

Powers of the Continent—if she acknowledged and abided by any principle of the law of nations, America might justly complain of us if we refused to be bound by those laws:—But she has set them all at defiance—she has openly proclaimed her contempt of them—she has set up the CODE NAPOLEON against all those principles of good faith and justice by which the affairs of nations were formerly regulated, and she must expect that we shall meet her with the same weapons with which she attacks us—She says, “England shall have no intercourse with any part of the continent.”—We must reply “no other power shall have any intercourse with the continent.”—The fact is ours, and we must maintain the doctrine—that no nation, no fleet, no rock-boat shall sail upon it without our permission. America declares, that England must not presume to declare a port in a state of blockade, unless she can keep a force actually before that port. England must reply, we will not condescend to mince and carve out and dwindle down our system of blockade. We will not talk of this port and that port. There is but one navy in the world, the British navy. The whole continent we consider but as one port, and so long as Bonaparte persists in his present system, we warn all powers that the continent is in a state of blockade, and they must not presume to trade with it without our leave. This is the doctrine which we must enforce, and the sooner we do it the better. In using the language she does use, America makes herself a party with France, and yielding to America is nothing more nor less than yielding to France. First, she says, accept the French definition of blockade; in other words, render your naval superiority of no use. Next she threatens us with not waiting three months before she renews the non-intercourse act—[See *Mrs. Smith's Letter to Mr. Pickens, dated Oct. 19, 1810.*] She has tried the experiment of non-intercourse before, and was the only sufferer by it.—Thirdly, she declares, that our relinquishing our principle of blockade will not content her. We must put a stop to the vexations to which her seamen are exposed; that is we must abstain from searching her ships and taking out our seamen when we find them there. Fourthly, we must atone for the affair of the Chesapeake; in other words, America having inveigled our seamen away, having refused to give them up, and said they were not on board the Chesapeake, when we knew they were, we must atone and atone for having taken them away by force. To the terms now demanded by America, we cannot yield with honor. She seems to have made herself a party with France, and her late conduct with respect to Louisiana and the Floridas, affords us a strong suspicion that there is a secret understanding between them.

We conclude these observations by saying, that we have one consolatory prospect of unanimity at home. America complains of having been ill-treated by all parties, but chiefly by that party which made such bitter charges against the present ministers, of being always influenced by a hostile disposition towards the United States.

Foreign Intelligence.

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London Gazette Extraordinary.

Downing Street, March 25, 1811.

DISPATCHES of which the following are copies, were last night received at the Earl of Liverpool's office, addressed to his lordship by lieutenant general Graham, dated Isla de Leon, 6th and 10th of March, 1811.

Isla de Leon, March 6, 1811.

My Lord—Captain Hope, my first aide-de-camp, will have the honor of delivering this dispatch, to inform your lordship of the glorious issue of an action fought yesterday by the division under my command, against the army commanded by Marshal Victor, composed of the two divisions Rufin and Laval.

The circumstances were such as compelled me to attack this very superior force. In order as well to explain to your lordship the circumstances of peculiar disadvantage under which the action was begun, as to justify myself from the imputation of rashness in the attempt, I must state to your lordship that the allied army, after a night march of 16 hours from the camp near Veger, arrived in the morning of the 5th, on the low ridge of Barrofa, about 4 miles to the southward of the mouth of the Santi Petri river. This height extends inwards about a mile and a half, continuing on the north the extensive healthy plain of Chiclana. A great pine forest skirts the plain, and circles round the height at some distance, terminating down to Santi Petri—the intermediate space between the north side of the height and the forest being uneven and broken.

A well conducted and successful attack on the rear of the enemy's line near Santi Petri, by the vanguard of the Spanish army un-

der brig. gen. Ladizabel, having opened the communication with the Isla de Leon, I received general la Penas's directions to move down from the position of Barrofa, to that of the Torre de Bernesa, about half way to the Santi Petri river, in order to secure the communication across the river, over which a bridge had been lately established. This latter position occupies a narrow woody ridge, the right on the sea cliff, the left falling down to the Almanza creek on the edge of the marsh. A hard sandy beach gives an easy communication between the western points of these two positions.

My division halted on the eastern slope of the Barrofa height, was marched about 12 o'clock thro' the wood towards the Bernesa, (cavalry patrols having previously been sent towards Chiclana, without meeting with the enemy.) On the march I received notice that the enemy had appeared in force on the plain, and was advancing towards the heights of Barrofa.

As I considered that position as the key of that of Santi Petri, I immediately counter-marched in order to support the troops left for its defence, and the alacrity with which the manoeuvre was executed served as a favorable omen. It was however impossible in such intricate and difficult ground to preserve order in the columns, and there never was time to restore it entirely.

But before we could get ourselves quite disentangled from the wood, the troops on the Barrofa hill were seen returning from it, while the enemy's left wing was rapidly ascending. At the same time his right wing stood on the plain, on the edge of the wood, within cannon shot. A retreat in the face of such an enemy, already within reach of the easy communication by the sea beach, must have involved the whole Allied Army in all the danger of being attacked during the unavoidable confusion of the different corps arriving on the narrow ridge of Bernesa nearly at the same time.

Trusting to the known heroism of British troops, regardless of the numbers and position of their enemy, an immediate attack was determined on. Major Duncan soon opened a powerful battery of 10 guns in the centre. Brigadier Gen. Dilkes, with the brigade of Guards, Lieut. Col. Browne's (of the 28th) flank battalion, Lieut. Col. Norcott's two companies of the 2d Rifle corps, and Major Acheson with a part of the 67th foot (separated from the regiment in the wood) formed on the right.

Colonel Wheatley's brigade, with three companies of the Coldstream Guards under Lieut. Col. Jackson, (separated likewise from his battalion in the wood) and Lieut. Col. Barnard's flank battalion formed on the left.

As soon as the infantry was thus hastily got together, the guns advanced to a more favorable position, and kept up a most destructive fire.

The right wing proceeded to the attack of Gen. Rufin's division on the hill, while Lieut. Col. Barnard's battalion, and Lieut. Col. Bushe's detachment of the 20th Portuguese were warmly engaged with the enemy's brailleurs on our left.

Gen. Laval's division, notwithstanding the havoc made by Major Duncan's battery, continued to advance in very imposing masses, opening his fire of musquetry, and was only checked by that of the left wing. The left wing now advanced firing; a most determined charge by the three companies of guards, and the 87th regiment, supported by all the remainder of the wing, decided the defeat of Gen. Laval's division.

The eagle of the 8th regiment of light infantry, which suffered immensely, and a howitzer, rewarded this charge, and remained in possession of Maj. Gough of the 87th regiment. These attacks were jealously supported by Col. Belfon with the 13th regiment, and Lieut. Col. Provost with a part of the 67th.

A reserve formed beyond the narrow valley, across which the enemy were closely pursued, next shared the same fate, and was routed by the same means.

Meanwhile the right wing was not less successful; the enemy, confident of success, met Gen. Dilkes on the ascent of the hill, and the contest was sanguinary; but the undaunted perseverance of the Brigade of Guards, of Lieut. Col. Browne's battalion, and of Lieut. Col. Norcott's and Major Acheson's detachment, overcame every obstacle, and Gen. Rufin's division was driven from the heights in confusion, leaving two pieces of cannon.

No expressions of mine could do justice to the conduct of the troops throughout. Nothing less than the almost unparalleled exertions of every officer, the invincible bravery of every soldier, and the most determined devotion to the honor of his Majesty's arms in all, could have achieved this brilliant success, against such a formidable enemy, so posted.

In less than an hour and a half from the commencement of the action, the enemy was in full retreat. The retiring divisions met,

halted, and seemed inclined to form: a new and more advanced position of our artillery quickly dispersed them.

The exhausted state of the troops made pursuit impossible. A position was taken on the eastern side of the hill; and we were strengthened on our right by the return of the two Spanish battalions that had been attached before to my division, but which I had left on the hill, and which had been ordered to retire.

These battalions (Walloon Guards and Ciudad Real) made every effort to come back in time when it was known we were engaged.

I understand also, from Gen. Whittingham, that with three squadrons of cavalry he kept in check a corps of infantry and cavalry that attempted to turn the Barrofa height by the sea. One squadron of the 2d Hussars, King's German Legion, under Capt. Busche, and directed by Lt. Col. Ponsonby (both had been attached to the Spanish Cavalry) joined in time to make a brilliant and most successful charge against a squadron of French Dragoons, which was entirely routed.

An eagle, 6 pieces of cannon, the General of division, Rufin, and the general of brigade, Rousseau, wounded and taken; the chief of the staff, Gen. Bellegrade, and aid-de-camp of Marshal Victor, and the colonel of the 8th regiment, with many other officers killed, and several wounded and taken prisoners; the field covered with the dead bodies and arms of the enemy, attest that my confidence in this division was nobly repaid.

Where all have so distinguished themselves, it is scarcely possible to discriminate any as the most deserving of praise. Your lordship will, however, observe how gloriously the brigade of Guards, under Brig. Gen. Dilkes, with the commanders of the battalions Lt. Col. the hon. C. Onslow and Lt. Col. Sebright (wounded) as well as the three separated companies under Lieut. Col. Jackson, maintained the high character of his Majesty's household troops. Lt. Col. Browne, with his flank battalion, Lt. Col. Norcott, and Major Acheson, deserve equal praise.

And I must equally recommend to your lordship's notice, Col. Wheatley, with Col. Belfon, Lt. Col. Provost and Major Gough, and the officers of the respective corps composing his brigade.

The animated charges of the 87th regiment were most conspicuous; Lt. Colonel Bernard (twice wounded) and the officers of his flank battalion executed the duty of skirmishing in advance with the enemy in a masterly manner, and were ably seconded by Lt. Colonel Bushe, of the 20th Portuguese, who, likewise twice wounded, fell into the enemy's hands, but was afterwards rescued. The detachment of this Portuguese regiment behaved admirably throughout the whole affair.

I owe too much to Major Duncan, and the officers and corps of the Royal Artillery, not to mention them in terms of highest approbation; never was artillery better served.

The assistance I received from the unwearied exertions of Lt. Col. Macdonald, and the officers of the adjutant general's department, of Lt. Col. the hon. G. Cathcart, and the officers of the quarter-master general's department, of Capt. Buch and Capt. Nicholas, and the officers of the royal engineers, of Capt. Hope, and the officers of my personal staff (all animating by their example) will ever be most gratefully remembered. Our loss has been very severe; as soon as it can be ascertained by the proper return, I shall have the honor of transmitting it. But much as it is to be lamented, I trust it will be considered as a necessary sacrifice, for the safety of the whole allied army.

Having remained some hours on the Barrofa heights without being able to procure any supplies for the exhausted troops, the Commissariat mules having been dispersed on the enemy's first attack of the hill, I left Major Ross with the detachments of the 3d battalion of the 95th, and withdrew the rest of the division, which crossed the Santi Petri river early the next morning.

I cannot conclude this dispatch without earnestly recommending to his Majesty's gracious notice for promotion, Brevet Lt. Col. Browne, Major of the 28th foot, Brevet Lt. Col. Norcott, Major of the 95th, Major Duncan, Royal Artillery, Major Gough, of the 87th, Major the hon. E. Acheson, of the 67th, and Capt. Buch, of the Royal Engineers, all in the command of corps or detachments on this memorable service; and I confidently trust that the bearer of this dispatch, Captain Hope, (to whom I refer your lordship for further details) will be promoted on being permitted to lay the Eagle at his Majesty's feet.

I have the honor to be, &c.

THOMAS GRAHAM,

Lieut. Gen.

P. S. I beg leave to add, that two Spanish officers, Captains Miranda and Naughton, attached to my staff, behaved with the utmost intrepidity.

T. G.

Isla de Leon, March 10, 1811.

My Lord—I have the honor to transmit to your lordship the return of the killed and wounded in the action of the 5th inst. and I have the satisfaction to add that the wounded in general are doing well.

By the best account that can be recollected from the wounded French officers, the enemy had about 8000 men engaged. Their loss, by reports from Chiclana, in killed, wounded and prisoners, is supposed to amount to 3000; I have no doubt of its being great.

I transmit too a return of the ordnance in our possession, and also the most accurate note that can be obtained of prisoners, most of whom are wounded. They are so dispersed in different hospitals, that an exact return has not yet been obtained.

I have the honor to be, &c.

TH: GRAHAM, Lt. Gen.

P. S. Detachments of cavalry and infantry have been lately employed in carrying off the wounded, and burying the dead, till the evening of the 8th inst. by which time all the enemy's wounded that could be found among the brushwood and heath, were brought in.

Return of the nature and number of pieces of ordnance taken in the action of Barrofa, on the 5th of March, 1811.

Two 7 inch howitzers, 3 heavy 8 pounders, one 4 pounder, with their ammunition waggons, and a proportion of horses.

D. DUNCAN,

Major Royal Artillery.

Return of prisoners of war taken in the action of Barrofa, on the 5th of March, 1811.

Two general officers, 1 field officer, 9 captains, 8 subalterns, 420 rank and file.

N. B. The General of Brigade, Rousseau, and two Captains since dead of their wounds.

JOHN MACDONALD,

Dep. Adj. Gen.

[Here follows a list of the killed and wounded, making, we lament to say, a total of 1243.]

FRENCH FAITH.

Our readers will recollect an article in our late Lisbon accounts, wherein it was stated, that a Theatre had been established at Santarem, the head-quarters of Massena; and that at an entertainment prepared by the French commander in chief, cards of invitation were sent to lord Wellington, and the officers of his army; the following is said to be the answer to these cards:

“The officers of the British army in your presence, beg leave to observe, with that frankness which dictated your polite invitation to partake of the amusements of your theatre—that whilst French faith, and French hospitality continue to be violated in the captivity of the Royal Family of Spain, they should not consider themselves secure in trusting to assurances less sacred, and consequently less difficult to be overcome.”

(Lon. pap.)

FRENCH PRESS.

PARIS, Feb. 3—Yesterday his imperial and royal majesty issued a decree relative to the suppressed printers; of which the following are the regulations:

The printers retained in Paris are bound to purchase the presses of the suppressed printers; they shall pay for them according to the valuation which shall be set upon them, within one year, and by four instalments.

Each of the retained printers shall pay one sixtieth of the total price of this purchase.

Immediately after the publication of this decree, seals shall be affixed on the types belonging to the suppressed printers.

They may sell them, if they please, provided they are sold only to licensed printers and type foundries.

An indemnification shall be paid to the suppressed printers by those who are retained.

This indemnification is fixed at the rate of 4000 francs to every suppressed Printer.

It shall form one general fund, which shall be divided among the suppressed Printers, in proportion to the extent and business of their printing establishment duly ascertained.

For this purpose the suppressed Printers shall be divided into classes.

This division into classes shall be made, and the indemnification fixed by a commission.

Each of the 60 retained Printers shall pay a sixtieth of the sum total fixed for the indemnification due to the suppressed Printers.

Every creditor of the suppressed Printers may object to the amount of the purchase-money for the preservation of his rights.

The Commission shall consist of the Inspector of the Imperial Press, who shall preside—of an Auditor of the Council of State, of two Inspectors of Books, and two Licensed Printers.

Another Decree of the same date orders, that Printers' Licences shall be delivered to them on parchment by the Director General of the Press. The price of issuing these Licences is fixed at 50 francs for Paris, and 25 francs for the other cities of the Empire.