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Foreign-Office, May 25, 1813.

A DISPATCH, of which the following is a copy, has been received by Viscount Castlereagh, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from General Viscount Cathcart, K. T. His Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of Russia, dated

My Lord, *Dresden, May 6, 1813.*

MY last dispatches informed your Lordship of the arrival of the Ruler of France, and of the concentration of his forces near Erfurth and towards the Saale, as also of that of the Allies upon the Elster.

I have now the honour of inclosing herewith, the official statements which have been published by the Russian and Prussian Governments, of the general action which took place on the 2d instant, between the two armies; and after which the Allies remained in possession of the field of battle, and of the positions from which in the course of the day they had dislodged the enemy.

The last division of General Tormasoff's corps having crossed the Elbe on the 28th ultimo, the whole of it moved forward by forced marches to the Elster. His Imperial Majesty and the King of Prussia arrived at Borna on the morning of the 1st instant, with the reserve; and the several parts of the army were on the same day collected in the vicinage of that place.

Marshal Prince Koutousoff Smolensky was left ill on the march at Buntzlau, where he died; but his death was not published. Count Wittgenstein, at that time at Zwenkan, was appointed to command the army.

He had on that day reconnoitred the enemy, and ascertained his position; and the same evening, a disposition was made for a general attack, to take place on the following morning at day-break.

During the preceding week, the advance of the enemy's main army towards Naunburg, and the approach of Beauharnois from Quedlinburg, had been indicated by several skirmishes and partial affairs, particularly at and near Halle and Merseburg, where the Prussians behaved with great gallantry.

On the evening of the 1st, the enemy appeared to have great masses of his force between Lutzen and Weisenfels, and after dusk a strong column was seen moving in the direction of Leipsig, to which place there was clear evidence that he intended to move.

The advance corps of Count Wittgenstien's army having been engaged on the same evening, to the east and north of Lutzen, the cavalry of it remained there to amuse the enemy in the morning, but with orders to retire gradually. Meanwhile the several columns of the army were ordered to cross the Elster at Pegau and bear down, and to follow the course of a rivulet which rising near the Elster, runs in a north west direction to the Saale, by which movement, which the ground favoured, it was intended to turn the enemy's right between Weissenfels and Lutzen, while his attention was directed to his left between the latter place and Leipsig.

As soon as their Majesties saw the troops placed according to the disposition, the whole was put in motion towards the enemy.

The country is uncovered and open, the soil dry