

(Translation.)

According to the plan of the High Allied Powers, all the different corps d'armée were to concentrate themselves, in order to form two great armies. For this effect, some momentary retrograde movements were necessary. The army of Marshal Blücher concentrated itself near Laon, having opposed to it Napoleon, at the head of eighty thousand men. A courier, who arrived yesterday, brought information, that the Field-Marshal had resolved to give battle on the 9th; and this moment a second courier is arrived, bringing the following account :

This morning, before daybreak, the enemy attacked my right wing and centre, under the orders of Generals Winzingerode and Balow; and, under favour of a thick fog, he penetrated quite under the walls of Laon. Towards noon, when the fog cleared away, the two corps above-mentioned moved against the enemy, engaged in intersected ground, a very sharp affair of infantry, and gained ground till nightfall.

Towards three in the afternoon, the enemy's columns appeared on my left wing, took the village of Althies, and cannonaded briskly the corps of D'Yorck and Kleist.

Having foreseen this event, I sent the corps of

Langeron and Sacken to reinforce the left wing, with orders to assume the offensive, in conjunction with the corps of D'Yorck and Kleist.

Generals D'Yorck and Kleist fulfilled this object with their known ability. The enemy was totally overthrown at nightfall: his artillery, ammunition waggons, and a great number of prisoners fell into our hands.

General D'Yorck reports to me at this moment, that he is still in pursuit of the enemy, and that his cavalry has already driven them in the greatest confusion to Corbeny.

I hasten to communicate this news to your Most Serene Highness.

P. S. Up to the present time, seventy pieces of cannon have been already taken. The numbers of prisoners and ammunition waggons cannot yet be calculated. The victory was decided principally by a brilliant charge of my cavalry. My left wing passes the Aisne this day. It is not known positively if Napoleon commanded in person. Most of the prisoners assert that they saw him; but deserters say that he set off on the night of the 8th, with fifteen thousand men, in the direction of Paris, the grand allied army, under the orders of Prince Schwartzberg, having taken Fontainebleau.

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