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Downing-Street, July 10, 1799.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are Copies, have been this Day received from the Right Honorable Lord William Bentinck by the Right Honorable Lord Grenville, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

MY LORD, *Placenza, June 22, 1799.*

BEFORE I begin to relate the different Actions which have taken place, and which I am happy to say have terminated in the most complete Success, it will be necessary previously to state to your Lordship the Situation of the Allied Army, by which you will be better able to understand the Views of the Enemy, and the Movements by which they have been defeated. The great and extensive Plan of Operations undertaken by Field-Marshal Suwarrow have necessarily very much divided his Force. Besides the Siege of Turin; Mantua, Alexandria, and Tortona, were blockaded. The Passes of Sufa, Pignerol, and the Col D'Affiette, have been occupied. Major-General Hohenzollern was posted at Modena with a considerable Corps: Lieutenant-General Ott with Ten Thousand Men, at Reggio, observed the Movements of the Enemy on that Side, while Field-Marshal Suwarrow remained at Turin with the Rest of the Army. This divided State of the Army appears to have presented to General Moreau the most favorable Op-

portunity of retrieving the French Affairs in Italy. He hoped, by strongly reinforcing the Army of Naples, that General Macdonald would be able to defeat the separate Corps of Generals Ott and Hohenzollern, and afterwards to effect a Junction with the Army under his own Command; and he probably conceived that the Field-Marshal was too distant to afford Assistance. With this View the Army of Macdonald, which had advanced very far to the North of Italy, was joined by the Division of Victor, and, from the Report of the French Officers taken, must have amounted to near Thirty Thousand Men, composed entirely of French, with the Exception of One Polish Legion. Field-Marshal Suwarrow having received Information of the Intentions of the Enemy, immediately collected all the Force at Alexandria, whence he marched on the 15th with Seventeen Battalions of Russians, Twelve Battalions of Austrian Dragoons, and Three Regiments of Cofacks. In the meantime General Macdonald had fallen upon Major-General Hohenzollern, and had obliged him to cross the Po with considerable Loss. Lieutenant-General Ott had also been obliged to retire from Reggio to Placenza. On the 17th, the French attacked General Ott, and compelled him to fall back upon Castel S. Gioanni, when the Arrival of the Army, under the Command of Field-Marshal Suwarrow, enabled Lieutenant-General Ott to repulse the French behind the Tidone River with the Loss of One Piece of Cannon and several Pri-

oners.—On the 18th, the Army marched in Three Columns to attack the Enemy.—The Russian General Rosenberg commanded the Right Column, the Russian General Foerster the Center, and General Melas the Left.—The Russian Major-General Prince Prokraton commanded the Advanced Guard, Prince Licktenstein the Reserve.—The Columns moved at Twelve o'Clock.—The Country is perfectly flat, and very much intersected with Ditches and Rows of Vines. It does not appear that the Enemy occupied any particular Position. An advanced Corps of Two Battalions and Two Guns at Cassaleggio was attacked by the Russian Grenadiers, and the whole made Prisoners. The French Line retired behind the Trebbia. It was too late, and the Troops were too much fatigued to make a general Attack, which was ordered for the next Morning. The Trebbia is the most rapid Torrent in Italy. The Distance from One Bank to the other is near a Mile. The intermediate Space is an open Sand, divided by several Streams, which at this Season are fordable anywhere. The French occupied the Right Bank, the Allies the left. On the 19th, while the Allies were preparing to make the Attack, the French began a very heavy Fire upon the whole Line. For a Moment they succeeded in turning the Right of the Russians at Cassaleggio, and obliged them to fall back; but at this Instant Prince Prokraton, who had been detached with the same Intent on the Enemy's Left, fell upon their Rear and Flank, and took One Piece of Cannon and many Prisoners. The French did not however give up their Object. They renewed the Attack repeatedly upon the Village of Cassaleggio, but they were always defeated by the obstinate Valour of the Russians. The Attack upon the Center and Left was equally violent. For some Time the Success was doubtful, but at Night the whole French Line was repulsed behind the Trebbia. It was the Intention of the Field-Marshal Suwarrow to have followed up this Success the next Morning, but the French Army retired in the Night. On the 20th in the Morning the Army pursued the Enemy in Two Columns. The Russians on the Night marched by Settima, Montaruno, and Zena, where the Rear

Guard of the French, after an obstinate Resistance, laid down their Arms. The Left Column, composed of Austrians, marched on the great Road from Placenza to Parma as far as Ponte Nura. On the 21st the Army moved on to Fiorenzola, Lieutenant-General Ott was detached with a Corps of Austrians in Pursuit of the Enemy. Several Prisoners have already been sent in. General Ott has reported, that the French are retiring in Two Columns, One upon Parma, the other upon Forte Novo. Prince Hohenzollern has again advanced to Parma. Seven Pieces of Cannon, Four French Generals, and above Ten Thousand Prisoners have fallen into the Hands of the Allies. General Moreau has advanced to Tortona, where he gained a slight Advantage over the Advanced Posts of General Bellegarde. General Moreau's Army, from all Reports, does not exceed Twelve Thousand Men, among whom are a vast Number of Genoese. Not having seen any Return of the Killed and Wounded of the Austrians, it is impossible for me to say what their Loss has been; it must have been considerable.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

WILLIAM BENTINCK.

MY LORD, *Placenza, June 23, 1799.*

SINCE I had the Honor of writing to your Lordship Yesterday, the very important News of the Surrender of the Citadel of Turin has arrived. The Garrison is to return to France immediately, to be exchanged for an equal Number of Austrian Prisoners. General Fiorella, the Commandant of the Citadel, and all the French Officers taken with him, are detained as Hostages till the Articles of the Capitulation are executed. Field-Marshal Suwarrow arrived here this Morning with the Main Army; he will march To-morrow towards Alexandria, in order to cover the Sieges of that Town and of Tortona. General Ott has formed a Junction with Major-Generals Klenau and Hohenzollern at Parma.—General Macdonald has retreated with his whole Corps by Forte Novo towards Genoa.

I have the Honor, &c.

WILLIAM BENTINCK.

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