

ority of the Enemy, he indeed was able to reach Linz, but was incapable of crossing the Danube, and obliged to content himself with destroying the Communication with the left Bank, and taking up a Position behind the Traua near Ebersberg. This was the Occasion of an extremely murderous Engagement, during which the Enemy in storming the Bridge lost near Four Thousand Men: Ebersberg was set on Fire, and Lieutenant-General Hiller continued his Retreat, till he got so much the Start as to pass the Danube near Stain without being disturbed by the Enemy, and to wait the Approach of the Archduke, who, after having in vain attempted the Junction of the Army near Linz, had marched from Budweis to Zwettel; still hoping, by a quick Passage of the Danube, to arrest the Enemy's Progress towards the Metropolis.

Meanwhile a Corps of Wurtembergers had advanced from Passau along both the Shores of the Danube, had occupied Linz and the Bank opposite to it; had restored the Bridge, and signalized itself by destroying the defenceless Villages and Castles which could not be protected by the small advanced Guard proceeding by the Side of the main Army.

The Enemy, by marching through the Valley of the Danube in the straightest Line, had got so much a-head, that all Hopes of coming up with him in Front of Vienna vanished; still, however, if that City had been able to hold out for Five Days, it might have been relieved; and the Archduke resolved on venturing the utmost to rescue that good City, which, by the excellent Disposition of its Citizens, the faithful Attachment to its Sovereign, and its noble Devotion, has raised to itself an eternal Monument in the Annals of Austria. All his Plans were now directed towards gaining the Bridges across the Danube near Vienna, and endeavouring to save the Imperial Resistance by a Combat under its very Walls.

Vienna, formerly an important Fortress, was in vain besieged by the Turks, and would, even now, from the Solidity of its Ramparts, the strong Profiles of its Works, and the extensive System of its Mines, be capable of making a protracted Resistance, had not, for upwards of a Century back, the Luxury of a large Metropolis, the Wants of Ease, the Conflux of all the Magnates in the Empire, and the Pomp of a splendid Court, totally effaced every Consideration of military Defence. Palaces adorn the Rampart, the Casemates and Ditches were converted into Workshops of Tradesmen, Plantations mark the Counter-scarpes of the Fortresses, and Avenues of Trees traverse the Glacis, uniting the most beautiful Suburbs in the World to the Corps de la Place.

Although under such Circumstances no obstinate Resistance of the Capital was to be expected, yet from the unexampled Loyalty of the Inhabitants it was confidently hoped that Vienna might for a few Days serve as a Tête de Pont to cover the Passage of the River; whence all Preparations amounted to no more than to secure the Place against a Coup-de-Main; and for this Reason the Archduke had some Time before directed Field-Marshal Hiller to send Part of his Corps along the right Bank towards the Capital, in the Event of his (the Archduke's) Passage to the left Shore.

Field-Marshal Hiller now received Orders to burn the Bridge near Stain in his Rear, to leave a small Corps of Observation near Krems, to hasten

by forced Marches with the Bulk of his Army to the Environs of Vienna, and, as Circumstances would permit, by occupying the small Islands, to keep up the Communication with the City and the Debouché across the Bridges.

The Army of the Archduke now advanced, without Interruption, by Neupölla, Horn, and Weikendorf upon Stockerau; and, in order to overawe such Enterprizes as the Enemy might project from the Environs of Linz, Part of the Corps of the General of Artillery Count Kollowrath, which till then had remained near Pilsen with a view to secure the North and West Frontier of Bohemia, was ordered to march to Budweis.

Napoleon had used so much Expedition on his March to Vienna, that on the 9th of May his advanced Troops appeared on the Glacis of the Fortress, whence they were driven by some Cannon-Shot. From Three to Four thousand regular Troops, as many armed Citizens, and some Battalions of Country Militia, defended the City; Ordinance of various Calibre was placed upon the Ramparts; the Suburbs were abandoned on account of their great Extent; and the numerous Islands and low bushy Ground behind the Town were occupied by some Light Troops of the Corps of Hiller as well as by Militia.

The Corps itself was posted on what is termed "the Point" on the left Shore of the River, waiting the Arrival of the Army, which was advancing in haste.

The Occupation of Vienna formed too essential a Part in the extensive Plans of the French Emperor; its Conquest had been announced by him with too much Confidence, and was of too great Importance towards confirming the Prejudice of his irresistible Power, for him not to employ every Method of taking it before the Assistance which was so near could arrive.

For the Space of Twenty-four Hours the Howitzers played upon the Town; and though several Houses were set on fire, the Courage of the Inhabitants remained unshaken. But a general Devastation threatened their valuable Property, and when at length the Enemy, availing himself of the numerous Craft which he found there, crossed the smaller Branches of the Danube, dislodged the Troops from the nearest Islands, and menaced their Communication with the left Bank, the City was justified in capitulating, while the Troops retreated by the great Bridge of Labor, which they afterwards set on Fire.

The Archduke received this Intelligence in his Head-Quarters, between Horn and Meisau, and though it was scarcely to be expected that the City, surrounded as it was, should continue its Resistance, the Archduke proceeded on his March without Interruption, flattering himself that he might be able to execute his favourite Project by a bold Attempt to pass the Danube near Vienna.

This City capitulated on the 13th of May, so that there was no further Occasion to expose the Army to Hazard by crossing the Danube, for which no sufficient Preparation had been made, and which must have been effected in the Face of the Enemy, and under local Circumstances of the greatest Disadvantage. By the Surrender of Vienna the Army had also lost a Point of Support on which to rest its military Operations.