

mission, and to open a negotiation, which was rejected.

At this period several considerable detachments were made to harass the enemy, which appear to have been conducted with equal skill and success: the most important of these was the one against Verrea, which place was taken by assault on the 14th of October.

On the 16th of October, several regiments of Cossacs having arrived, it was proposed to attack Murat; the attack did not take place till the 18th of October.

The enemy after this affair, of which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a report in my dispatch, retreated behind the little river Moza.

Buonaparte was not heard of out of Moscow or its vicinity till after this period.

The only detachment of any importance made by the French in a northern direction, was the one stationed at Demetrio, which was recalled in great haste, as soon as the evacuation of Moscow was determined on. The Russians occupied the latter city on the 22d of October, with the loss of Lieutenant-General Winzingerode, most treacherously carried off, with his Aid-de-Camp Captain Narishkin, while advanced with a flag of truce to remonstrate against a protracted and unnecessary resistance on the part of the rear-guard.

On the 24th of October, the French army was reconnoitred by an officer of Cossacs belonging to the corps of Moscow, who saw four camps, one on the new Kalouga road near Borofsk, and three on the left bank of the Protva.

In the night of the 24th of October, General Dorofoff was ordered to occupy Mala-Jaroslaff, a post-town on the new Kalouga road, between Borofsk and that place: that General already found it occupied in force by a French detachment; a very obstinate contest immediately took place, in the course of which the troops on both sides were reinforced, and the town was taken and retaken eleven times. The Marshal, in the mean while, put his army in motion by the left, and arrived at Mala-Jaroslaff, establishing his head-quarters two versts to the southward of that town, which was burned, and detaching a considerable corps under General Platow, to Medina, on his left, where he took eleven pieces of cannon, and left the ground covered with dead.

The obstinacy of this contest for Mala-Jaroslaff, with other circumstances, tended to confirm the Field-Marshal's opinion, that the object of the enemy was to force a passage to the Southern Provinces; and although there were also strong grounds to believe that he was prepared to attempt a retreat upon Smolensko, and by Vilna to the Nienzen, yet the Marshal deemed it necessary to direct his principal attention to the roads pointing to the southward; and, with a view to obtain more complete command of them, retired to a position within forty versts of Kalouga, near Goriki.

Finding that the enemy was moving, by Verrea, on Mojaisk, he again advanced upon Medina, and having received intelligence that the French head-quarters were, on the 30th of October, at Goloki, a monastery not far from Borodino, he formed his disposition to attempt to intercept him near Smolensko.

Platow and the Cossacs having been detached for the purpose of harassing and surrounding the enemy, Marshal Kutuzoff reinforced General Millaradovitch's corps to upwards of eighteen thousand men; and directing him to march by his left towards Viasma, the Marshal himself proceeded by Spaskoi and Celinka, in a parallel direction to that allotted to General Millaradovitch; the main road

forming an arch, these parallel lines of march were shorter, but exposed to greater difficulties, the roads being less practicable.

The head of General Millaradovitch's column reached the main road first, near Viasma; the head-quarters of Marshal Kutuzoff were established at the village of Bikoyoi, a little to the southward of Viasma.

In regard to the French army, it appears by the papers of a Commissary General, who was made prisoner, that they victualled one hundred and twenty thousand men, but that their efficient force was reduced to eighty-five thousand, at the period of the evacuation of Moscow, and that Buonaparte had contracted with a company of Jews for a supply of provisions in the line of his retreat. His guards, and some select corps, have been nursed with peculiar care, and kept as much as possible out of action, and these corps appear to have preceded the retreat of the remaining troops.

It is reported that Buonaparte travels in a coach, accompanied by Murat, who has received a contusion in his knee, and Berthier.

It is hardly to be conceived that this rear-guard at least can continue its march without halting, in which case, with the assistance of the light troops, the Russian army will be enabled to overtake them. They have before them the gallant and active Count Wittgenstein, whose character for zeal and enterprize is so well established, and they have also, on the Minsk road, to encounter Admiral Tchichagoff, with the Moldavian army, which it is to be hoped may have time and notice either to unite with Count Wittgenstein to wait for them on the above-mentioned road, or to move to either flank.

Marshal Kutuzoff has sent out, among others, a considerable detachment, which was at Elnee, nearer to Smolensko, under Lieutenant-General Shepetoff on the 1st of November, and which may have the means of interposing delay.

Thus the fruits of the incursions of the French to Moscow, at the expence of the lives of so many brave officers and men, seem to have been limited to the burning and destruction of that city, and to the ruin and desolation of the inhabitants and proprietors near the great road, and in the vicinity of Moscow, while, on the other hand, it will, to the latest period of history, reflect lustre on the spirit and patriotism of the Russian Empire.

The last accounts from Count Wittgenstein are dated the 3d November, at Tchasnik, two stages east of Lepel. After the affair of Polotzk, that General detached a corps to observe Mac Donald, whilst he sent General Steinheil on the road to Vilna, who, after having cut off the Bavarian corps from that of St. Cyr, and entirely dispersed it, with the loss of cannon and colours, joined Count Wittgenstein, who proceeded to attack the remainder of the French under the command of Le Grand; Marshal St. Cyr having retired on account of his wound. This corps was reinforced by Marshal Victor at the head of fifteen thousand men, and, having taken post near Tchasnik, was there defeated on the 31st October by Count Wittgenstein, who considering the enemy's position a good one for himself, has continued to occupy it, detaching a corps to take possession of Witepsk.

Admiral Tchichagoff's last dispatches of the 22d of October, from Breslitow, report the success of a detachment under General Tchaplitz, who, on the 20th of October, took the Polish General Konofkoff with the whole of the 3d regiment of Hulus, of the French guard.

Prince Schwartzenberg had crossed the Bog without giving the Admiral an opportunity of bringing him to action.