

20th they retired still further towards Dresden, and withdrew also from Nollendorf. The Prussian corps, under General Zeithen, immediately followed them.

An order has been intercepted from Marshal Berthier to General Laubau, commanding the advanced troops of the enemy, which directs him to make all his dispositions for retreat on Dresden.

All accounts agree in stating the extreme distress of the French army in the mountains: they are losing numbers of their horses daily, and their troops are in the greatest want of provisions.

It is probable that Buonaparte will remain *à cheval* on the Elbe as long as possible, as the idea of a retreat, from recent recollections, cannot be very agreeable to him.

General Benningsen's army is expected to arrive in five or six days by the pass of Zittau.

I enclose your Lordship the two last official bulletins.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES STEWART,
Lieutenant-General.

To Lord Viscount Castlereagh, &c. &c. &c.

Imperial Head-Quarters, Töplitz,
September 25, 1813.

MY LORD,

MY last dispatch contained details of the movements and positions of this army to the 12th instant. Your Lordship will see that Buonaparte has endeavoured to oppose sufficient portions of his force to the Prince Royal of Sweden, and to General Blücher; and that he has harassed and disunited his army in giving effect to that intention, and in occasionally reinforcing and reducing the forces so employed; but his attention has been principally directed to this army; and there seems now to be clear evidence, from his operations, as well as from intercepted papers, that his plan was to move into Bohemia, and to strike at Prague, establishing himself on the line of supply and communication of this army.

Vandamme's orders were to push on towards Prague, and he had positive assurance that a very large force was immediately to follow him; and he was so much convinced of Buonaparte's intention, that when the Prussians were in sight in his rear, on the 30th ultimo, at Nollendorf, it was impossible for his Generals to convince him that it was not a French column. It also appears that troops did move to support him, but were counter-manded, and the officers sent to inform him were killed.

Much as the territory within the command of Dresden has been narrowed by the advance of General Blücher and General Tauenzien, Napoleon has clung to that vicinage, and particularly to the defiles leading to this place. He has sent off as many useless mouths as possible, and has concentrated his force: and as it would be dangerous for either army to pass these defiles, especially in the state in which the incessant rains have placed them, in presence of the other, the operations have been reduced to affairs of posts in the mountains, vexatious enough to the troops, but not conducive to great and immediate results; though highly honourable to the arms of the Allies.

The Emperor Alexander has removed the difficulty, by bringing forward General Benningsen's army, and ordering it to be replaced by a new army from the Russian frontier.

This great measure will at once render all the armies moveable.

General Benningsen, moving into Bohemia by his left, is rapidly advancing to this position, and with the preparation always meant to be stationary here, will effectually cover Bohemia, and thereby set this army at full liberty to move also by its left, by good, or at least passable roads, and within reach of its supplies, while the navigation of the Upper Elbe and Moldau will feed General Benningsen's army.

The conduct of General Blücher has been most masterly. Whenever it was practicable he has fought and beat the enemy; and when the latter turned upon him in force, he has fallen back, and drawn him to the Silesian frontier. He is now between Bautzen and Dresden, operating to the very gates of the city. His right is in communication with General Tauenzien, and his left with General Bubna, while his Cossacks pass the Elbe, communicate with this army, and give the enemy great annoyance.

General Bubna has his right towards Schandau, and his line extends along the Bohemian frontier.

The Prince of Sweden covers Berlin, and strives to gain possession of Wittenberg and the Tête-de-Pont of Torgau, but his light troops have crossed at Rosslau, and his Royal Highness's preparation to pass at that place, is a constant menace to Leipsic.

General Kleinau, on the Commotau and Marienberg roads, and Generals Greenville and Prince Maurice Lichtenstein, in the defiles to the eastward of that passage, send parties into Saxony, which every day cut off corps, and interrupt communication.

Count Platoff the Hetman, is himself gone into Saxony with some regiments of his Cossacks, so that the whole country on the rivers Saale and Mulda, and between them and the Elbe, is covered with detachments of light troops.

On the 12th the enemy having established himself in force on the heights of Nollendorf and Graupen, saw the feu de joie for the victory of Dannevitze. On the 14th the Prince Schwarzenberg ordered a strong reconnoissance from all points of the line.

The enemy was driven from Nollendorf and its environs through Peterswalde, to the heights above Breitenau and Gieshübel, with the loss of many men and horses killed and taken.

The Emperor Alexander went in person beyond Hellendorf. The advanced posts of the Allies remained that night at Hellendorf, Peterswalde and Schönwalde.

These posts were gradually drawn nearer to Nollendorf, in the course of the two following days, and on the 16th, the enemy having attacked them in force, there was a great deal of sharp skirmishing between Peterswalde and Nollendorf, in the course of which General Blücher's son, Colonel Blücher, was wounded and made prisoner.

On the evening of the 16th, the advanced posts were again where they had been on the 12th.

On the 17th, the enemy endeavoured to ex-