

Having examined the Enemy's Position, and finding it very strong, I determined to endeavour to turn it by their Right, and for this Purpose ordered the Whole of the Column to move forwards, under Cover of the high Ground, leaving only a sufficient Quantity of Cavalry upon the Heights to occupy the Enemy's Attention. Strong Batteries likewise were formed, which kept up a severe Fire, and protected the Movements very considerably.

As soon as the Troops had gained sufficiently the Enemy's Flank, the Advanced Guard, under the Command of Major-General Abercromby, was directed to begin the Attack, and Two Companies of the Light Corps of Odonnel, supported by the Two Grenadier Companies of the First Regiment of Guards under the Command of Colonel Stanhope, stormed and took the Star Redoubt, above the Village of Vaux, while the Three Battalions of Austrian Grenadiers, led on by Major-General Petrash, attacked the Wood, and made themselves Masters of the Works which the Enemy had constructed for its Defence.

The Enemy's Fire at first was very severe, but when the Troops approached they began to retreat on all Sides, and were soon put to Flight. I immediately detached a Part of the Cavalry, consisting of Hussars, and One Squadron of the 16th Regiment of Light Dragoons, commanded by Major Lippert of the former Corps, round the Wood to the Right, who completely succeeded in cutting them off, took Four Pieces of Cannon and a Howitzer, with a considerable Loss of Men on the Part of the Enemy; whilst the Cavalry of the Advanced Guard on our Left, under the Command of Colonel Devay of the Regiment of Arch-Duke Ferdinand's Hussars, pursued them through the Wood, and drove them into the Village of Bohain, which they evacuated immediately.

Sir William Erskine was equally successful with his Column, which was intended, by the Villages of Marts and Prémont, to turn the Wood of Bohain, in order to facilitate my Attack. He met with no Resistance till he arrived at the Village of Prémont, where he found the Enemy strongly posted; he immediately formed his Line, and having detached the Brigade of British Infantry and the Austrian Regiment of Cuirassiers of Zetchwitz, with Four Squadrons of British Light Dragoons, under the Command of Lieutenant-General Harcourt, in order to turn the Position, he attacked it in Front with Three Battalions of the Regiment of Kaunitz, supported by a well-directed Fire of the Austrian and British Artillery of the Reserve, under the Command of Lieutenant-Colonel Congreve, and succeeded completely in driving the Enemy from the Redoubts, where he took Two Pieces of Cannon and a Pair of Colours: He from thence proceeded to turn the Wood with a

Part of the Corps, leaving the rest upon the Position at Prémont.

The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Columns were intended to observe the Enemy on the Side of Cambray, the First of these composed of Austrians, and commanded by Major-General Count Haddick, pushed forwards as far as the Village of Crevecoeur, and detached some Light Troops across the Scheldt, without meeting with any Resistance.

The Seventh Column, consisting of Austrians and Dutch, under the Hereditary Prince of Orange, moved forwards upon the high Road leading from Cateau to Cambray, and advanced beyond Beauvois with the Eighth Column, composed chiefly of Dutch Troops, commanded by Major-General Geysau, covered the Hereditary Prince of Orange's Right Flank, and moved forwards in Front of St. Hilaire. Neither of these last Columns were in the least engaged; but this Morning the Enemy attacked the Prince of Orange's Advanced Guard, who repulsed them with great Ease.

The signal Success which has attended these extensive and complicated Operations has determined His Imperial Majesty to begin immediately the Siege of Landrecies; and therefore the Hereditary Prince of Orange, who will have the Direction of the Siege, has moved this Evening with the greatest Part of his Camp from Beauvois, and taken a Position so as to complete the Investiture of that Fortress; while His Imperial Majesty, with the Grand Army, covers the Operations of the Siege on the Side of Guise, and that under my immediate Command does the same towards Cambray.

What adds greatly to the general Satisfaction upon this Occasion is, the inconsiderable Loss which the Combined Armies have sustained, whilst that of the Enemy has been very great. The British, in particular, have been peculiarly fortunate. The Honorable Captain Carleton, of the Royals, a young Officer of promising Merit, is the only one we have to regret; nor has any one Officer been wounded: Of Privates we had Three killed and Six wounded.

The Enemy has lost in these various Attacks upwards of Thirty Pieces of Cannon, of which Nine were taken by the Column under my Command, besides the Two which were taken by Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine.

I have equal Satisfaction in reporting, from my own Observation, and the Account I have received from Sir William Erskine, the Spirit and good Conduct of all the Officers and Men under my Command; but I have particular Obligations to Lieutenant-Generals Sir William Erskine and Otto, as well as to Major-General Abercromby, who commanded the Advanced Guard of my Column, to Colonel Devay, Major Lippert of the Austrian Hussars, and to Lieutenant