

(Translation.)

Marshal Prince Kutusoff's Report to His Imperial Majesty, dated from the village of Buihovo, near Viasma, November 5, 1812.

I HAVE the honour to announce to your Imperial Majesty, that since my report of the 1st of November, of the movements of General Platoff, near the monastery of Klolotzk; aide-de-camp General Count d'Orloff Denisoff attacked, at different points, near the town of Viasma, the remainder of the enemy's regiments, which had been beaten, and which were still there. They resisted with obstinacy, but were repulsed every where.

In this affair we took one cannon and forty wagons, with their baggage. Camusier, the Secretary of the Duke of Bassano and his chancery, two officers, and three commissaries belonging to Marshal Ney's corps, with 130 soldiers, were made prisoners. On the morning of the 3d of November, General Miloradowitch attacked the enemy near Viasma. The battle lasted till the enemy retired into the town, from whence he was driven out by the bayonet by the 11th and 26th divisions, under the command of Major-Generals Paskwitch and Ichogloloff. The infantry regiment of Bernow being at the head of the column, entered the first into the town with drums beating and colours flying, and made way for the other troops through the corps of the enemy. According to the reports of the prisoners, three of the enemy's corps were engaged, that of the Vice King of Naples, and those of Marshals Davoust and Ney.

The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded is six thousand men, and we have taken two thousand five hundred prisoners; amongst whom is General Pattien, of the artillery, and the Chief of Marshal Davoust's Etat Major, and Colonel Morat. Our loss in killed and wounded does not exceed five hundred men. After the taking of Viasma, our advanced guard marched through that town, and took a position upon the Smolensko road, while our light infantry, under the orders of General Platoff, pursued the enemy as far as Ercinna.

One colour and three pieces of cannon have fallen into our hands; and without reckoning the great number of killed, with which the roads are covered, we have taken one thousand prisoners, besides the killed and wounded.

(Translation.)

Intercepted Letters from the Viceroy of Italy, to the Prince of Neuchatel.

Lasclie, Nov. 7, 1812.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Highness that I marched out this morning at four o'clock, but the difficulties of the ground and the slipperiness of the roads, obstructed the movement of my army to such a degree, that it has not been possible for its vanguard to reach this place till six o'clock this evening, and that the rear has been prevented from taking up a nearer position than two leagues behind us.

From two to four o'clock the enemy has been hovering on my right; he attacked almost at the same time with artillery, Cossacs and dragoons, the van, the centre and the rear. In the van he dis-

covered an opening of which he profited to penetrate, and carry off two battalion guns, which were drawing up a very steep acclivity. The 9th regiment of infantry hastened to the spot, but the field pieces were already taken.

Upon the rear, the enemy fired with four pieces of ordnance, and General Ornaus thinks (without being positive) that he saw some infantry. On each of the two other points there were two field-pieces.

Your Highness will easily conceive, that being encumbered with my heavy baggage, which has been restored to me, as well as with a numerous artillery, whereof upwards of four hundred horses have died to-day, my position is sufficiently critical. I shall, however, continue my march, and set out very early, in order to reach Cogni. From thence I mean to send out reconnoitring parties, and according to the information they may bring me, I shall either take the road of Douboutchina or Bruzo.

I cannot refrain from informing your Highness that, after employing every means in my power, I find it unfortunately impossible to transport my artillery any further, and that your Highness, in this respect, must expect very great sacrifices. A number of pieces have been rendered useless, and buried by me to-day.

I am, &c.

*Before passing the Vop,
November 5, 1812.*

I ENCLOSE your Highness a letter which I wrote yesterday, but which could not come to hand, as the officer who was the bearer of it was taken into a wrong road by his guide.

Your Highness will be surprised to find, that I am only arrived at the Vop; yet I set out this morning at five o'clock from Zasel; but the road is so intersected by ravines, that it required extraordinary efforts to arrive here. I am sorry to find myself reduced to the disagreeable necessity of owing to you the sacrifices which we have made in order to hasten our march. The last three days journey have cost the army two-thirds of its artillery. Yesterday four hundred horses perished, and to-day perhaps twice as many, not including the great number of horses which I had caused to be added both for military and private carriages. Sometimes all the horses that were drawing a carriage perished at once; several carriages were even furnished three times with fresh sets.

The army has not been harassed in its progress to-day. Only a few Cossacs have appeared without artillery, for which I cannot account. If I may believe the report of a voltigeur, who was sent out marauding, a column of infantry, artillery, and cavalry is taking the same direction with us, namely towards Douboutchina. To-night I intend sending a strong reconnoissance to Douboutchina, and hope to arrive there to-morrow, if the enemy does not prevent it by serious opposition; for I must frankly own to your Highness, the sufferings during the last three days have so much dispirited the soldiers, that I think them little able at present to make an effort. Many men have died with hunger or cold; others, being driven to desperation, suffer themselves to be taken by the enemy.

I am, &c.