

A bridge had been thrown over the river, at a place about thirty versts from Borisoff, where there was an advantageous position for the enemy's rear guard, and for covering the passage.

In this day's march the French lost the whole of their equipages and plunder, and were vigorously and repeatedly attacked at the bridge.

The position on the left bank being continually reinforced by fresh troops, was contested till night, when it was evacuated, and the bridge was destroyed as soon as the rear guard had passed. There is a cross road from this point which leads to the great road to Vilna, and it was the intention of Count Wittgenstein to pursue, as soon as he either received pontoons, or re-established the bridge.

General Platoff had already got to the right bank, probably at Borisoff.

Admiral Tchichagoff's quarters appear to have been at no great distance, but no particular report of the distribution or movements of this part of the force, has as yet been received, since the affair of Count Lambert.

It appears, however, from the conclusion of Count Wittgenstein's last report that he expects the concert and support both of the Admiral and of Count Platoff.

General Millaradovitch was stated to have arrived at Borisoff when the last accounts came away.

The head-quarters of the main army were still advancing on a line parallel to, and to the southward of the main road from Smolensko to Minsk, but considerably in the rear of the present operations.

There are long defiles to pass on the road from Borisoff to Minsk, as well as on that upon which Buonaparte is supposed to be marching; and it scarcely appears possible, that the remains of his army can get through these difficulties in presence of so many troops, with artillery and cavalry, regular as well as irregular.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

MY LORD, St. Petersburg, Dec. 7, 1812.

WHILE in the act of dispatching the messenger, I received from the palace a report from Admiral Tchichagoff, dated the 29th November, upon the march to Ostachow, detailing his proceedings from the 21st November, and stating that, in concert with Counts Wittgenstein and Platoff, he is in pursuit of the French, whose force he estimates at seventy thousand men, including Oudinot and Victor, and which he says is provided with cavalry and artillery.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CATHCART.

*Journal of Military Operations from the 7th to the 13th November 1812, dated Head-quarters Kopys.*

November 7.—MAJOR-GENERAL Borosdini having driven the enemy from Laeda, pursued them with a part of his detachment as far as Bolschoi Kolotofsky, and with his Cossacks as far as Kosan, where they were relieved by those of the detachment commanded by the Aide-de-Camp General Count Oscharofsky. The enemy lost in his flight seven pieces of cannon, and a number of carriages.

The General of Cavalry, Count Platoff, reports, under date of the 5th instant, that having on the 3d approached Smolensko, and having learnt from the inhabitants who were quitting it, that the enemy occupied the Fauxbourg of Petersburg, he gave

immediate orders to his troops to attack under cover of the fire of the artillery of the Don.

Colonel Kaysaroff, after having with his chasseurs broken the barrier which the enemy had placed, vigorously pursued them into the Fauxbourg itself, from whence they fled in alarm and disorder within the walls of the fortress, where they were exposed to a fire of grape-shot from the neighbouring heights. Whilst the Cossacks and the chasseurs were engaged in the Fauxbourg, the enemy made a sortie in two columns, with eight pieces of cannon and a mortar, resolutely determined to repossess themselves of the Fauxbourg. But Major-General Koutcinckoff with his Cossacks, and Colonel Kaysaroff with his chasseurs, fell upon them, and having repulsed the infantry, took their cannon. The Fauxbourg was retaken, when night put an end to the contest. On the 4th the enemy established themselves behind the palisades, keeping possession of the left bank of the Dnieper, whilst his columns quitted the town with precipitation.

Count Platoff caused Te Deum to be sung in presence of the troops, accompanied by a discharge of artillery and a hurrah of the soldiers.

The enemy on quitting the town, sprung the mines which they had formed under several places of the fortress, which set fire to the houses of the Fauxbourg of Petersburg, which were situated opposite the fortress.

The Aide-de-Camp, General Baron Mettersakomelsky reports, that the officer whom he had detached with three squadrons, had discovered an enemy's column at three versts from Winnisa-Louki, and having surrounded them, he sent the Staats-Rottmeister of the hussars of the Aklm-feldt guards, with a proposal to lay down their arms. This commission he executed with complete success—the number of prisoners amounted to two thousand five hundred men.

Intelligence has been received, that the detachment under Count Oscharofsky, has occupied Mohilow after having dislodged the enemy. Provisions and forage sufficient to subsist the whole army, during ten days, were found in the place.

Head-quarters of the army at Dabroi (great road to Orsha).

November 8.—The Aide-de-Camp, General Count Oscharofsky, reports, on the 7th, that the French army having abandoned, on the night of the 8th, the village of Kosan, had marched to Dombrowna, and that many prisoners had been made in their flight, of which, however, the Count could not yet fix the number, as it increased every moment.

Head-quarters at Romanoff.

Nov. 9.—The Count Oscharofsky reports, that a detachment sent by him pursued the rear guard of the enemy on their retreat from Kosan. The Cossacks, in following it on each side of the great road, had cut off part of it from Dombrowna, and regardless of the fire of grape-shot, threw themselves, together with the chasseurs, upon the enemy's column, killed more than a thousand men, took four pieces of cannon, with the caissons laden with grape, besides a considerable number of carts, and made six hundred prisoners.

Major-General Borosdin reports, on the 4th, that having with his detachment driven the enemy from Dombrowna, he had pursued him to Orsha, on which occasion he took above four hundred men and eight officers. At Dombrowna was found a small magazine of flour, oats, and hay.

General Count Platoff reports on the 7th, that, proceeding from Smolensko to Dombrowna, he had destroyed a detachment of the enemy, which, after the defeat of the French army at Krasno, had saved