

which rise abruptly in a conical shape, and form strong features; these with the high ground of Kreckwitz were strengthened by batteries, and were considered the right point of the line.

The ground in the centre was favourable for cavalry, except in some marshy and uneven parts, where it would impede its operations. Flèches were constructed, and entrenchments thrown up at advantageous distances on the plain, along the front of which ran a deep boggy rivulet, which extended round the right of the position.

On the extreme right the country was flat and woody, intersected by roads bearing towards the Bober and the Oder.

General Barclay de Tolly's corps was stationed here, and should be considered more as a manœuvring corps, placed to guard against the enemy's attempts on the right and rear of the allies, than as immediately in position; the extent of the whole line might be between three and four English miles. The different corps occupying it were as follows: General Kleist's and General d'York's corps in echelon and in reserve on the right: General Blucher's, Count Wittgenstein's, and General Milaradovitch's formed on the left; and the guards and grenadiers, and all the Russian cavalry, were stationed in reserve in the centre.

The enemy evinced, early in the action, a determination to press the flanks of the Allies; he had thrown a very strong corps into the mountains on our left, which favoured his species of warfare, but General Milaradovitch was prepared here, having detached Prince Garchikoff and Count Asterman with ten battalions of light troops, and a large corps of Cossacks, with their artillery, under Colonel Davidoff, to occupy these hills.

After a very strong tirailade in this quarter, and a distant cannonading on our right, which commenced the action, the enemy began to develop his forces, and to move his different columns of attack to their stations.

The contest in the mountains became gradually warmer, and he supported it by a very powerful line of artillery. The Prince of Wirtemberg's and General St. Priest's divisions, of General Milaradovitch's corps, were here sharply engaged, and a charge of cavalry succeeded against some guns of the enemy, one of which was taken.

Buonaparte was now visible on a commanding spot, directing the battle. He deployed in front of the town of Bautzen his guards, cavalry, and lancers, and shewed heavy columns of infantry on the esplanade before it, bringing up besides a number of brigades of artillery, with which he occupied some advantageous heights, between our position and Bautzen, that were favourable to support his attacks.

These demonstrations denoted an effort in this direction, and a disposition was accordingly made with General Blucher's corps and our commanding cavalry to meet it: but an increasing fire, and a more lively cannonade on our right, made it ultimately no longer doubtful where his chief attempt was aimed. Columns of attack, under cover of a heavy fire, were now in motion from the enemy's left, while others were filing to gain our right; and General Barclay de Tolly was attacked by a very superior force under Marshal Ney, and Gene-

ral Lauriston; and notwithstanding the most gallant efforts, was forced to abandon the villages of Klutz and Cannervitz. General Barclay de Tolly had orders, if outnumbered, to change the ground he occupied in front of Cannervitz and Prieslitz, and to place himself on the heights surrounding the villages of Rachel and Baruth, by which the army would change its position on the left, and cover the main roads through Wurtzen and Hochkirch to the rear: but the enemy outflanked him on the right, while they warmly engaged him in front, and occupied these heights before him, which determined him to throw himself on the right of Wurschen, where the Imperial head-quarters had been, and which equally answered the object. When it was perceived that General Barclay de Tolly was pressed by immense odds, General Blucher was ordered to move to his right, and attack the enemy in flank.

General Blucher was afterwards supported by Generals Kleist and D'York, and here a most sanguinary contest ensued.

These attacks succeeded in checking the enemy. That of General Blucher's corps exceeds all praise; and the Prussians in this eventful day, as at the battle of Lutzen, again evinced what their troops are capable of accomplishing when headed by a King they love, and fighting for their country, their liberty, and independence.

A charge of four thousand of their cavalry on columns of the enemy's infantry, which had carried the village of Kracknitz, completely repulsed him, and the Prussians again occupied it, displaying the greatest order and steadiness under the most galling fire. Still these gallant efforts were arrested by the enemy's bringing up fresh troops, and though partial successes were obtained, the general issue was in suspense.

A momentary advantage being gained by the enemy in consequence of General Barclay de Tolly's movements, he lost no time in making every exertion to push it to the utmost, renewing, at the same time, his attack on our left flank, and assaulting the batteries that covered the conical heights, as also those of Kreckwitz on the right. He made himself master of the latter, and of one of our batteries, which gave him, in some degree, the key of the position, as it commanded the low ground on the right and centre of it. Still in every other part of the line the Allies firmly sustained the conflict; but it soon became apparent that the enemy had not only superior forces to fight us at all points, but he had also the means of prolonging his flank march on our right, thus threatening our communications and menacing our rear.

Although it might have been easy, by a general assault of the grenadiers and guards in reserve, to have recovered the heights of Kreckwitz, still the pressure round the flank on Barclay de Tolly's corps would have again necessitated the abandonment of them, and when these troops moved to their point of attack, the centre, where the enemy still shewed a powerful force, would have been endangered.

It was only from considerations of such a nature as I have above detailed, that the Allies were induced to change their position at five o'clock in the evening, having from day break, admirably contested every part of the field of battle.