

to incline towards the infantry of General Winzingerode, which sustained the extremity of the position near the villages of St. Martin and Craone. The enemy approached, under cover of the wood of Corbeny, and sent forward large bodies of skirmishers, supported by artillery, but was repulsed, and the firing ceased with the night.

On the morning of the 7th, it was ascertained that the enemy had desisted from his march upon Laon; in other respects his position was not clearly discovered. To be prepared for whatever might occur, Field-Marshal Blücher directed the corps of General D'York and Kleist to move across the River Delette, in the direction of Presle and Leully, to sustain the movement of the cavalry under General Winzingerode; and together with the corps of General Bulow, make an attack on the enemy's right, should he push forward against the point occupied by the infantry of General Winzingerode, near Craone. General Baron Sacken was ordered to the support of the latter, and to attempt to turn the enemy's left, should he make his attack on the other side. If pushed by a superior force, he was directed to fall back on the road towards Laon, and draw in the garrison of Soissons.

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the enemy began the attack with his whole force, calculated at more than sixty thousand men, against the point where General Winzingerode's infantry was posted. Field-Marshal Blücher immediately rode to the spot where the cavalry was supposed to be formed, to direct the operations in that quarter; but unexpected difficulties had opposed the march of the cavalry during the night, and it was found to have advanced no further than Presle. The infantry of General Kleist, which had marched in the morning, reached Feticcia; but the advanced guard of the cavalry alone had come up, and it became impossible to undertake, with effect, the movement which the Field-Marshal had projected against the enemy's right.

—In the mean time, the corps posted near Craone was exposed to a most severe and powerful attack. General Count Strogonoff commanded in General Winzingerode's absence. General Count Woronzoff had the infantry. The cannonading was most tremendous; but the enemy was resisted in every point with a spirit and determination beyond all praise. The pressure however was so great, that General Baron Sacken, to whom the support and direction of the whole had been entrusted, finally found it necessary to execute that part of the disposition which had provided for the retreat of the troops engaged towards Laon. It was executed with admirable order. Though fourteen pieces of artillery had been dismounted by the enemy's fire, not a single gun or carriage was left behind. The prisoners taken were not more than fifty or sixty. The killed and wounded are stated at about two thousand. General Count Strogonoff had his son, a Lieutenant-General, killed early in the action. Three other Russian Generals were wounded. General Count Woronzoff had five officers of his personal staff killed or wounded. The enemy had four generals wounded—Victor, Grouchy, La Salle, and Charpentras. His loss from the fire of the most admirably served artillery must have been very great. The troops effected their junction during the night, and on the following morning, with the

rest of the army, and the operations that have since ensued form the subject of the annexed report.

For forty-two days past this army, which appears to have been peculiarly the object of the enemy's disquietude and attacks, has been constantly marching or fighting, for exclusive of the general actions, only two days have elapsed, in which the advance or rear of it has not been seriously engaged. Buonaparte is now in retreat before it, but whether to take up a fresh position, or to proceed in some other direction where his presence may be found wanting, is not yet ascertained. Scarcely any information has been received here of the movements of the grand allied army, since he quitted the observation of it.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) H. LOWE, Colonel,

*Head-Quarters of the Combined Armies, under Field-Marshal Blücher, Laon, March 10, 1814, Eight A. M.*

SIR,

BUNAPARTE, with his whole force, attacked Field-Marshal Blücher yesterday in his position at this place, and was repulsed with the loss of forty-five pieces of cannon, with tumbrils, baggage, and prisoners, the numbers of which have not as yet been ascertained, as the left wing of the Field-Marshal's army is still in pursuit.

The city of Laon is situated on an elevated plateau, with deep shelving banks, which command an extensive plain around; the town covers the greater part of the plateau; the remainder is crowned by an old castle, and by several windmills built on high terrace-walls. General Bulow's army occupied this position; the remainder of the Field-Marshal's army was posted on the plain below, to the right and left of the town, fronting towards Soissons, and the cavalry was in reserve in the rear.

Before daylight in the morning the enemy made his attack, and under cover of a thick fog, which concealed all his movements, obtained possession of the villages of Semilly and Ardon, close under the town, and which may be regarded as its suburbs. The musketry reached the walls of the town, and continued without intermission until about eleven o'clock, when the fog began to disperse.

At this time the enemy was observed to be in force behind the villages of Semilly and Leully, with columns of infantry and cavalry on the Chaussee towards Soissons. He occupied at the same time, in force, the village of Ardon. The enemy was instantly repelled from Semilly, and Field-Marshal Blücher, the moment he could observe any thing of the enemy's position, ordered the cavalry from the rear to advance, and turn his left flank. General Count Woronzoff, who was on the right of the Field-Marshal's position, advanced at the same time with his infantry, pushed forward two battalions of yagers, which drove in the enemy's posts, sustained a charge of cavalry, and maintained themselves in an attitude to keep the left of the enemy in check until the cavalry could advance.

The Field-Marshal, at the same time, directed the advance of a part of General Bulow's corps against the village of Ardon, from which the enemy,