

ject of this movement was apparently to divert the allied troops from the pursuit of the army of Portugal, and to enable the latter to maintain themselves upon the Douro; in which, however, the enemy did not succeed. Their rear-guard remained in some strength on the left of the Douro, during the 28th and 29th; but the light and 1st divisions, and the cavalry, having crossed the Eresma and Cega rivers on the latter day, the enemy's rear-guard retired during the night across the Douro, and thence followed the movements of the main body towards Villa Vanez, abandoning Valladolid, and leaving there seventeen pieces of cannon, a large quantity of shot and shells and other stores, and their hospital, with about eight hundred sick and wounded.

The General in Chief Macquinez took three hundred prisoners in the neighbourhood of Valladolid, on the 30th; our advanced-guard crossed the Douro, and our parties entered Valladolid on the same day; and I had the satisfaction of being received by the people in that city with the same enthusiastic joy, as I had been in all other parts of the country.

The army of Portugal having thus crossed and quitted the Douro, it was necessary to attend to the movements of the army of the centre, and to prevent a junction between the two on the Upper Douro, which, it was reported, was intended.

While, therefore, the advanced-guard and left continued the pursuit of the army of Portugal, I moved the right along the Cega to Cuellar, where I arrived on the 1st instant.

Joseph Buonaparte retired from Segovia on the morning of the 1st, and marched through the Guadarrama; and he left at Segovia an advanced-guard, principally of cavalry, under General Espert; having destroyed the cannon and ammunition which were in the castle, having carried off the church plate and other valuable property, and having levied a considerable contribution on the inhabitants of the town.

I have not yet heard whether a detachment, which I sent to Segovia yesterday under Brigadier-General D'Urban, had entered the town.

The army of Portugal have continued their retreat towards Burgos.

The enemy have continued to increase their force in Estremadura.

I enclose Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's report of a very handsome affair with the enemy's cavalry, on the 24th July, by the division under the

command of Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine.

I have received no further accounts of the operations under Sir Home Popham.

P. S. I have just heard that the French troops under General Espert, have withdrawn from Segovia by San Ildefonso.

MY LORD,

Zafra, July 27, 1812.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, a copy of a letter from Lieutenant-General Sir William Erskine, and one from Major-General Long, reporting an affair between some of our cavalry and three regiments of the enemy's cavalry, in the neighbourhood of Ribera, on the 24th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) R. HILL.

To General the Earl of Wellington,

K. B. &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

Los Santos, July 25, 1812.

I HAVE the honour to report to you, that a body of the enemy's cavalry, consisting of two regiments of dragoons and one of chasseurs, under the command of General of Brigade Almand, attacked yesterday morning the Portuguese piquet at Hinojosa, which they drove in as far as Ribera, where four squadrons of Portuguese cavalry were stationed, under the command of Colonel Campbell.

The force under Colonel Campbell being greatly inferior to that of the enemy, he was under the necessity of retiring upon Villa Franca, which he did in the best order. Major-General Long advancing at the same time from Villa Franca with the brigade of British cavalry under his command, and Captain Lefebue's troop of horse artillery to support him.

The enemy, on perceiving the advance of General Long's brigade, halted on the high ground betwixt Ribera and Villa Franca. General Long also halting until joined by a part of his brigade that had been detached in the morning to observe the enemy on the side of Usagre. During this interval, I directed Major-General Slade, with two regiments of his brigade, to move from Los Santos, and direct his march on the left flank and rear of the enemy.

As soon as General Long had collected the whole of his brigade, he moved forward against the