



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1814.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Downing-Street, March 22, 1814.

DISPATCHES, of which the following are extracts, have been this day received, addressed to Earl Bathurst, by the Marquess of Welington, dated Aire, 13th and 14th March, 1814.

Aire, 13th March, 1814.

The excessive bad weather and violent fall of rain, in the beginning of the month, having swelled, to an extraordinary degree, all the rivers, and rendered it difficult and tedious to repair the numerous bridges, which the enemy had destroyed in their retreat, and the different parts of the army being without communication with each other, I was obliged to halt.

The enemy retired after the affair with Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill on the 2d, by both banks of the Adour towards Tarbes, probably with a view to be joined by the detachments from Marshal Suchet's army, which left Catalonia in the last week in February.

In the mean time I sent, on the 7th, a detachment, under Major-General Fane, to take possession of Pau; and another on the 8th, under Marshal Sir William Beresford, to take possession of Bourdeaux.

I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship, that the Marshal arrived there yesterday (the small force which was there having in the preceding evening retired across the Garonne) and that this important city is in our possession.

Lieutenant-General Don Manuel Frere joined the army this day, with that part of the 4th army under his immediate command, and I expect that

Major-General Ponsonby's brigade of cavalry will join to-morrow.

I learn from Major-General Fane, who commands Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill's outposts, that the enemy have this day collected a considerable force in the neighbourhood of Couchez, and I therefore conclude that they have been joined by the detachment of the army of Catalonia, which, it is reported, amounts to 10,000 men.

Nothing important has occurred at the blockade of Bayonne, or in Catalonia since I addressed your Lordship last.

Aire, March 14, 1814.

I ENCLOSE Marshal Sir William Beresford's private letter to me, written after his arrival at Bourdeaux, from which you will see that the Mayor and people of the town have adopted the white cockade, and declared for the House of Bourbon.

Marshal Sir W. Beresford's private letter, to which Lord Wellington's dispatch refers, is dated Bourdeaux, 12th March, 1814.

It states, in substance, that he entered the city on that day. That he was met a short distance from the town, by the civil authorities and population of the place, and was received in the city with every demonstration of joy.

The magistrates and the city guards took off the eagles and other badges, and spontaneously substituted the white cockade, which had been adopted universally by the people of Bourdeaux.

Eighty-four pieces of cannon were found in the city; and an hundred boxes of secreted arms had been produced already.