

Winzingerode's corps from Leipsig, on the road to Weissenfels. This confirmed the intelligence received, of the enemy being there in considerable force. Upon this, a very severe engagement took place on the 1st of May, with the said corps, by which we were convinced, that the main force of the enemy was in the vicinity of Weissenfels and Lutzen. It was believed, that the Viceroy's position was between Leipsig and Halle, and consequently the enemy's plan for the battle was clearly apparent. General Count Von Wittgenstein resolved on being before hand with him, to obstruct him in his disposition by a bold attack, and to restrain his offensive operations. It was necessary in this attempt to make it our main object, immediately to fall on such part of his force as was, on his side, considered to be the best troops; in order, after such a stroke, to give larger space for the operations of our flying corps, over whom the enemy had latterly acquired a superiority. Therefore it was requisite, if possible, to direct the attack immediately against his rear-most troops. For this purpose, the main army broke up in the night, between the 1st and 2d of May, from Notha and Botha, in two columns, and pushed forward as far as the defile of the Elster, in the vicinity of Pegau. General Von Winzingerode received orders to mask this operation, to leave his posts of cavalry standing, and to unite himself with the main army by the way of Zwckau.

At break of day all the troops passed the defile of the Elster, near Pegau, and drew up in order of battle on the left bank of the Elster, with their right wing to the village of Werben, and their left to that of Gruna. By reconnoitring, we discovered that the enemy's main body already extended beyond Weissenfels, to the villages of Gross Görschen, Klein Görschen, Rahnö, Starsiedel, and Lutzen. The enemy did not venture to attempt disturbing our march, nor to get before us into the plain, but took his position in the village between Gross Görschen and Starsiedel.

About twelve o'clock at noon General Blücher received orders, as commanding the van-guard of the army, and supported by a part of the Russian artillery, to attack the enemy. The attack was made on the village of Gross Görschen, which was obstinately defended by the enemy. It was taken by storm. General Yorck marched with his corps to the right of the village. The whole army wheeled to the right, and presently after the battle became general along the whole line of Blücher's corps. The enemy, at the same time, displayed a numerous artillery, chiefly of heavy calibre, and the fire of musketry in the villages was kept up with great vivacity for several hours. In this murderous battle the villages of Klein Görschen and Rahnö, as likewise the villages of Gross Görschen, were early taken by storm, and with unexampled bravery, and kept possession of for several hours. At length the enemy returned in considerable force, surrounded, and in part retook these villages; but on the attack being renewed, was not able to retain possession of them. The Prussian guards moved forward, and after a most obstinate combat of an hour and an half, those villages were again retaken from the enemy, and remained in our possession. During this time the corps of General Winzingerode on the left wing, and the corps of General Yorck,

with a part of the Russian troops under General Berg, had taken a share in the battle. We stood opposed to the enemy, at a distance of one hundred paces, and one of the most bloody battles became general.

Our reserves had drawn nearer to the field of battle, to be in readiness wherever needful, and thus was the battle continued till near seven o'clock in the evening. During its course, the villages on the left wing were likewise several times taken and retaken by both parties. At seven o'clock the enemy appeared with a new corps on our right wing, before Gross and Klein Görschen—probably with the Viceroy's army—made a brisk attack on us, and endeavoured to tear from us the advantages we had gained. The infantry of a part of the Russian reserve was now brought forward to the right wing, to the support of General Yorck's corps, which was briskly attacked, and the most desperate engagement (in which the Russian artillery during the whole remaining time greatly distinguished itself, as did the corps of Yorck, Blücher, and Winzingerode, the whole day,) was now continued until night came on. The enemy had likewise again attacked our centre and the villages with great briskness, but we maintained our position. In this situation night put an end to the battle. The enemy was to have been again attacked on the following morning, the 3d of May. He had meanwhile taken Leipsig during the battle. This obliged us to manoeuvre with him. It was not till afterwards that we were informed, that in consequence of the battle he had again been forced to quit it, and had by the same means lost Halle, and fifteen thousand men of his best troops; many of his cannon are dismantled, and a number of his powder waggons blown up. Our light detachments are again at liberty to harass him, and to prosecute the advantage gained. We have consequently kept the field of battle, the victory is our's, and the intended purpose is accomplished. Near fifty thousand of our best troops have not yet been engaged; we have not lost a single cannon, and the enemy must have perceived what can be effected by the united national feelings, between two firmly allied nations, in courage and resistance: and that the high hand of Providence protects the just cause of those Powers, who have no object but their independence, and to found a durable peace on the freedom of all nations.

Such was the battle of the 2d of May, fought near the plain of Lutzen, where the liberty of Germany was once before conquered. With the courage of lions did both Russians and Prussians fight for it, and their endeavours will not have been in vain. The loss we have sustained may amount to about ten thousand men, but the most of them are only slightly wounded. Among the killed, on the Prussian side, we have among several other valuable Staff-officers, to lament the loss of the Prince of Hesse-Homburg. Our wounded are, on the Russian part, General Von Kanonieczyn; and on the Prussian, Generals Blücher and Scharnhorst slightly, and Hunerbein dangerously. On the French side, according to the report of the prisoners, we learn that Marshal Bassieres is killed, Ney and Souham wounded. Upwards of one thousand prisoners are already brought in, ten pieces of