

to direct the movements; and the French were driven back as far as the defile of the mountains by which they made the attack.

The engagement which the enemy had maintained on the points before mentioned lasted until ten o'clock at night, with an uninterrupted fire of artillery and musketry; it must have cost him six thousand men, as he was obliged to force the defile of the Spree under the fire of our cannon and small arms. On the left wing the corps of the Prince of Wirtemberg fought with the same perseverance and courage, as that of General Kleist did on the right.

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*Journal of the 21st May 1813.*

NIGHT put an end to the combat of the 20th: nothing had yet taken place out of the position. The 21st, at half past four in the morning, the enemy commenced by attacking the left, seconded by a brisk fire of tirailleurs, which he had posted in the mountains, where he had also pushed forward some men to Cunevalde, to annoy us upon this flank. The Count de Milaradovitch and the Prince of Wirtemberg, nevertheless, repelled with intrepidity all the attacks on this side: they were renewed with the same vivacity at mid-day.

However between six and seven o'clock, the attack had equally commenced by a brisk cannonade, and a smart fire of musketry, upon the right wing of the line, where the corps was posted under the orders of General Barclay de Tolly. The enemy was here infinitely superior in numbers, and endeavoured, protected by the forest which covered him, to outflank this corps. The General Barclay de Tolly was posted on the heights, where there is a windmill near Gleina. He extended his line during the battle, towards the height, situated near Baruth, named La Voigtshütte. It was necessary to reinforce this corps. It was accomplished: General Kleist received orders to carry his troops to that point. He made an attack as brisk as well combined, and forced the enemy to renounce the advantages which his superiority of numbers gave him. General Blücher sustained this attack with his two brigades, and by this sudden movement the enemy was obliged to give up his project of turning the right wing, as he had been, that of turning the left.

During all these attacks, he kept up a continual fire of artillery and small arms, principally upon the centre, upon which, however, he made no positive attempt. Suddenly the attack began upon the heights of Krakwitz, which General Blücher's corps occupied. He took advantage of the moment when this general left this position, with a part of his corps, to sustain that of General Barclay de Tolly, for the purpose of a vigorous attack. The enemy approached the heights, from three sides at once, with the greatest part of his forces, which had formed in three columns for the attack, which established on this point a decided superiority. The tirailleurs posted themselves in the village of Krakwitz. General d'York arrived to their relief, and the village was retaken. The troops defended these heights with an obstinacy beyond example. Four battalions of the Russian guards advanced to sustain

General Blücher. In the meantime the left wing, under the orders of the Count de Milaradovitch, had pushed forward, taken many cannon from the enemy, destroyed some battalions, and was in advance.

The conflict became more sanguinary every moment. The instant was arrived wherein it was necessary to bring all our means into action, and risk all, or put an end to the battle. We determined upon the latter. To expose all to the hazard of a single day would have been to play the game of Napoleon; to preserve our forces to reap advantages from a war more difficult to the enemy as it is prolonged, is that of the allies. We commenced a retreat. We made it in full daylight, under the eyes of the enemy, at seven in the evening, as upon a parade, without his being able to gain possession of a single trophy, whilst the combined army had taken from him in these three memorable days, by the valour and constancy of the troops, twelve pieces of cannon, made three thousand prisoners, amongst whom are four Generals and many officers of distinction. The least exaggerated accounts state the loss of the French at fourteen thousand men, that of the allies does not exceed six thousand.

Nothing could equal the courage and perseverance with which the army fought, but the *sang froid* and order with which it retired.

The spirit of the troops is the same as on the first day of the campaign.

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*Narrative of the Events of the 22d May, 1813.*

THE army had fallen back before night on Weissenberg. But the advanced corps continued to occupy the front in advance of Wurschen until morning, when they commenced their movement on Reichenbach. The enemy's army commanded by Napoleon in person, then pushed forward in the hope of cutting off Count Milaradovitch, with the victorious troops of the left wing, who had orders to march on Reichenbach by the road of Löbau. This enterprise was defeated by the activity and prudence of the chiefs. A part of our troops had taken a position behind Reichenbach, whilst the advanced guard defended that place. The enemy endeavoured to dislodge them by demonstrations of cavalry and the fire of artillery; the attempt continued without effect, till the moment when a strong column of infantry began to deploy; the troops then fell back behind the town, leaving only two battalions of chasseurs to defend the entrance of the defiles. These two battalions made such an obstinate resistance, that the enemy was obliged to advance in considerable strength; at length he thought his cavalry could act with effect. He ordered a corps to charge and to pass through Reichenbach; the attack was received by a body of cavalry destined to cover the chasseurs, and of that of the enemy which had entered Reichenbach, scarcely a man escaped the Russian charge and the fire of the infantry.

This reverse irritated Napoleon; eight hundred men of the guard, with a regiment of lanciers, supported by two or three thousand horse, attempted to turn and take in the rear a battery, which had been placed on an eminence on the left. General Col-