

Sir Rowland Hill successively passed the Zadora, at la Puebla and the defile formed by the heights and the river Zadora, and attacked and gained possession of the village of Sabijana de Alava, in front of the enemy's line, which the enemy made repeated attempts to regain.

The difficult nature of the country prevented the communication between our different columns moving to the attack from their stations on the river Bayas at as early an hour as I had expected, and it was late before I knew that the column composed of the 3d and 7th divisions, under the command of the Earl of Dalhousie, had arrived at the station appointed for them.

The fourth and light divisions, however, passed the Zadora immediately after Sir Rowland Hill had possession of Sabijana de Alava, the former at the bridge of Nanclaus, and the latter at the bridge of Tres Puentes, and almost as soon as these had crossed, the column under the Earl of Dalhousie arrived at Mendouza, and the 3d division, under Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Picton, crossed at the bridge higher up, followed by the 7th division, under the Earl of Dalhousie.

These four divisions, forming the centre of the army, were destined to attack the heights on which the right of the enemy's centre was placed, while Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill should move forward from Sabijana de Alava to attack the left. The enemy, however, having weakened his line to strengthen his detachment in the hills, abandoned his position in the valley as soon as he saw our disposition to attack it, and commenced his retreat in good order, towards Vittoria.

Our troops continued to advance in admirable order, notwithstanding the difficulty of the ground.

In the mean time, Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, who commanded the left of the army, consisting of the 1st and 5th divisions and Generals Pack's and Bradford's brigades of infantry, and Generals Bock's and Anson's brigades of cavalry, and who had been moved on the 20th to Margina, moved forward from thence on Vittoria, by the high road from that town to Bilbao. He had besides with him the Spanish division under Colonel Longa, and General Giron, who had been detached to the left under a different view of the state of affairs, and had afterwards been recalled, and had arrived on the 20th at Orduna, marched that morning from thence, so as to be in the field in readiness to support Lieutenant-General Sir T. Graham, if his support had been required.

The enemy had a division of infantry and some cavalry advanced on the great road from Vittoria to Bilbao, resting their right on some strong heights covering the village of Gamarra Maior. Both Gamarra and Abechuco were strongly occupied, as têtes-de-pont to the bridges over the Zadora at these places. Brigadier-General Pack, with his Portuguese brigade, and Colonel Longa, with the Spanish division, were directed to turn and gain the heights, supported by Major-General Anson's brigade of light dragoons, and the 5th division of infantry, under the command of Major-General Oswald, who was desired to take the command of all these troops.

Lieutenant-General Sir T. Graham reports, that in the execution of this service, the Portuguese and

Spanish troops behaved admirably. The 4th and 8th Cacadores particularly distinguished themselves. Colonel Longa being on the left, took possession of Gamarra Menor.

As soon as the heights were in our possession, the village of Gamarra Maior was most gallantly stormed and carried by Brigadier-General Robinson's brigade of the 5th division, which advanced in columns of battalions, under a very heavy fire of artillery and musquetry, without firing a shot, assisted by two guns of Major Lawson's brigade of artillery. The enemy suffered severely, and lost three pieces of cannon.

The Lieutenant-General then proceeded to attack the village of Abechuco, with the 1st division, by forming a strong battery against it, consisting of Captain Dubouche's brigade and Captain Ramsay's troop of horse artillery, and, under cover of this fire, Colonel Hackett's brigade advanced to the attack of the village, which was carried, the light battalion having charged and taken three guns and a howitzer on the bridge: this attack was supported by General Bradford's brigade of Portuguese infantry.

During the operation at Abechuco, the enemy made the greatest efforts to repossess themselves of the village of Gamarra Maior, which were gallantly repulsed by the troops of the 5th division, under the command of Major-General Oswald. The enemy had, however, on the heights on the left of the Zadora, two divisions of infantry in reserve, and it was impossible to cross by the bridges till the troops which had moved upon the enemy's center and left had driven them through Vittoria.

The whole then co-operated in the pursuit, which was continued by all till after it was dark.

The movement of the troops under Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Graham, and their possession of Gamarra and Abechuco, intercepted the enemy's retreat by the high road to France. They were then obliged to turn to the road towards Pamplona; but they were unable to hold any position for a sufficient length of time to allow their baggage and artillery to be drawn off. The whole therefore of the latter which had not already been taken by the troops in their attack of the successive positions, taken up by the enemy in their retreat from their first position on Arusey and on the Zadora, and all their ammunition and baggage, and every thing they had were taken, close to Vittoria. I have reason to believe that the enemy carried off with them one gun and one howitzer, only.

The army under Joseph Buonaparte consisted of the whole of the armies of the South and of the center, and of four divisions, and all the cavalry of the army of Portugal, and some troops of the army of the North. General Foix's division of the army of Portugal was in the neighbourhood of Bilbao, and General Clausel, who commands the army of the North, was near Logrono with one division of the army of Portugal, commanded by General Topin, and General Vandermasen's division of the army of the North.

The 6th division of the allied army, under Major-General the Honourable Edward Pakenham, was likewise absent, having been detained at Medina del Pinar for three days, to cover the march of our magazines and stores.