

Spanish troops, and the advance of the allied army under Colonel Adam.

This range of hills terminates at Castalla, which, and the ground to the right, was occupied by Major-General Mackenzie's division, and the 58th regiment, from that of Lieutenant-General Clinton.

The remainder of the position was covered by a strong ravine, behind which Lieutenant-General Clinton was stationed, supported by three battalions of General Roche's division, as a column of reserve.

A few batteries had been constructed in this part of the line, and in front of the castle of Castalla. The enemy necessarily advanced on the left of the position. The first movement he made, was to pass a strong body of Cavalry along the line, threatening our right, which was refused. Of this movement no notice was taken; the ground to which he was pointing, is unfavourable to cavalry, and as this movement was foreseen, the necessary precautions had been taken: when this body of cavalry had passed nearly the half of our line of infantry, Marshal Suchet advanced his columns to the foot of the hills, and certainly his troops, with a degree of gallantry that entitles them to the highest praise, stormed the whole line, which is not less than two miles and a half in extent. But gallantly as the attack was made, the defence of the heights was no less brilliant: at every point the enemy was repulsed—at many with the bayonet.

He suffered very a severe loss; our gallant troops pursued him for some distance, and drove him, after a severe struggle, with precipitation on his battalions of reserve upon the plain. The cavalry, which had slowly advanced along our right, gradually fell back to the infantry. At present his superiority in that arm enabled him to venture this movement, which otherwise he should have severely repented.

Having united his shattered battalions with those which he kept in reserve, Marshal Suchet took up a position in the valley; but which it would not have been creditable to allow him to retain. I therefore decided on quitting mine; still, however, retaining the heights, and formed the allied army in his front, covering my right flank with the cavalry, whilst the left rested on the hills. The army advanced in two lines to attack him a considerable distance, but unfortunately Marshal Suchet did not choose to risk a second action, with the defile in his rear.

The line of the allies was scarcely formed when he began his retreat, and we could effect nothing more than driving the French into the pass with defeat, which they had exultingly passed in the morning. The action terminated at dusk, with a distant but heavy cannonade.

I am sorry to say that I have no trophies to boast of. The enemy took no guns to the heights, and he retired too expeditiously to enable me to reach him. Those which he used in the latter part of the day, were posted in the gorge of the defile, and it would have cost us the lives of many brave men to take them.

In the dusk, the allied army returned to its position at Castalla, after the enemy had retired to Biar. From thence he continued his retreat at midnight to Villeña, which he quitted again this morn-

ing in great haste, directing his march upon Fuente de la Higuera and Onteniente.

But although I have taken no cannon from the enemy, in point of numbers his army is very considerably crippled, and the defeat of a French army, which boasted it had never known a check, cannot fail, I should hope, in producing a most favourable effect in this part of the Peninsula.

As I before mentioned to your Lordship, Marshal Suchet commanded in person.

The Generals Harispe, Habert, and Robert, commanded their respective divisions. I hear from all quarters that General Harispe is killed; and I believe, from every account that I can collect, that the loss of the enemy amounts fully to three thousand men; and he admits two thousand five hundred. Upwards of eight hundred have already been buried in front of only one part of our line; and we know that he has carried off with him an immense number of wounded.

We had no opportunity of making prisoners, except such as were wounded; the numbers of which have not yet reached me.

I am sure your Lordship will hear with much satisfaction, that this action has not cost us the lives of many of our comrades.

Deeply must be felt the loss, however trifling, of such brave and gallant soldiers; but we know it is inevitable, and I can with truth affirm, that there was not an officer or soldier engaged who did not court the glorious termination of an honourable life, in the discharge of his duty to his King and to his country.

The gallant and judicious conduct of those that were engaged deprived much more than one half the army of sharing in the perils and glory of the day; but the steady countenance with which the divisions of Generals Clinton and Mackenzie remained for some hours under a cannonade, and the eagerness and alacrity with which the lines of attack were formed, sufficiently proved to me what I had to depend on from them, had Marshal Suchet awaited the attack.

I trust your Lordship will now permit me to perform the most pleasing part of my duty, that of humbly submitting for His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's approbation, the names of those officers and corps which have had the fortunate opportunity of distinguishing themselves, in as far at least as has yet come to my knowledge.

Colonel Adam, who commands the advance, claims the first place in this honourable list. I cannot sufficiently praise the judicious arrangements he made and the ability with which he executed his orders on the 12th instant.

The advance consists only of the 2d battalion 27th regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Reeves; the 1st Italian regiment, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Burke; the Calabrian Free Corps, commanded by Major Carey; one rifle company of the 3d and 8th battalions King's German Legion, commanded by Captains Lueder and Brauns of those corps; and a troop of foreign hussars, under the orders of Captain Jacks, of the 20th dragoons, with four mountain guns, in charge of Captain Arabin, royal artillery.

The enemy attacked this corps with from five to six thousand men, and for five hours (and then only