

Foreign-Office, November 23, 1813.

DISPATCHEs, of which the following are copies, have been received by Viscount Castlereagh, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, from His Excellency General Viscount Cathcart, K. T., Lieutenant-General the Honourable Sir Charles William Stewart, K. B., and His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, K. T.

*Dispatch from General Viscount Cathcart, dated
Leipsig, October 19, 1813.*

MY LORD,

THE Allies have gained a complete victory, and Buonaparte, who left Leipsig at ten o'clock this morning, is retiring with such precipitation and disorder, that Generals Regnier, Lauriston, Bertrand, and several others, were taken in this city, or near it.

The intention of the enemy being apparent, the Russian reserve, and the troops which had been least engaged, marched at an early hour up the Elster to endeavour to stop him, Cossacks having been already detached, under the Attaman Count Platoff, to destroy bridges, and to occasion every possible difficulty and embarrassment.

General Blücher has also detached a strong corps to go up the left bank of the Saale.

The operations which have led to this great event are as follows:

The Emperor Alexander having rendered the army of reserve under General Bennigsen disposable for active service, that General marched from the Saxon frontier in Silesia into Bohemia, and arrived on the left bank of the Elbe, by Aussig and Leuthenitz, in the first days of October, and immediately relieved the outposts of Prince Schwarzenberg's army in front of Toplitz, towards Dresden, and occupied the same position.

As General Bennigsen approached, the grand army moved to its left, reinforced its posts at Marienberg and the mouths of the defiles in that direction, occupying Zwickau and Chemnitz, the remainder of the army removing by Brix to Commotau, to which town their Imperial Majesties removed their head-quarters on the 5th instant, the Prince Schwarzenberg having already moved to Marienberg.

On the 6th and 7th, General Count Wittgenstein advanced from Zwickau towards Altenburg, and General Count Klenau from Chemnitz to Peuig, where the enemy made some resistance; but appeared in more force upon the Hehe Wasser and River Tchoppa, where there was an affair of some importance.

Meanwhile it had been concerted that General Blücher and the Prince Royal of Sweden should cross the Elbe, and that the further advance of the Bohemian army should be regulated by their movement. On the 7th, a report was received that General Blücher, by the most rapid and brilliant movement that has been made during this war, marched from Elsterwerda to the mouth of the Black Elster, near the town of that name, and having crossed by the bridge he carried with him, defeated the French corps at Wartemberg, driving its remains to Wittenberg, and immediately advanced within reach of the Prince Royal, who had bridges at Rosslau and Acken.

On the 8th, accounts were received at Commotau that the Prince Royal had crossed the Elbe, and was in communication with Blücher. On that day a general advance was made from all the posts on the Bohemian frontier, including General Bennigsen's army, who, after a serious resistance by the enemy, drove him into Koenigstein and Dresden, opened a communication with General Bubna near Pirna, successively occupying Dippoldiswalda and Freyberg, placing himself before Dresden on the left bank of the Elbe, while Prince Tcherbatoff observed him on the right bank. All the corps, however, opposed to General Bennigsen, and part of that which was between Dresden and Bautzen, having assembled in Dresden, no farther attack in that quarter was judged expedient.

It was now evident that Buonaparte had left Dresden, and was concentrating his army at Leipsig, and at Wurzen, and Eulenburg: the Elector of Saxony following with his family.

The Emperor of Russia left Commotau in the night of the 8th, followed by the reserve of his army, which advanced by rapid and successive marches to Altenburg, where the Austrian, Russian, and Prussian reserves were assembled on the 11th and 12th, and where the Emperor Alexander and the Field-Marshal's quarters were established.

The remainder of the grand army had proceeded down the Elster by Zeist and Pegau to Lutzen, on its left, and to Borna and Espeubeim on its right, General Blücher having moved to Halle, a direct communication was opened, through Merseberg, with that General and the Prince Royal.

The enemy shewed a line of troops in the villages of Gröben, Golsa, Stormenthal, and Kora, between the Pleiss and the Partha, which having been attacked by Count Wittgenstein and General Klenau, on the 13th, a considerable affair took place, in which the enemy was dislodged on his right, and it would have been more serious if the Field-Marshal who came up had not judged it premature, and put a stop to it.

Orders had been sent to General Bennigsen, to leave General Count Peter Tolstoy with a considerable force to mask Dresden and Konigstein, and to march with the remainder of his force and General Bubna's corps by Nossen on Grmma, while Count Colloredo, who had been left with his corps to act with General Bennigsen, was to march by Freyberg and Chemnitz, to join and support the Field-Marshal's army.

During this period the Bavarian treaty was signed, which opened new lines of communication to the South; and Marshal Augereau, who had been much harassed and impeded in his march, and had lost part of his corps, reached Leipsig with the remainder. Buonaparte had also made a journey to Wittenberg, and sent troops to destroy, or to oblige the Allies to destroy the bridges at Rosslau and Acken, pushing a small corps to Zerbst, by which he gave some ground to believe that he meant to march down the right bank of the Mulda, to pass the Elbe at Wittenberg, and to re-pass again at Magdeburg. This feint had the effect of inducing the Prince Royal to fall back to Cöthen, where he assembled his army. Finding, however, that the movement of the enemy on the right bank of the Elbe had no other consequence, he decided to