

return to General Blücher, and to take his post in the general action with that General.

Reports having been received of the march of General Bennigsen and Count Colloredo, the army marched on the 15th from Altenberg to Pegau (the place of assembly on the morning of the battle of Lutzen); and it was determined to attack the enemy the following morning, without waiting for the certainty of the arrival either of the Prince Royal, General Bennigsen, or Count Colloredo, judging that their forces would influence the enemy by their approach, and that they would be fresh for the second day; whereas by waiting, the enemy might either improve his preparations, or escape. Accordingly the heads of all the columns advanced towards the enemy's position at day-break on the 16th, General Blücher by Schenditz to Göltz and Wetteritz, General Giulay by Lutzen on Lindenau; General Count Mehrfeldt between the Elster and Pleisse, on Connowitz; General Prince of Hesse Hombourg, on the right bank of the Elster, in the same direction, to support Count Wittgenstein towards Waclaw, with General Kleist on his right, towards Liebert Wolkeritz; and General Klenau on the extreme right towards Fuchshayn, on the Grünmal road.

The enemy occupied the only ridge in this plain in front of the named places, behind the centre of which, towards Leipzig, Buonaparte's tent was pitched. He was also in force at Connowitz, on the side of General Giulay's advance, and towards General Blücher.

At half past nine, immediately on the Emperor's arrival on the field, the cannonade began with Count Wittgenstein's corps, and immediately extended to both flanks on the whole position, and was continued, without any intermission, till after dark at night.

It was intended that Count Mehrfeldt and General Klenau should turn the enemy on their respective flanks, but the French were in great force on their left, and the quantity of water, and the number of gardens and summer-houses near Connowitz, rendered Count Mehrfeldt's task extremely arduous.

Count Wittgenstein almost immediately drove the enemy from the heights opposed to him, and the whole ridge was for some time occupied by the Allies; but a large force of infantry and cavalry opposed to General Kleist, occasioned a continual contest during the whole morning.

Count Mehrfeldt, having advanced to Connowitz, beyond the right of the force opposed to Count Wittgenstein, repaired a bridge which had been destroyed on the Pleisse at Dolitz, and was about to pass over, when, unfortunately, his horse was killed, and himself taken prisoner by a column of the enemy, which was supposed to be a division of the Allies retiring.

At the same time Murat, at the head of an immense body of cavalry, appeared on the ridge, on the right of Count Wittgenstein, and judging that he had time to attack before the Russian reserve could come up to him, he sent on the light artillery of the guard, and immediately afterwards charged with his masses of cavalry. The Russian reserve had broken ground in its front, which rendered it impossible for the cuirassiers to meet him with

the velocity they desired; but the cavalry of Count Wittgenstein's corps, and attached to it, attacked him in flank, and he retired with as much precipitation as he advanced.

During the preparation of Murat's attack, the Austrian cavalry was greatly distinguished; they made nine charges on the enemy's right, in some of which they swept the whole front with great slaughter. The Russian cuirassiers having advanced, together with the guards and grenadiers, and the latter having occupied a wood on their right, no further attack was made; but the cannonade and fire of the tirailleurs continued till after dark, when the troops lay upon their arms upon the ground they occupied.

General Giulay, opposed by superior force, could not penetrate. General Blücher had a brilliant action, and defeated the force opposed to him, taking upwards of thirty pieces of cannon, an eagle, and more than two thousand prisoners.

The next morning at day-break, Count Wittgenstein's corps appeared on the ground from whence he had driven the enemy, but the heads of columns of the French cavalry and infantry were on their right on the same ridge, the cannon on each side almost within musket shot, and the videttes without pistol shot; and in this attitude the armies remained the whole day, without firing a shot, except some accidental skirmishing by the advanced men. Three great corps were advancing rapidly to join the Allies; it was therefore evidently not to their advantage to renew the attack, unless either General Blücher or the Field-Marshal was attacked by the enemy, in which case, either would have advanced immediately to support the other. Count Colloredo arrived at the village of Magdebourg at noon, and in the evening relieved Count Wittgenstein, who became his support. In the evening also part of General Bennigsen's corps arrived, and would have immediately marched upon the enemy's flank, had not the General been acquainted, while framing his attack, that the action was postponed. The Prince Royal also sent notice, that he would arrive on General Blücher's left by the afternoon of the next day.

The received disposition for troops in these plains, is now, to form immense solid columns of infantry and cavalry, which are denominated masses, and which are distributed according to the ground, in one or more lines, always with reserves; in front are great quantities of artillery, within reach of support. All villages, and broken or covered ground, are occupied by detachments, furnished by the nearest masses, and supported by them; and which, being defended by musketry, always occasion great slaughter. Except on such occasions, and as skirmishers, the infantry and the cavalry are seldom seen in line, but the masses which are usually formed behind the centre of the corps which composes them respectively, can always extend expeditiously to a larger front or into line.

Wurtzen was occupied on the 17th, by a detachment of General Bennigsen's army.

On the 18th, the disposition for a general action was carried into effect; Marshal Schwarzenberg's order of battle, from left to right, was as follows: Count Colloredo's corps, supported by the Austrian reserve, and connected with General Mehrfeldt's