

these troops, and night having come on, they retired upon Alcorcou, leaving our guns at Majalahonda.

I am happy to report that the officers of the Portuguese cavalry behaved remarkably well, and shewed a good example to their men, particularly the Visconde de Barbacena, who was taken prisoner. The conduct of the brave German cavalry, was, I understand, excellent, as was that of Captain McDonald's troop of horse artillery. The light infantry battalion was not engaged.

The army moved forward yesterday morning, and its left took possession of the city of Madrid, Joseph Buonaparte having retired with the army of the centre by the roads of Toledo and Aranjuez, leaving a garrison in the Retiro.

It is impossible to describe the joy manifested by the inhabitants of Madrid upon our arrival; and I hope that the prevalence of the same sentiments of detestation of the French yoke, and of a strong desire to secure the independence of their country, which first induced them to set the example of resistance to the Usurper, will induce them to make exertions in the cause of their country, which will be more efficacious than those formerly made.

I have not yet heard that Astorga has fallen; but the garrison which the enemy left in Tordeillas, about two hundred and sixty in number, surrendered to General Santocildes on the 5th instant.

I have received no further reports of the situation of General Ballasteros since the 21st of July. I have letters from General Joseph O'Donnell and General Roche of the 26th July; and the army of Marcia, under the command of the former, was defeated by General D'Harispe on the 21st of July. It appears that the Spanish troops moved forward to attack General D'Harispe's posts at Castalla and at Ybi; those which attacked the former were repulsed with the loss of two thousand men and two pieces of cannon; those which attacked the latter, under the command of General Roche, conducted themselves remarkably well, and covered the retreat of the troops under General O'Donnell, and afterwards effected their own retreat, in good order, to Alicante.

Madrid, August 15, 1812.

I HAVE the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the garrison of the Retiro surrendered by capitulation yesterday; and I have now the honour to inclose a translation of the capitulation.

We invested the place completely on the evening of the 13th; and in the night detachments of the 7th division of infantry, under the command of Major-General Hope, and of the 3d division of infantry, under the command of Major-General the Honourable E. Pakenham, drove in the enemy's posts from the Prado and the Botanical Garden; and the works which they had constructed outside of the park-wall; and having broken through the wall in different places, they were established in the palace of the Retiro, and close to the exterior of the enemy's works, inclosing the building called La China.

The troops were preparing in the morning to attack those works, preparatory to the arrangements to be adopted for the attack of the interior line

and building, when the Governor sent out an officer to desire to capitulate, and I granted him the honours of war, the baggage of the officers and soldiers of the garrison, &c. as specified in the enclosed agreement.

I enclose a return of the strength of the garrison, which marched out yesterday at four o'clock, on their road to Ciudad Rodrigo. We have found in the place one hundred and eighty-nine pieces of brass ordnance, in excellent condition; nine hundred barrels of powder; twenty thousand stand of arms; and considerable magazines of clothing, provisions, and ammunition.

We have likewise found the eagles of the 13th and 51st regiments, which I forward to England, to be presented to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by my Aide-de-Camp, Major Burgh.

I see, by a letter from General Ballasteros to Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill of the 29th July, that he had been in Malaga on the 14th of that month, after an engagement with General Laval, near Coin. General Ballasteros was at Grazelena on the 29th. I have a letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill of the 8th instant; and although General Drouet had been in movement for three days, it does not appear that his movements are of any importance.

I enclose returns of the killed, wounded, and missing, in the affair at Majalahonda, on the 11th instant, and of the loss in the attack of the works of the Retiro.

This dispatch will be delivered by my Aid-de-Camp Major Burgh, who will be able to explain any further circumstances relating to our situation; and I beg leave to recommend him to your Lordship's protection.

P. S. Since writing this dispatch, I have received a letter of the 10th instant, from General Maitland, from Alicante, in which that officer informs me that he had on that day landed at that place.

(Translation.)

CAPITULATION proposed by General the Earl of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Army, and accepted by Colonel La Fond, Commandant of the Fort of La China, 14th August, 1812.

Article I.—The garrison shall march out of the fort with the honours of war, and shall lay down their arms on the Glacis.

Art. II.—The garrison, and persons of every description in the fort, shall be prisoners of war.

Art. III.—The officers shall be allowed to retain their swords, their baggage, and their horses, according to the number allowed them by the regulations of the French army; and the soldiers shall keep their knapsacks.

Art. IV.—The magazines of the fort of every description, shall be delivered to the officers of the respective departments, and the French commandants of artillery and of engineers, shall furnish lists of the contents of each dépôt.—The plans of the fort shall also be delivered to the commanding officer of the British engineers.

Art. V.—This capitulation shall take place at four o'clock in the afternoon, and the gates of the