

forward to Sezanne. The 6th and 4th corps formed the advance of the centre column. The 5th was on the right, and the 3d corps, and the reserves and the guards, on the left.

Marshal Blücher was reported to have arrived with a great part of his army at Chalons. General Winzingerode and General Czernicheff, with all their cavalry, entered Vitry on the 23d, and were immediately detached to follow up Buonaparte's march to St. Dizier, threatening his rear. General Winzingerode's infantry had remained at Chalons with Marshal Blücher, together with General Woronzoff's and Zachen's corps. General Bulow had marched to attack Soissons, and Generals York and Kleist had moved on the line of Montmirail.

By these general movements your Lordship will perceive that had Bonaparte even not crossed the Aube and passed between our two armies, he probably would have found himself in a similar position to that at Leipzig, and the result would have been I have no doubt of the same nature.

The army was to have bivouacked on the 25th at Fere Champenoise.

It appears the corps of Marshals Marmont and Mortier, who had been retiring from before Marshal Blücher, were moving down towards Vitry to connect themselves with Bonaparte's operations, ignorant of his intentions, which may not have been fully formed until he found himself too far committed: these corps of his army were much perplexed on finding themselves close to Prince Schwartzberg's army when they expected to meet their own.

It is a singular but a curious fact, that Marshal Marmont's advance was within a very short distance on the night of the 24th to Vitry, without the enemy's knowing it was in the occupation of the Allies.

On the morning of the 25th, the 6th corps under General Reusske fell in with their advance, drove them back to Connantray and through Fere Champenoise; in the former place a large number of caissons, waggons, and baggage, were taken; in the mean time on the left, the Russian cavalry of the reserves, under the Grand Duke Constantine, was equally successful, charging the enemy, taking eighteen cannon and many prisoners. But the principal brilliant movement of this day occurred after the allied troops in advance had passed through Champenoise; a detached column of the enemy, of 5000 men, under the command of General Ames, had been making its way under the protection of Marmont's corps, from the neighbourhood of Montmirail, to join Napoleon with his grand army. This corps had in charge an immense convoy with 100,000 rations of bread, and ammunition, and was of great importance, by the force attached to it. It had left Paris to proceed to Buonaparte, and the cavalry of Marshal Blücher's army were the first to discover and observe this corps on their march from Chalons. My Aid-de-Camp, Captain Harris, was fortunate enough, looking out with some Cossacks, to give the first intelligence to Marshal Blücher of their position.

The cavalry of Generals Kort and Basitschikoff corps, were immediately detached after them, and they were driven upon Fere Champenoise, as the cavalry of the grand army was advancing. Some

attacks of the cavalry were made on this corps, who formed themselves in squares, and it is but justice to say, defended themselves in the most gallant manner, although they were young troops and gardes nationales; when they were completely surrounded by the cavalry of both armies, some officers were sent to demand their surrender, but they still kept marching on and firing, and did not lay down their arms; a battery of Russian artillery opened upon them, and renewed charges of cavalry completed their destruction; and Generals Ames and Pathod, Generals of Division, five Brigadiers, five thousand prisoners and twelve cannon, with the convoy, fell into our hands; Marmont and Mortier's rear-guards seem to have drawn off in the direction of Sezanne, and it is difficult to say whether they will be able to effect their escape. Every disposition is making to harass and surround them. But the moment is so eventful, and every intelligence gives rise to such new conjectures, that I can only beg your Lordship to excuse the very imperfect manner in which I am obliged to detail.

The grand army marches to-day to Mailleret: Head-quarters at Treffan, and the advance is to push as far as La Ferte Gaucher.

Marshal Blücher, who was last night at Etayes, is to advance against Montmirail.

Your Lordship will, I am sure, lament to learn, that that very deserving officer, Colonel Neil Campbell, was unfortunately wounded by a Cossack, in the *mélee* of the cavalry, not being known: the pike was run into his back, but he is doing well.

I am also particularly sorry to report the death of Colonel Rapatel, who was shot going up to one of the columns with a flag of truce. The loss of an officer, so much and so justly beloved in this army, from his attachment to General Moreau, his excellent qualities, and his devotion to the good cause, has occasioned a general regret.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,
Lieutenant-General.

Viscount Castlereagh, &c. &c. &c.

Head Quarters, Colamiers, March 27, 1814.

MY LORD,

THE reports from the different corps not having been received when I sent off my dispatch of the 26th, added to the hurry of the moment in which it was written, must be my apology for having much under-rated the successes of the 25th instant.

Upon the retreat of Marmont's, Mortier's, and Arrighi's corps before the several columns of the armies, whose junction had been effected between Fere-Champenoise and Chalons, above eighty pieces of cannon, besides the convoy alluded to in my dispatch of the 26th, and a great number of caissons, fell into our hands. The guns were abandoned in all directions by the enemy in the rapid retreat, and were captured not only by the cavalry of the Grand Duke Constantine and General Count Pahlen, but also by the corps of General Reifsky and the Prince Royal of Wirtemberg.

Generals D'York and Kleist, who had moved from Montmirail on La-Ferté-Gaucher, where they arrived on the 26th, very greatly augmented the enemy's discomfiture; General D'York's was very