

other Band of Vaudois, mounted up the Col, and having next Morning observed a larger Body of Miquelets, supported by some Companies of Grenadiers, retreated slowly, firing very briskly, pursuant to their Orders, being posted there only to look out, and to give Notice to the Army. The Enemy came no farther that Evening than half Way of the Descent, and our Vaudois drew on towards La Chanal, a Village at the Bottom of the Col, which gives the Name to that Valley. On the Morning this small Body retired to Pont, a Village which is nearly in our Center. We saw afterwards, on the 6th, their Army extending itself in the Valley, the Spaniards descending the Col de l'Agnel, and the French that of St. Veran, keeping with their Left to the Mountain de la Corbiere, which rises from the Bottom of l'Agnel up to our Camp, from which it is separated by a deep Valley, which encompasses that Mountain, returns to l'Agnel, along the Bottom of Mount Viso, and is intersected by the Col de Ristolaz, which is on the French Territory. Some Miquelets mounting by the Wood of Patagons, and keeping along the Mountain of La Corbiere, got by the Eminences as far as over-against our Camp above the Village of Pont. We had not thought fit to take Possession of that Mountain and to defend it, because the Posts we were possessed of on this Side, are surer and nearer at hand for our Subsistence. This Troop, armed lightly but with good Carabines, made that Day a pretty brisk Fire upon the Village of Pont, which lay open to them from above, but however to no great Purpose. The same Day M. de la Mina, attended by about fifteen Officers, came on the Right of the Valley under the Mountain of Bellin, to view our Situation, and at the same Time gave Orders for the Army to march at Break of Day, which accordingly was done on the 7th, they entering the Valley in two Columns as far as the Back Part of the Village of l'Eglise, at half a Cannon Shot of Pont. One of the Columns marched at the Bottom of the Point of St. Veran at the Right of the Valley, along the Valley of Fiontronge, it repassed the Brook of Rareyta, formed itself into about eight Lines of a Battalion in Front, and was followed the same Day by the Rest of the Spaniards. The French followed on their Left, extending their own Left to La Corbiere, a little more backwards than the Front of the Spaniards. In this Order the Army was for two Hours under Arms. About Eleven o'Clock M. de la Mina detached from his Right a Body of about 2000 Men, most of them Grenadiers and Miquelets, to attack the Heights of Bellin: His Orders were executed with Resolution; the Spaniards ascended with great Bravery that steep Mountain, till they were received by a Detachment of the Brigade of Guibert, sent thither to defend the Eminences and the Descents. After a very lively Encounter and a very brisk Fire, our Troops repulsed them to the Bottom of the Mountain, where they passed the Night under the Shelter of the

great Woods that hid them from us. At the same Time twelve Battering Pieces, placed three and three together, were destroying some Works of Defence, raised in Haste in the Village of Pont, which we abandoned in the Night, as well as the Rock, where there were only 60 Men, whom we did not think fit to sacrifice, a bare Parapet of Fascines not being able to protect them against the least vigorous Attack; we quitted that wretched Post with so much more Indifference, as it was never intended to defend it any longer than for one Day, and because by our Situation the Enemy hazarded his all, having penetrated as far as our Center, whilst we kept the Eminences both of our Right and Left; accordingly M. de la Mina did not dare to attempt it. On the next Day, the same Detachment, which had attacked the Mountain of Bellin, having been reinforced with about 1000 Men, returned to the Charge again, but were received with the same Firmness by our Men, who chased them farther down than the Day before, notwithstanding they held a much brisker and longer Fire. According to the Report of their Deserters, and by what we can judge, these two Attacks have cost them upwards of 500 Men of their best Troops. Their main Army was under Arms, formed, as the Day before, on two deep Columns, expecting only a favourable Moment for attacking our Center, making a continual Fire of their Artillery and Carabineers from the Rock of Pont upon our advanced Batteries, and our Camp on the Left. Whilst our chief Attention was fixed upon taking Care of our Left and Center thus attack'd, we saw on the Right the Brigade of Anjou, consisting of five Battalions, 1000 Spaniards, and 200 Miquelets, descending from Ristolaz, who ranged themselves in order of Battle opposite to our Intrenchments, ready to attack them, for above two Hours. This Project, if vigorously executed, might have been advantageous to them, because our Right being thus kept in Awe, we durst not weaken it by succouring the Center, if it had been attacked. We were greatly astonished when we saw this whole Corps turning about on a sudden along the High Way at the Bottom of the Valley between La Corbiere and our Camp; an extraordinary Step that had no Design in it, but cost them 4 or 500 Men and Part of their Equipages; for as soon as we saw them entering the said Valley, all the Grenadiers and the Piquets of the Battalions intrench'd on the Eminences of our Right and Center, resolutely leaped out of their Intrenchments, and presented themselves within a little Musket-shot, firing briskly and continually upon this Column, which in a Manner run the Gantlet as far as Pont, where it was afresh exposed to a still brisker Fire from our Artillery, and from our lower Intrenchments on the Left, and saved itself only by the Help of a Body of Grenadiers and Carabineers, and of their Artillery, which advanced to protect this precipitate Retreat. We lost during those Days but two or three Officers killed, four or five wounded, and about 100 private Men killed or wounded.