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Downing-Street, December 3, 1810.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is an Extract, has been this Day received at Lord Liverpool's Office, addressed to his Lordship by Lieutenant-General Viscount Wellington, dated Cartaxo, 21st November 1810.

THE Enemy retired from the Position which they had held for the last Month, with their Right at Sobral, and their Left resting upon the Tagus, in the Night of the 14th Instant; and went by the Road of Alenquer towards Alcoentre with their Right, and Villa Nova with their Left.—They continued their Retreat towards Santarem on the following Days.

The Allied Army broke up from their Position on the Morning of the 15th Instant, and followed the March of the Enemy; and the advanced Guard was at Alenquer on the 15th, and the British Cavalry and the advanced Guard at Azambuga and Alcoentre on the 16th, and at this Place on the 17th.

In these Movements they made about Four Hundred Prisoners.

These Troops have been followed on their March by Sir Brent Spencer's Division, and the 5th Division of Infantry under Major-General Leith.

On the 17th I received Accounts from Major-General Fane, from the Left of the Tagus, that the Enemy had constructed another Bridge on the Zezere, that which had been first thrown over that

River having been carried away by the Floods; and that they had on that Day marched a large Body of Troops from Santarem towards Golegão; and I immediately passed Lieutenant-General Hill's Corps across the Tagus at Valada, in Boats which Admiral Berkeley had been so kind as to send up the River to aid and facilitate the Operations of the Army.

Having advanced from the Positions in which I was enabled to bring the Enemy to a Stand, and to oblige them to retire without venturing upon any Attack, it is but Justice to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and the Officers of the Royal Engineers, to draw your Lordship's Attention to the Ability and Diligence with which they have executed the Works by which these Positions have been strengthened to such a Degree as to render any Attack upon that Line occupied by the Allied Army very doubtful, if not entirely hopeless. We are indebted for these Advantages to Lieutenant-Colonel Fletcher and the Officers of the Royal Engineers; among whom I must particularly mention Captain Chapman, who has given me great Assistance upon various Occasions.

Your Lordship will have observed how much the effective Strength of the Army in Proportion to its total Numbers has encreased lately. There is no Sickness in the Army of any Importance; and above One Half of those returned as sick in the Military Returns are Convalescents, who are retained