

moved a Column consisting of between 30 and 40 Squadrons of Cavalry, and 14 Battalions of Infantry, and 12 Pieces of Cannon, from Ciudad Rodrigo, in such a Direction, as that it was doubtful whether they would Attempt to ascend the Hills by Encina, El Bodon, or by the direct Road towards Fuente Guinaldo, and I was not certain by which Road they would make their Attack, till they actually commenced it upon the last.

As soon as I saw the Direction of their March, I had reinforced the 2d Battalion 5th Regiment, which occupied the Post on the Hill, over which the Road passes to Guinaldo, by the 77th Regiment, and the 21st Portuguese Regiment, under the Command of Major General the Honourable C. Colville, and Major General Alten's Brigade, of which only three Squadrons remained, which had not been detached, drawn from El Bodon; and I ordered there a Brigade of the 4th Division from Fuente Guinaldo, and afterwards from El Bodon the Remainder of the Troops of the 3d Division, with the Exception of those at Pastores, which were too distant.

In the mean Time however, the small Body of Troops in this Post sustained the Attack of the Enemy's Cavalry and Artillery. One Regiment of French Dragoons succeeded in taking Two Pieces of Cannon which had been posted on a rising Ground on the Right of our Troops; but they were charged by the Second Battalion Fifth Regiment, under the Command of Major Ridge, and the Guns were immediately re-taken.

While this Operation was going on on the Flank, an Attack was made on the Front by another Regiment, which was repulsed in a similar Manner by the 77th Regiment, and the Three Squadrons of Major General Alten's Brigade charged repeatedly different Bodies of the Enemy, which ascended the Hill on the Left of the Two Regiments of British Infantry; the Portuguese Regiment being posted in the Rear of their Right.

At length the Division of the Enemy's Infantry, which had marched with the Cavalry from Ciudad Rodrigo, were brought up to the Attack on the Road of Fuente Guinaldo, and seeing that they would arrive and be engaged before the Troops could arrive either from Guinaldo or El Bodon, I determined to withdraw our Post, and to retire with the Whole on Fuente Guinaldo. The 2d Battalion 5th Regiment and the 77th Regiment, were formed into one Square, and the 21st Portuguese Regiment into another, supported by Major-General Alten's small Body of Cavalry and the Portuguese Artillery.

The Enemy's Cavalry immediately rushed forward and obliged our Cavalry to retire to the Support of the Portuguese Regiment; and the 5th and 77th Regiments were charged on Three Faces of the Square, by the French Cavalry; but they halted and repulsed the Attack with the utmost Steadiness and Gallantry. We then continued the Retreat, and joined the Remainder of the Third Division, also formed in Squares, on their March to Fuente Guinaldo; and the whole retired together in the utmost Order; and the Enemy never made another Attempt to charge any of them; but were satisfied with firing upon them with their Artillery, and with following them.

Lieutenant-Colonel Williams with his Light Infantry, and the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Trench, with the 74th Regiment, retired from Pastores across the Agueda, and thence marched by Robleda, where they took some Prisoners, and

re-crossed the Agueda, and joined at Guinaldo in the Evening.

I placed the 3d and 4th Divisions, and General Pack's Brigade of Infantry, and Major General Alten's, Major General De Grey's, and Major General Slade's Brigades of Cavalry in the Position of Fuente Guinaldo on the Evening of the 25th, and ordered Major General Crawford to retire with the Light Division across the Agueda; the 7th Division to form at Albergaria, and Lieutenant General Graham to collect the Troops under his Command at Nave D'Aver, keeping only Posts of Observation on the Azava; and the Troops were thus formed in an Echelon, of which the Center was in the Position at Guinaldo; and the Right upon the Pass of Perales, and the Left at Nave D'Aver. Mareschal del Campo Don Carlos D'Espagne was placed on the Left of the Coa, and Don Julian Sanchez was detached with the Cavalry to the Enemy's Rear.

The Enemy brought up a 2d Division of Infantry from Ciudad Rodrigo, in the Afternoon of the 25th, and, in the course of that Night, and of the 26th, they collected their whole Army in front of our Position at Guinaldo; and not deeming it expedient to stand their Attack in that Position, I retired about Three Leagues, and, on the 27th, formed the Army as follows, viz. the 5th Division on the right, at Aldea Velha; the 4th, and Light Divisions, and Major-General Alten's Cavalry, at the Convent of Sacaparte, in front of Alfayates; the 3d and 7th Divisions, in Second Line, behind Alfayates; and Lieutenant-General Graham's Corps on the left at Bismula, having their Advanced Guard beyond the Villa Maior River, and Lieutenant-General Sir Stapleton Cotton's Cavalry near Alfayates on the Left of the 4th Division, and having General Pack's and General M'Mahon's Brigades, at Nebulosa, on their Left. The Piquets of the Cavalry were in front of Aldea de Ponte, beyond the Villa Maior River; and those of General Alten's Brigade beyond the same River towards Furcalhos.

It had been the Enemy's Intention to turn the Left of the Position of Guinaldo, by moving a Column into the Valley of the Upper Azava, and thence ascending the Heights in the Rear of the Position by Castillejos; and from this Column they detached a Division of Infantry and Fourteen Squadrons of Cavalry to follow our Retreat by Albergaria, and another Body of the same Strength followed us by Furcalhos. The former attacked the Piquets of the Cavalry at Aldea de Ponte, and drove them in; and they pushed on nearly as far as Alfayates. I then made General Pakenham Attack them with his Brigade of the 4th Division, supported by the Honourable Lieutenant-General Cole, and the 4th Division; and by Sir Stapleton Cotton's Cavalry; and the Enemy were driven through Aldea de Ponte, back upon Albergaria, and the Piquets of the Cavalry resumed their Station.

But the Enemy having been reinforced by the Troops which marched upon Furcalhos, again advanced about Sun-set, and drove in the Piquets of the Cavalry from Aldea de Ponte; and took Possession of the Village.

Lieutenant-General Cole again attacked them with a Part of General Pakenham's Brigade, and drove them through the Village, but Night having come on, and as General Pakenham was not certain what was passing on his Flanks, or of the