

your Lordship by the first opportunity. Upon the arrival of Prince Schwartzberg at Fere Champenoise, a cannonade was observed upon our right; soon after a body of infantry was seen moving upon the head-quarters.

The Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia, immediately directed a train of artillery which belonged to the 6th corps, and which was passing at the time, to place itself in position against this corps. The cavalry which was in rear of this body, was soon after discovered to belong to the army of Marshal Blücher, which had been pursuing it during the greater part of the day. Prince Schwartzberg immediately brought up a considerable portion of cavalry from the corps that were pursuing Marshals Marmont and Mortier; the Emperor of Russia directed the advance of the Russian guns, the whole body of French infantry was surrounded, they were charged on all sides, under the immediate directions of the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and Prince Schwartzburgh; after resistance, which does honour to the enemy's troops, the whole of his two masses, amounting to four thousand eight hundred infantry, with twelve pieces of cannon, were taken.

Such have been, my Lord, the triumphant results of yesterday. The troops are already in advance this morning, the cavalry will arrive to-day at La Ferté Gaucher. General Winzingerode, with ten thousand cavalry, is in observation of Buonaparte's army, on the side of St. Dizier; its direction is not as yet known.

It is with the greatest regret I have to announce to your Lordship, that Colonel Campbell was yesterday most severely wounded by a Cossack. Colonel Campbell, continuing that gallant distinguished course which has ever marked his military career, had charged with the first cavalry which penetrated the French masses; the Cossacks who came to support this cavalry mistook him for a French officer, and struck him to the ground. From the appearances this morning, I am however in considerable hope of his recovery. Colonel Rapatel, late Aide-de-Camp of General Moreau, was also unfortunately killed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

BURGHERSH,

Lieut.-Colonel 63d Reg.

Viscount Castlereagh, &c. &c.

*Head-quarters, Fere Champenoise.*

MY LORD, *March 26, 1814.*

BUONAPARTE having failed in his attempt to debouche from Plancy and Arcis, across the Aube, and having abandoned his idea of attacking Prince Schwartzberg in his position at Menil-la-Comtesse, seems to have been guided in his next operations by the desire of preventing the junction of the armies of Prince Schwartzberg and Marshal Blücher. Did he not succeed to the utmost in this object, it was evidently his best policy to force their union, and their communications as far to the rear, and to make it as circuitous as possible. It is further manifest, by intercepted letters, that Buonaparte was of opinion, that the movement he determined on, on the right of Prince Schwartzberg, might induce him to fall back towards the Rhine,

for fear of losing his communications—that he thus would be able to relieve his places, and be in a better situation to cover Paris.

It generally occurs, that manœuvres are made with the advance, or the head of an army; but Buonaparte, in his present undertaking, seems to have pushed his object so far, by the passage of the Aube with his whole army near Vitry, as to have left himself completely open to that bold and magnificent decision which was immediately adopted.

Buonaparte put his whole army in motion on the evening of the 21st for Vitry. That night he remained at Sommepeuis; on the following day the advanced corps of his army arrived at Vitry, and summoned the place. It had been placed by Colonel ——— in a very tolerable state of defence, and it had a garrison of between three and four thousand Prussians. Marshal Ney endeavoured, by every menace, to obtain a surrender; but the brave Prussian Colonel resolutely refused, and held the town, which reduced the French commander to cross the Marne by bridges constructed near Frignicourt. Buonaparte here passed his whole army on the 23d and 24th, and was immediately ascertained to have taken the direction of St. Dizier.

Three objects might be now in his view, by the movements round our right:—to force us back; if this failed, to operate upon our communications, and even proceed to form a junction with Marshal Augereau; or finally, by moving to his fortresses of Metz, &c. prolong the war by resisting on a new line, while he placed us in the centre of France, having taken the best precautions in his power for the defence of the capital.

The Allies on the 22d having crossed to the right of the Aube, lost no time in adopting the bold resolution of forming the junction of the two armies to the westward, thus placing themselves between the French army and Paris, and proceeding with a united force of at least two hundred thousand men to the capital of the French empire.

In order the better to mask this movement, the march of the allied army was made from Pongy, Lesmont, and Arcis, on Vitry, and His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, by two extraordinary marches of eighteen and twelve leagues, established his head-quarters with those of the Field-Marshal at Vitry, on the 24th instant.

A very brilliant capture of several pieces of cannon, fifteen hundred prisoners, and a large number of caissons, was made by General Augerauski, of the cavalry of the Russian guard, on the 23d; and on this day and the preceding, several advanced-guard affairs took place between General Wrede's corps, the Prince of Wirtemberg's, and the enemy.

So soon as the Marshal took this decision, he made his dispositions accordingly, by forming a corps on the Bar sur Aube line, which he has committed to the care of General Ducca, to protect the head-quarters of the Emperor of Austria, his supplies, &c. and carry them, if necessary, towards the army of the south, and also, by vigorously pressing forward in his operations towards the capital, to secure his rear, while he pursues his objects in front.

The combined army marched in three columns to Fere Champenoise on the 25th. All the cavalry of the army formed the advance, and were to push