



# The London Gazette

## EXTRAORDINARY.

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MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1798.

*Whitehall, June 18, 1798.*

**A** DISPATCH, of which the following is a Copy, has been this Day received from His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland by his Grace the Duke of Portland, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department.

*Dublin-Castle, June 14, 1798.*

My Lord,

**I** Have the Honor to acquaint your Grace, that Intelligence arrived this Day from Major-General Nugent, stating that on the 11th Instant he had marched against a large Body of Rebels, who were posted at Saintfield: They retired on his Approach to a strong Position on the Saintfield Side of Ballynahinch, and there made a Shew of Resistance, and endeavoured to turn his Left Flank; but Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart arriving from Down with a pretty considerable Force of Infantry, Cavalry and Yeomanry, they soon desisted, and retired to a very strong Position behind Ballynahinch. General Nugent attacked them the next Morning

at Three o'Clock, having occupied Two Hills on the Left and Right of the Town, to prevent the Rebels from having any other Choice than the Mountains in their Rear for their Retreat. He sent Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart to post himself, with Part of the Argyll Fencibles and some Yeomanry, as well as a Detachment of the 22d Light Dragoons, in a Situation from which he could enfilade the Rebel Line, whilst Colonel Leslie, with Part of the Monaghan Militia, some Cavalry and Yeoman Infantry, should make an Attack upon their Front. Having Two Howitzers and 6 Six-Pounders, with the Two Detachments, the Major-General was enabled to annoy them very much from different Parts of his Position.

The Rebels attacked impetuously Colonel Leslie's Detachment, and even jumped into the Road from the Earl of Moira's Demesne, to endeavour to take One of his Guns, but they were repulsed with Slaughter. Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart's Detachment was attacked by them with the same Activity, but he repulsed them also; and the Fire from his Howitzer

[ Price Sixpence. ]

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and Six-Pounder soon obliged them to fly in all Directions. Their Force was, in the Evening of the 12th, near 5000; but as many Persons are pressed into their Service, and almost entirely unarmed, the General does not suppose that, on the Morning of the Engagement, their Numbers were so considerable.

About 400 Rebels were killed in the Attack and Retreat, and the Remainder were dispersed all over the Country.— Parts of the Towns of Saintfield and Ballynahinch were burnt. Major-General Nugent states, that both Officers and Men deserve Praise for their Zeal and Alacrity on this as well as on all Occasions; but he particularly expresses his Obligations to Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart for his Advice and Assistance throughout the Business, and to Colonel Leslie for his Readiness to volunteer the Duty at all Times. The Yeomanry behaved with extreme Steadiness and Bravery. Three or Four Green Colours were taken, and Six One-Pounders, not mounted, but which the Rebels fired very often, and a considerable Quantity of Ammunition. Their Chief was Munro, a Shopkeeper of Lisburn.

Major-General Nugent regrets the Loss of Captain Eyatt, of the Monaghan Militia. Lieutenant Ellis, of the same Regiment, was wounded. The Loss of Rank and File was Five killed and Fourteen wounded. Several of the Yeoman Infantry were killed or wounded. The Major-General expresses his Acknowledgements to Lieutenant-Colonel Peacock and Major of Brigade Mackinnon, who were of the greatest Service.

The Portaferry Yeomanry, on the 11th Instant, under the Command of Captain Matthews, made a most gallant Defence against a large Body of the Rebels, who attacked the Town of Portaferry; the

Yeomanry having taken Possession of the Market-House, from which Post they repulsed the Rebels, who left behind them above 40 dead; many more were carried off. Captain Hopkins, of a Revenue Cruizer, brought his Guns to bear on the Town, and was of great Service in defending it.

Advices from Major-General Sir Charles Asgill, dated from Kilkenny, the 13th Instant, state, that on the Evening of the 12th, having heard that a large Body of the Rebels had marched from the County of Wexford against Borris, under the Command of Mr. Baginall Harvey, and were burning the Town, he proceeded to its Relief with 400 Men, but the Rebels had fled before he could arrive. They had attacked Mr. Kavanagh's House, in which were 29 Men of the Donegal Militia, who, notwithstanding the incessant Fire kept up on them for some Hours, defended themselves in the most gallant Manner, and killed several of the Rebels. Nothing could surpass the determined Bravery of those few Men. The Rebels effected their Escape into the County of Wexford.

A Letter, received by Lieutenant-General Lake from Major-General Johnson, dated the 13th Instant at New Ross, states, that having received Information that the Rebels had fitted out several Boats and other Craft for the Purpose of effecting their Escape, he had sent Lieutenant Hill, with such armed Vessels as could be spared from Feathard, where they were collected, with Orders to destroy the Whole; which Lieutenant Hill effected with his usual Spirit, and without Loss. Thirteen large sailing Hookers and a great many Boats were burnt.

I have the Honor to be, &c. &c.

CAMDEN.

*His Grace the Duke of Portland,*  
 &c. &c. &c.