

could not reach either flank in time to prevent the passage of the enemy. General Whittingham, whom I had sent with his corps to the Cols of San Christina and Llebra, reported them not to be defensible with so small a force as we could allot to this object.

I had intended to have pushed on to the Llobregat. Suchet's army was at one time divided between Barcelona and Villa Franca, and its environs. A rapid movement might possibly have enabled me to fall separately upon his advanced corps, and to obtain possession of the ridge of mountains on this side the Llobregat before he could have time to bring up his troops from Barcelona. I could not execute this movement before being joined by Sarsfield, and previously Suchet had concentrated his force in Villa Franca and its neighbourhood. Suchet's force has been variously reported, from twenty to twenty-five thousand men.

The immediate vicinity of Tarragona offered a very good position in itself, but it may be completely turned by an enemy who, crossing the Cols, should approach Tarragona by Valls and Reus.

On the 14th Suchet moved a large corps upon Alta Fulla, but the road being close to the beach, the gun-boats prevented him from passing, if such were his intention.

On the 15th he drove back the posts on the Cols of San Christina and Llebra, and afterwards forced the corps at Brafa, by which they were supported, to retire. His whole army marched by this route.

Upon Suchet's continuing to advance towards Tarragona, I resolved upon retiring in the night; and the army arrived here this morning without any loss, and without receiving any molestation from the enemy. If there had been any fair chance of success, I would have given them battle.

MY LORD, *Hospitalet, August 19, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a report which Lord Frederick Bentinck has made to me, respecting an affair which took place on the 15th, when the enemy were advancing towards Tarragona, and which terminated in a manner highly creditable to the Brunswick hussars, a part of which regiment alone was engaged with a very superior number of the enemy's cavalry.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. BENTINCK, Lieut. Gen.
Field-Marshal the Marquess of Wellington, K. G.

*Camp, near Cambrils,
August 16, 1813.*

MY LORD,

IN obedience to your directions, I marched yesterday afternoon, with the brigade of cavalry under my command, beyond Nulles and Villabella, and reconnoitred the enemy's column, which was advancing upon Valls. As soon as we began to retire, the enemy followed us both with cavalry and infantry, and a squadron of the 4th hussars pressed closely upon our rear-guard, formed by Captain Wulffen's troop of the Brunswick hussars, and attempted to charge and overpower it. The enemy was opposed each time with determined spirit and resolution; and Captain Erichson, with his troop; being sent to the support of Captain Wulffen, the enemy were driven back, with the loss of one officer killed, another officer wounded, and between twenty and thirty men left sabred on the field. Sixteen prisoners and eleven horses fell into our hands. I had sincere pleasure in observing the spirit displayed by the officers and men of the Brunswick hussars.

Lieutenant-Colonel Schrader, at all times zealous, was particularly useful on this occasion in restraining the impetuosity of his men.

Circumstanced as we were, with a strong column of the enemy far advanced upon our right flank, and two battalions of infantry (as I was informed by the prisoners) upon our left and rear, and in an enclosed country, I did not deem it prudent to pursue the advantage we had gained.

I regret to say that Cornet Radant, of the Brunswick hussars, was wounded and taken, and I subjoin a return of the remainder of the wounded and missing.

I have the honour to be, &c.

FREDERICK BENTINCK, Colonel.

Wounded and Missing.

20th Light Dragoons—2 privates, 2 horses, missing.
Brunswick Hussars—6 privates wounded, 6 privates missing, 4 horses killed, 2 horses wounded, 2 horses missing.

Total loss—1 officer, 13 privates, 16 horses.

Extract of a Dispatch from Lieut. Gen. Lord William Bentinck to the Marquess of Wellington, dated Hospitalet, August 19, 1813.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, that the enemy blew up Tarragona last night, and have retired.