



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1812.

Downing-Street, September 4, 1812.

MAJOR BURGH, Aid-de-Camp to the Marquess of Wellington, has this day arrived at Lord Bathurst's office with dispatches, addressed to his Lordship by Lord Wellington, dated Madrid the 13th and 15th ultimo, of which the following are extracts.

Madrid, August 15.

HAVING found that the army under Marshal Marmont continued their retreat upon Burgos, in a state not likely to take the field again for some time, I determined to bring Joseph Buonaparte to a general action, or force him to quit Madrid.

Accordingly I moved from Cuellar on the 6th instant. We arrived at Segovia on the 7th, and at St. Ildefonso on the 8th, where I halted one day, to allow the right of the army more time to come up.

No opposition was made to the passage of the troops through the mountains; and Brigadier-General D'Urban, with the Portuguese cavalry, and 1st light battalion of the King's German Legion, and Captain M'Donald's troop of horse artillery, had been through the Guadarama pass since the 9th. He moved forward on the morning of the 11th from the neighbourhood of Galapagas, and supported by the heavy cavalry of the King's German Legion from Torreledones, he drove in the French cavalry, about two thousand in number, and placed himself at Majalahonda, with the Portuguese cavalry and Captain M'Donald's troop, and the cavalry and light infantry of the King's German Legion at Las Royas, about three quarters of a mile distant.

The enemy's cavalry which had been driven off in the morning, and had moved towards Na-

val Carnero, returned about five in the afternoon, and Brigadier-General D'Urban having formed the Portuguese cavalry in front of Majalahonda, supported by the horse artillery, ordered the cavalry to charge the enemy's leading squadrons, which appeared too far advanced to be supported by their main body. The Portuguese cavalry advanced to the attack, but unfortunately turned about before they reached the enemy; and they fled through the village of Majalahonda, and back upon the German dragoons; leaving behind them, unprotected and unsupported, those guns of Captain Macdonald's troop, which had been moved forward to co-operate with the cavalry. By the activity of the officers and soldiers of Captain Macdonald's troop, the guns were however moved off; but owing to the unfavourable nature of the ground over which they were moved, the carriage of one was broken, and two others were overturned; and these three guns fell into the enemy's hands.

The Portuguese dragoons having fled through Majalahonda, were rallied and reformed upon the heavy dragoons of the King's German Legion, which were formed between that village and Las Royas. The German cavalry charged the enemy, although under many disadvantages, and stopped their further progress; but I am sorry to say, that they suffered considerable loss, and that Colonel Jonqueires, who commanded the brigade, was taken prisoner. The left of the army was about two miles and a half distant, at the Puente de Ratomar, on the Guadarama River, and Colonel Ponsonby's brigade of cavalry and a brigade of infantry of the 7th division having moved forward to the support of the troops in advance, the enemy retired upon Majalahonda as soon as they observed