

*From the Sardinian Camp of St. Pierre and La Tourette, 20th and 23d of July, N. S.*

IN the Night of the 16th, a Body of ten French Battalions, two Spanish, and 33 Companies of Spanish Grenadiers, descended by the Gardelta into the Valley of Belin, and about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon of the 17th, attacked by Detachments our Grenadiers, Piquets and Carabiniers that were posted upon the Rifings on the Right and Left of the Valley, not so much for the Sake of defending them with Obstinacy, as of stopping the Enemy a little longer, in order to judge of their Strength and their Designs.

This Body, of about 8 or 900 Men, sustain'd for above two Hours an unequal and very sharp Action. The Detachment, which guarded the Valley of Bondormir, being come down to sustain this Attack, could not regain their Post in Time, but left it unprovided. M. de Guibert, seeing that the Enemy were taking Possession of the greatest Eminences, ordered his Troops to retire into their Intrenchments. Upon this Occasion some of our Men were killed, some wounded, and some made Prisoners; but the Enemy, by their own Account, lost more Men than we did.

Upon the 18th the Enemy placed on their Right the 33 Companies of Grenadiers, and the two Spanish Battalions, who, under the Command of the Marquis de Campo Santo, attacked, in a Column one of the Points of the Mountain of la Bicoque, where 200 Men sustained their Attack, and being themselves supported by the Piquets from above, repulsed them with Loss beyond the Hollow Way, and even took some of them Prisoners.

In the Night of the 18th, the ten French Battalions, under the Command of M. de Givri, having gained the Top of the Rock of Pierre Longe by Bondormir, attack'd the next Morning the Troops which Baron Verger had posted along the Mountain, in order to hinder them from coming down upon him. The Firing on both Sides lasted about an Hour and half; but that of the Enemy being superior by Reason of their Numbers, who were posted in a Place where they could not be hurt, upon the Top of the Rock, our Troops were obliged to retire to the Posts upon the Hillocks, which savour'd their Retreat. It was made in good Order, and we posted ourselves in the Redoubt of Monte Cavallo.

The General of the Enemy caused his whole Corps to be put into Order of Battle, and sent his Aid de Camp to summon M. de Verger to surrender, who answer'd, like a Man of Spirit, that he was surpris'd to receive such a Message as was only proper to be sent to a Scoundrel.

About Ten o'Clock in the Morning the Enemy marched towards us in two Columns, and formed a second Time behind a Hillock which covered them from the Fire of two Pieces of Cannon, which we had play'd upon them with some Success, during their March.

In short, at One o'Clock in the Afternoon, under Favour of one of the thickest Fogs that was ever seen, the Enemy attacked us with a Corps formed of all their Grenadiers and all their Piquets, and march'd directly to our Pallissadoes, in a Manner without being perceived. We made a very hot Fire upon them, and, if our Artillery, which consisted but of two Pieces

of Cannon, had been serv'd, it had sav'd us that dangerous Work that we were put to, in order to drive them from the Pallissado, which was done by Platoons of Grenadiers, with their Bayonets fix'd.

We soon beat off their Grenadiers. They then attacked us in Battalions, and were four Times successively repuls'd; but, upon the fifth, we were not so fortunate. The Grison Regiment of Travers entered the Redoubt, and found the small Remains of the Garrison, that had till then so bravely defended it, in Confusion, without Officers, almost all of them being either killed or wounded, and without Ammunition.

The Baron de Chabran, who was sent for to the Redoubt, not coming thither Time enough, either to put Things again into Order, or to furnish us with a Supply of fresh Troops, all gave Way, and we were oblig'd to abandon the Redoubt, at the very Time that all the Spectators, and even the King, who saw the Attack the whole Time it lasted, had Reason to expect, from the many Repulses the Enemy had met with, that we should have maintained the Post.

The Action lasted four Hours and a half, during all which Time we had constantly had the Advantage of the Enemy. M. du Verger was every where Sword in Hand, till he was shot dead upon the Spot by a Musket Ball. The Colonel Roguin was seen to charge the Enemy with his Halbert, and to beat down several of the Officers and Soldiers that endeavoured to leap into the Pallissado. The Marquis de Seyffel too charged the Enemy three Times successively, but fell the third, having received a great many Wounds. We lost besides, Count Doria, M. de Blancheville Captain of the Grenadiers of Savoy, M. de Cerifier Major; M. Sartoris of the Regiment of Saluze, and other Officers to the Number of nine killed, and eleven wounded or taken Prisoners.

The two Battalions of Roguin, and the first Battalion of Saluze, with the Piquet, and the Grenadiers of Savoy, and the Marquis de la Marmora, with 20 Carabiniers, compos'd our Garrison. This last having been abandoned by his Company, charg'd, throughout all the Engagement, with the Grenadiers of Savoy. Of this Garrison we lost near 500 Men, reckoning the Killed, Wounded and Prisoners.

The Loss of the Enemy is considerable. All their General Officers, above the Rank of Lieutenant Colonel, were either killed or wounded. M. de Givri received a Wound in his Knee. M. de Salis was killed. The Duke d'Aginois mortally wounded. Of the three Companies of the Regiment of Poitou, only eleven returned to the French Camp. The Regiment of Conti lost above 40 Officers; and their whole Loss is said to amount to above 3000 Men.

The Redoubt being lost, our whole Army quitted their Intrenchments, and retreated to la Tourette. We lost nothing in our Retreat, not so much as a Sack of Corn; and upon the 20th we encamp'd here. The Enemy have not yet quitted the Eminences.

*From the King of Sardinia's Head Quarters at St. Pierre, July 24, N. S. in the Evening.*

The Enemy continues in the Eminences at the two Posts of Bicoque and Pierre-longe, which