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EXTRAORDINARY.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1806.

Downing-Street, September 4, 1806.

A DISPATCH has been this Day received by the Right Honorable William Windham, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, from Major-General Sir John Stuart, commanding His Majesty's Troops acting in Calabria, of which the following is a Copy:

*Camp on the Plain of Maida,
July 6, 1806.*

SIR,

IT is with the most heartfelt Satisfaction that I have the Honor of reporting to you, for the Information of His Majesty, the Particulars of an Action, in which the French Army quartered in this Province have sustained a signal Defeat by the Troops under my Command.

General Regnier, having been apprised of our Disembarkation at St. Eufemia, appears to have made a rapid March from Reggio, uniting, as he advanced, his detached Corps, for the Purpose of attacking, and with his characteristic Confidence, of defeating us.

On the Afternoon of the 3d Instant, I received Intelligence that he had that Day encamped near Maida, about Ten Miles distant from our Position, that his Force consisted at the Moment of about Four Thousand Infantry and Three Hundred Cavalry, together with Four Pieces of Artillery, and that he was in Expectation of being joined within a Day or Two by Three Thousand more Troops who were marching after him in a Second Division.

I determined therefore to advance towards his Position, and, having left Four Companies of Watteville's Regiment under Major Fisher to protect the Stores, and occupy a Work which had been thrown up at our Landing Place, the Body of the Army marched the next Morning according to the following Detail.

Advanced Corps—Lieutenant-Colonel Kempt, with Two Four-Pounders.
Light Infantry Battalion.

Detachment Royal Corsican Rangers.

Detachment Royal Sicilian Volunteers.

1st Brigade—Brigadier-General Cole, with Three Four-Pounders.

Grenadier Battalion.

27th Regiment.

2d Brigade—Brigadier-General Ackland, with Three Four-Pounders.

78th Regiment.

81st Regiment.

3d Brigade—Colonel Oswald, with Two Four-Pounders.

58th Regiment.

Watteville's Regiment, Five Companies.

20th Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, landed during the Action.

Reserve of Artillery—Major Lemoine.

4 Six-Pounders and 2 Howitzers.

Total.—Rank and File, including the Royal Artillery, 4795.

General Regnier was encamped on the Side of a woody Hill, below the Village of Maida, sloping into the Plain of St. Eufemia; his Flanks were strengthened by a thick impervious Underwood. The Amato, a River perfectly fordable, but of which the Sides are extremely marshy, ran along his Front; my Approach to him from the Sea Side (along the Borders of which, I directed my March, until I had nearly turned his Left) was across a spacious Plain, which gave him every Opportunity of minutely observing my Movements.

After some loose firing of the Flankers to cover the Deploiments of the Two Armies, by Nine o'Clock in the Morning the opposing Fronts were warmly engaged, when the Prowess of the Royal Nations seemed now fairly to be at Trial before the World, and the Superiority was greatly and gloriously decided to be our own.

The Corps which formed the Right of the ad-

vanced Line, was the Battalion of Light Infantry commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Kempt, consisting of the Light Companies of the 20th, 27th, 35th, 50th, 61st, 81st, and Watteville's, together with One Hundred and Fifty chosen Battalion Men of the 35th Regiment, under Major Robinson. Directly opposed to them, was the favourite French Regiment the 1^{re} Légère. The Two Corps at the distance of about One Hundred Yards fired reciprocally a few Rounds, when, as if by mutual Agreement, the Firing was suspended, and in close compact Order and awful Silence, they advanced towards each other, until their Bayonets began to cross. At this momentous Crisis the Enemy became appalled. They broke, and endeavoured to fly, but it was too late; they were overtaken with the most dreadful Slaughter.

Brigadier-General Ackland, whose Brigade was immediately on the Left of the Light Infantry, with great Spirit availed himself of this favorable Moment to press instantly forward upon the Corps in his Front; the brave 78th Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Macleod, and the 81st Regiment, under Major Plenderleath, both distinguished themselves on this Occasion. The Enemy fled with Dismay and Disorder before them, leaving the Plain covered with their dead and wounded.

The Enemy being thus completely discomfited on their Left, began to make a new Effort with their Right, in the Hopes of recovering the Day. They were resisted most gallantly by the Brigade under Brigadier-General Cole. Nothing could shake the undaunted Firmness of the Grenadiers under Lieutenant-Colonel O'Callaghan, and of the 27th Regiment under Lieutenant-Colonel Smith. The Cavalry, successively repelled from before their Front, made an Effort to turn their Left, when Lieutenant-Colonel Ross, who had that Morning landed from Messina with the 20th Regiment, and was coming up to the Army during the Action, having observed the Movement, threw his Regiment opportunely into a small Cover upon their Flank, and by a heavy and well directed Fire, entirely disconcerted this Attempt.

This was the last feeble Struggle of the Enemy, who now, astonished and dismayed by the Intrepidity with which they were assailed, began precipitately to retire, leaving the Field covered with Carriage. Above Seven Hundred Bodies of their Dead have been buried upon the Ground.—The Wounded and Prisoners already in our Hands (among which are General Compère, and an Aid-de Camp, the Lieutenant Colonel of the Swiss Regiment, and a long List of Officers of different Ranks) amount to above One Thousand. There are also above One Thousand Men left in Monteleone and the different Posts between this and Reggio, who have mostly notified their Readiness to surrender, whenever a British Force shall be sent to receive their Submission, and to protect them from the Fury of the People.—The Peasantry are hourly bringing in Fugitives, who dispersed in the Woods and Mountains after the Battle. In short, never has the Pride of our presumptuous Enemy been more severely humbled, nor the Superiority of the British Troops more gloriously proved, than in the Events of this memorable Day.

His Majesty may, perhaps, still deign to appreciate more highly the Achievements of this little

Army, when it is known that the Second Division which the Enemy were said to be expecting had all joined them the Night before the Action; no Statement that I have heard of their Numbers places them at a less Calculation than Seven Thousand Men.

Our victorious Infantry continued the Pursuit of the routed Enemy so long as they were able; but as the latter dispersed in every Direction, and we were under the Necessity of preserving our Order, the Trial of Speed became unequal.

The total Loss occasioned to the Enemy by this Conflict cannot be less than Four Thousand Men. When I oppose to the above our own small comparative Loss, as underneath detailed, His Majesty will, I hope, discern in the Fact, the happy Effects of that established Discipline to which we owe the Triumphs by which our Army has been latterly so highly distinguished.

I am now beginning my March Southward preparatory to my return to Sicily, for which Station I shall re-embark with the Army, as soon as His Sicilian Majesty shall have arranged a Disposition of his own Forces to secure those Advantages which have been gained by the present Expedition.

There seldom has happened an Action in which the Zeal and Personal Exertions of Individuals were so imperiously called for as in the present; seldom an Occasion where a General had a fairer Opportunity of observing them.

The General Officers, and those who commanded Regiments, will feel a stronger Test of their Merits in the Circumstances that have been detailed of their Conduct, than in any Eulogium I could presume to pass upon them.

The 58th and Watteville's Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels Johnston and Watteville, which formed the Reserve, under Colonel Oswald, were ably directed in their Application to that essential Duty.

The Judgment and Effect with which our Artillery was directed by Major Lemoine, was, in our Dearth of Cavalry, of most essential Use; and I have a Pleasure in reporting the effective Services of that valuable and distinguished Corps.

To the several Departments of the Army, every Acknowledgement is due; but to no Officer, am I bound to express them so fully, on my Part, as to Lieutenant-Colonel Bunbury, the Deputy Quarter-Master-General, to whose Zeal and Activity, and able Arrangements in the important Branch of Service which he directs, the Army as well as myself are under every marked Obligation.

From Captain Tomlin the acting Head of the Adjutant-General's Department, and from the Officers of my own Family, I have received much active Assistance. Among the latter I am to mention Lieutenant-Colonel Moore of the 23d Light Dragoons, who being in Sicily for his Health at the Time of our Departure, solicited Permission to accompany me on this Expedition; he was wounded in the Execution of my Orders.

From the Medical Department under the Direction of Mr. Grieves, the Deputy Inspector, I am to acknowledge much professional Attention, the more so as their Labours have been greatly accumulated by the Number of wounded Prisoners who have become equally with our own, the Subject of their Care.

The Scene of Action was too far from the Sea to



enable us to derive any direct Co-operation from the Navy: but Admiral Sir Sidney Smith, who had arrived in the Bay the Evening before the Action, had directed such a Disposition of Ships and Gunboats as would have greatly favoured us, had Events obliged us to retire. The Solicitude however of every Part of the Navy to be of use to us, the Promptitude with which the Seamen hastened on Shore with our Supplies, their Anxiety to assist our wounded, and the Tendernefs with which they treated them, would have been an affecting Circumstance to Observers even the most indifferent. To me it was particularly so.

Captain Fellowes, of His Majesty's Ship Apollo, has been specially attached to this Expedition by the Rear-Admiral; and, in every Circumstance of professional Service, I beg Leave to mention our grateful Obligations to this Officer, as well as to Captains Cocket and Watfon, Agents of Transports, who acted under his Orders.

Captain Bulkeley, my Aide-de-Camp, who will have the Honor of presenting this Letter to you, has attended me throughout the Whole of the Services in the Mediterranean, and will therefore be able to give you every additional Information on the Subject of my present Communication.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

J. STUART, Maj. Gen.

Return of Killed and Wounded of the British Troops under the Command of Major-General Sir John Stuart, in the Battle on the Plains of St. Euphemia, near Maida, 4th July 1806.

Royal Artillery.—2 Horses killed; 3 Gunners wounded.

Grenadier Battalion.—4 Rank and File killed; 1 Officer, 1 Serjeant, 25 Rank and File wounded.

Light Infantry Battalion.—1 Officer, 7 Rank and

File killed; 1 Officer, 1 Drummer, 41 Rank and File wounded.

20th Foot.—1 Rank and File killed; 1 Drummer, 5 Rank and File wounded.

27th Foot, 1st Batt.—6 Rank and File killed; 1 Serjeant, 46 Rank and File wounded.

58th Foot, 1st Batt.—2 Rank and File, wounded.

78th Foot, 2d Batt.—4 Rank and File killed; 7 Officers, 4 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, 69 Rank and File wounded.

81st Foot, 1st Batt.—3 Serjeants, 16 Rank and File, killed; 2 Officers, 1 Serjeant, 62 Rank and File wounded.

Regiment of Watteville.—3 Rank and File wounded.

Royal Corsican Rangers.—3 Rank and File killed; 5 Rank and File wounded.

Total.—1 Officer, 3 Serjeants, 41 Rank and File killed; 11 Officers, 8 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 261 Rank and File wounded.

Names of Officers Killed and Wounded.

Killed.

Light Infantry Batt.—Captain M'Leane, of 20th Foot.

Wounded.

Grenadier Batt.—Major Hammill, of Royal Regiment of Malta.

Light Infantry Batt.—Major Paulett, of 44th Foot, severely.

78th Foot, 2d Batt.—Lieutenant-Colonel M'Leod; Major D. Stuart: Captains D. M'Pherfon and D. M'Gregor; Lieutenant James M'Kay; Ensigns Colin M'Kenzie and Peter M'Gregor.

81st Foot, 1st Batt.—Captain Waterhouse; Lieutenant and Adjutant Ginger.

Staff.—Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, of 23d Light Dragoons, acting Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Sir John Stuart.

(Signed) R. TOMLIN,
Assist. Adj. Gen.

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