Guadiana, he threw a small Corps of about Three Thousand Infantry into Olivenza, which Place was but ill supplied with Provisions and Stores. A Body of Infantry, which at Times have been stated to be Four Thousand, and at others Seven Thousand, with about One Thousand Five Hundred Cavalry, have blockaded Olivenza.

There has been no Alteration in the Position of the Enemy's Troops in Front of this Army.

I imagine that General Claparede has not received the Orders from General Drouet to take up his Position upon Guarda, of which I reported to your Lordship in my last Dispatch that we had intercepted the Duplicate.

He attacked General Silveira with the Advanced Guard of his Division near Trancofo, at the Ponte d'Albade, on the 30th Ult. and obliged him to retire, with some Loss. Lieutenant Colonel M'Bean, of the 24th Regiment, was wounded in this Affair.

General Claparede attacked General Silveira again, with the Advanced Guard of his Division, at Villa du Ponte, on the 11th Instant, and obliged him to retire, but without material Loss, excepting that of Major Cookley, of the 24th Portuguese Regiment, who was unfortunately killed, and the Officer commanding the 1st Brigade of Portuguese Militia wounded.

General Bacellar, who commands in the North, has moved the Divisions commanded by General Miller and Colonel Wilson upon the Flank and Rear of the Enemy, which it is expected will check this Movement, and oblige him to fall back again towards the Frontier. A Part of Claparede's Division was still at Pinhel.

*Downing-Street, February 9, 1811.*

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Day received at the Earl of Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Wiscourt Wellington, dated Cartaxo, 26th January 1811.

My Lord, *Cartaxo, January 26, 1811.*

THE Enemy has continued the Blockade of Olivenza, and obtained Possession of that Place either on the 22d or 23d Instant. Notwithstanding the positive Assertions that a large Body had crossed the Bridge of Merida on the 9th, it does not appear that the French have yet had any large Body on the Right of the Guadiana. They have a Train of Six Twenty-four Pounders, and other Ordnance of large Calibre, and a large Quantity of Stores and Carriages, on the Left of the Guadiana; but it is not yet considered decided that they propose to attack Badajoz.

I am concerned to have to report to your Lordship, that the Marquis de la Romana died in this Town on the 23d Instant, after a short Illness. His Talents, his Virtues, and his Patriotism, were well known to His Majesty's Government. In him the Spanish Army have lost their brightest Ornament; his Country their most upright Patriot; and the World the most strenuous and zealous Defender of the Cause in which we are engaged; and I shall al-

ways acknowledge with Gratitude the Assistance which I received from him, as well by his Operations as by his Counsel, since he had been joined with this Army.

Upon receiving Accounts of the Movements of the French Troops in Estremadura, of the Difficulties experienced in the Relief of Olivenza, and of the Possibility that Badajoz might be attacked, he ordered the Spanish Troops which had been joined to us, to march towards the Frontier, and they commenced their March on the 20th Instant.

General Mendizabel has since ordered them to halt on the Road.

Since I addressed your Lordship on the 19th Inst., I have received the detailed Accounts of General Silveira's Affairs with the Enemy in Upper Beira. In the Affair at the Ponte d'Albade on the 30th of December, which was the most serious, and in which the greatest Loss was sustained, the General attacked the French and was repulsed.

In the last Affair of the 11th Instant, the French attacked General Silveira at Villa de Pont, and he was obliged to retire upon Lamego. He was followed by the French Division, and was obliged to evacuate Lamego, and to retire across the Douro on the 13th Instant.

General Bacellar then took up a Position on the Pavia, on the Enemy's left Flank, while Colonel Wilson was upon their Rear at Castro Dairo, and General Silveira prevented them from crossing the Douro.

These Positions appear to have induced General Claparede to retire again, as I have heard, from another Channel, of his Arrival at Trancofo.

The Enemy have made no material Alteration in their Position in Front of this Army since I last addressed your Lordship. They appear still to entertain a great Jealousy of all our Movements on the Left of the Tagus, and they have recently removed some of the Boats which were in the Zezere. They detached a Body of Two Thousand Men from the Rear of their Army into Lower Beira, on the 22d Instant, apparently to escort a Courier towards the Frontier.

They drove our Piquets through the Town of Rio Mayor on the 19th Instant, with a strong Body of Cavalry and Infantry; but retired again immediately. It is reported that General Junot was wounded on this Occasion.

Our Light Detachments, under the Honourable Captain Cooks of the 16th Light Dragoons, and others, still continue their Operations with Success, and send in many Prisoners.

My last Accounts from Cadiz are of the 15th Instant.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

*Admiralty-Office, February 9, 1811.*

Copy of a Letter from Captain Rogers, of His Majesty's Ship the *Kent*, addressed to Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels in the Mediterranean, and transmitted by the Admiral to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

S I R, *Keut; off Palamos, Dec. 15, 1810.*

JUST as I had closed my Letter to you of the 12th Instant, the Cambrian hove in Sight, which immediately determined me to attempt the Destruc-

