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Foreign-Office, October 7, 1812.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, was this day received by Viscount Castlereagh, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from His Excellency Viscount Cathcart, His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of the Emperor of All the Russias.

MY LORD, *St. Petersburg, Sept. 13, 1812.*

I AM most happy in having to begin my correspondence from St. Petersburg, by announcing that the arms of His Imperial Majesty have been victorious in a most obstinate and general action, fought on the 7th September, at the village of Brodino, between Mojaiske and Tjate, on the great road from Smolensk to Moscow.

It appears that Buonaparte had concentrated his forces after the affair of Smolensk.

Prince Koutousoff, on his part, had selected a position, and had established his forces in its vicinity.

On the 4th September the enemy made a reconnaissance in force, and was driven back with loss.

On the 5th September, the French attacked the left, and were repulsed with considerable slaughter, both in the action and in the retreat, and with the loss of seven or eight pieces of ordnance.

On the 6th September, nothing of consequence took place; but Prince Koutousoff brought up his reserves, completed his dispositions, and added several entrenchments, and batteries on his left.

On the 7th September, under cover of a thick mist, the French again attacked the left with great impetuosity, and with all the means and successions of fresh troops that they have hitherto employed in their most desperate exertions.

They were received by the divisions of grenadiers belonging to the left wing, commanded by Prince Bagration; and the centre of the Russian line having in its turn attacked the mass directed against the left, the affair became general.

Prince Koutousoff dates his dispatch from the field of battle.

The enemy are stated to have covered their retreat by the Wirtemberg infantry, and by large corps of cavalry.

General Platow, however, with the Cossacs followed them, and killed or took great numbers.

The enemy retreated upwards of thirteen verst. I have detained this dispatch two days, in expectation of further events, and of a more detailed report, but as letters have been received as late as the 9th September, I have thought it expedient to transmit in its present form, the account of an affair which must for ever add lustre to the military achievements of this empire, and which, though it may not be decisive, must at least prove a most important feature in the history of this war.

I have seen letters from distinguished officers of great experience; they consider this as by far the most dreadful and destructive engagement they ever witnessed, infinitely beyond that of Prussian Eylaw.

Several general officers have been wounded, besides those named; and the loss of officers of other ranks is stated to have been in proportion to that of the men. I have not heard the Russian loss estimated at less than twenty-five thousand men.

The loss of the French should be infinitely greater, because of the pursuit, and because the fire of their artillery ceased at an early hour, while that of the Russians continued as long as the guns could be brought to bear.

The new raised troops from Moscow were

brought up, and appear to be perfectly efficient. Those who were engaged behaved well. The right wing was not much called upon; and of the guards one battalion only is stated to have sustained any loss.

Reports have been received of the junction of the head of the army from Moldavia with General Tormazoff's corps, which, with another corps, consisting of several divisions, which has joined that officer, will amount to an army of eighty thousand men of the best description.

The corps of eighteen thousand men which embarked at Helsingfors, has landed at Revel, and is by this time near Riga, which will lead to an immediate reinforcement of General Wittgenstein's corps.

Too much praise cannot be given to the national spirit which animates all ranks of the Russians, especially those properly so called, and the most sanguine expectations which were formed of their conduct have been exceeded.

It appears that much reliance was placed by Buonaparte on the effects of his attempts to introduce French principles, and a popular cry of emancipation and liberty; but that they have been received as an artifice to destroy their liberty and their religion; and it is very confidently asserted that he has given very strong marks of indignation, against those upon whose reports of the disposition of the people he relied.

I have enclosed herewith, translations of the bulletins of the affairs of the 5th and 7th September, new style.

The accounts of the battle of the 7th reached the Emperor early on the morning of his name-day, which is always celebrated with religious and other ceremonies, and illuminations. His Imperial Majesty immediately sent an Aide-de-Camp to notify it to me; and after divine worship in the Cathedral, in presence of their Imperial Majesties and the whole Court, an officer was ordered to read the bulletin aloud, which gave the populace an opportunity of expressing their exultation.

A corps of militia, of ten thousand men, received their colours this morning, and are to march in two days from hence.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

(Translation.)—Bulletin, No. 1.

Prince Koutousoff, General of Infantry, Commander-in-chief of all the armies, reports to His Imperial Majesty as follows, from the village of Brodino, under date of the 6th September:

After my last most humble report to your Imperial Majesty, in which I announced that I was waiting the attack of the enemy in the position of Brodino, the 5th September, the enemy directed a very strong force against our left flank, which was commanded by Prince Bagration. Observing the impetuosity with which the main force of the enemy threw themselves upon this point, I judged it necessary, in order to fix his attack, to direct it against the heights, which had been previously

fortified. The engagement lasted with great obstinacy, from two o'clock until very late at night: and your Majesty's troops displayed on that day, the bravery which I had observed from my first joining the army. The second division of Cuirassiers being obliged to make its second attack in the dusk, particularly distinguished itself, and in general all the troops, so far from losing an inch of ground, defeated the enemy on every side; with much greater loss than they sustained themselves: eight guns were taken, of which three, being rendered totally useless, were left on the field.

Many officers deserve to be individually named to your Majesty, a list of whom I shall forthwith have the happiness of transmitting; for the present I confine myself to giving your Majesty a short précis.

(Translation.)—Bulletin, No. 2.

General Prince Koutousoff, Commander in Chief of the armies, makes most respectfully to His Imperial Majesty the following report from the field of battle at the village of Brodino, the 8th of September:

Since my report of the attack which the enemy had made on the 5th instant, with a considerable force upon the left flank of our army, nothing of importance was undertaken against us during the whole of the 6th. But yesterday, at day-break, that is to say, about four o'clock in the morning, the enemy availing himself of the foggy weather, again directed the whole of his forces against our left flank.

The battle became general, and lasted until night: the loss on both sides is great; that of the enemy, to judge from his terrible attacks upon our fortified position, must greatly have surpassed ours. Your Imperial Majesty's troops fought with incredible valour. The batteries passed from the possession of one party, to that of the other, and the result was; that the enemy with his superior force, has, in no one part, gained an inch of ground. I remained at night master of the field of battle. So soon as I shall have recruited my troops, supplied my artillery, and augmented my forces by reinforcements from Moscow, I shall, trusting in the assistance of the Almighty, and the incredible valour of the army, see what I can undertake against the enemy.

Prince Bagration, to our great regret, has been wounded in the foot by a ball. Lieutenant-Generals Toutschkoff, Prince Gortschakoff, Major-Generals Bachmstieff, Counts Woronzoff and Kretoff, have been wounded. We have taken from the enemy some prisoners, some guns, and a General of Brigade. It is still night; and I have not been able to procure any more details.

His Imperial Majesty, in acknowledgement of the distinguished services of the General of Infantry Prince Koutousoff, has been pleased to appoint him Marshal General, and to grant to him 100,000 roubles, and also five roubles to each soldier who has had a share in this memorable battle.

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