

ber of killed and wounded. The loss of the Allies was not severe.

The enemy after this action retired into Königstein, his entrenched camp at Liebenstein, and also into the various works he has thrown up round Dresden. The Allies have pressed forwards on him on every side, and the Grand Armies are now encircling Dresden.

On the 26th, the hussar regiment of Grodno, of Count Witgenstein's corps, had a very brisk engagement, close to Dresden, in which they took four guns and one howitzer. The advanced guards of the Russians, Prussians, and Austrians, encamped this night on the heights above Dresden, between Nausnitz and Ischernitz.

On the 27th in the morning, the enemy abandoned the ground in advance of Dresden which they occupied, called the Grossen Garten, and withdrew into the suburbs and their different works.

I have thus given your Lordship a general outline of operations up to this period; every hour is big with events. No official reports are made out, so I fear my details in many points may be imperfect. Perhaps the history of war does not afford a period where two great armies stand committed to such bold operations.

I have much pleasure in reporting to your Lordship, that two Westphalian regiments of Hussars, commanded by Colonel Hammerstein, have come over from the enemy, and are most eager to be ranged in battle against them, to take their revenge for the misery they have entailed upon this country.

I have the honour to be, &c.

CHARLES STEWART, Lieut. General.

*Head-quarters of His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Russia, Altenberg, Aug. 29, 1813.*

MY LORD,

THE enemy having abandoned the ground surrounding Dresden, called the Grossen Garten, and having withdrawn into their works, and into the suburbs of the town on the morning of the 27th, it was deemed expedient to make an attack with a large force upon the place, the possession of which became of considerable importance. Count Witgenstein's and General Kleist's light troops, on the right of the town, had sustained during the morning of the 27th, in the attack of the gardens, some loss; and indeed the enemy had so much improved by art, the defences around the town, that it was evidently an enterprize of considerable difficulty to carry it.

The troops moved to the assault at four o'clock in the evening; Count Witgenstein's corps, in three columns on the right of the Grossen Garten: General Kleist moved one column of attack through these gardens, and two on the left. His left column was headed by Prince Augustus of Prussia: three divisions of Austrians on the left of the town, under the immediate direction of Count Colloredo, and Prince Maurice, of Lichtenstein, joined the Prussians on their left; the Prussians forming the centre attack. A tremendous cannonade commenced the operation: the batteries being planted in a circular form round the town, the effect was magnificent; the fine buildings in Dresden were soon enveloped in smoke, and the troops moved forward in the most perfect order, to the assault. They approached on all sides close to the town. The Austrians took an advanced redoubt with eight guns, in the most undaunted and gallant manner; I never saw troops behave more

conspicuously; the work was of the strongest kind, not above sixty yards from the main wall, and it was flanked by cross fires of musquetry from the various loop holes that were made in every part from projecting buildings; but nothing could surpass the gallantry with which it was stormed: the enemy fled from it only to shelter themselves behind new defences, manning the thick walls of the town, in which it was impossible, without a long and continued fire of heavy artillery, to make breaches.

The enemy, with the aid of those means which a strong town affords of resistance, held the troops in check who had so gallantly carried and entered the outworks. The night was fast approaching, and the enemy now attempted to make a sortie with a considerable force of all his guards, at least amounting to thirty thousand, to separate the allied troops, and take one wing in flank and rear. This was immediately perceived, and as it appeared evident that it was not practicable to carry the place that night, orders were sent to draw off the troops, and they returned to their several encampments. Prince Maurice of Lichtenstein made an admirable disposition on the side where the enemy made their sortie, by which all disorder was avoided. This enterprise, in proportion to its being of moment, was one of great difficulty; no troops could signalise themselves more, and in my humble opinion if it had been physically possible to carry the place under the circumstances, they would have accomplished it. But there were no breaches for the troops to enter, and the artillery, although brought up at the close of the evening to near one hundred paces of the wall, were not able to batter it, or make an impression.

From the best calculation I can make, I should estimate the loss of the Allies at under 4000 men, in this attack. The Austrians chiefly suffered.

The sortie of the enemy was a prelude to a more general battle, which took place on the following morning, the 28th. Buonaparte had arrived in Dresden, from that part of his army in Lusatia, on the night of the 22d, and having a very large force in Dresden, at least 130,000 men, he appears to have determined on attacking the Allies, who occupied a very extended position on the heights surrounding it.

The enemy had great advantages in their disposition for attack: Dresden, lined with guns, was in their rear; their communications were not intersected; if they made an impression, they could pursue it; if they failed, they could withdraw in security, and our troops could not follow them under the guns of the place. One of the worst days that ever was seen, added materially to the difficulties of the Allies, who had arrived, by rapid marches, through bad roads and defiles, at their positions; and whose supplies, of every kind, it was difficult, if not impossible, to get up. Availing himself of the advantages above-stated, Buonaparte displayed an immense number of pieces of artillery; and heavy cannonading, on both sides, formed the chief feature of the battle. Charges in various points were made, both with the Russian, Prussian, and Austrian Cavalry, and they distinguished themselves highly; but the main bodies of the Infantry, in both armies, did not come in contact. The weather was so hazy, and the rain so incessant, that the action was sustained, at all points, under the heaviest disadvantages.

Towards the middle of the day a catastrophe oc-