

troops, and one of British heavy dragoons, had been formed in reserve in the rear, and Gardiner's troop of artillery was brought up to their left to answer the enemy's. At first they drove before them a brigade of French, but as they approached the intrenchment, a heavy fire of grape was poured upon them with full effect, and to escape it they pushed forward with inconsiderate speed, . . . the nimblest outrunning their comrades, in such disorder, that before the first line arrived at a hollow road some fifty yards in front of the intrenchment, it was completely broken. The reserve, as if deterred rather than instructed by this error, fell into the opposite fault, and came on so slowly, as not to be near enough for supporting them, when the French advanced against them vigorously, and drove them down the hill, and in spite of the utmost exertions of Freyre and the superior officers, were on the point of seizing the bridge over the Ers, in which, if they had succeeded, Beresford's troops would have been isolated. But the 1st Portugueze *Caçadores*, forming part of Baron Alten's light division, moved opportunely to their left, and advancing through the flying Spaniards, rallied them, and caused the enemy to halt in their pursuit: a squadron of British dragoons, who were still more in their rear, turned others, by striking them with the flat side of their swords; and Lord Wellington himself, the moment he saw them give way, galloped to the spot, and by his personal exertions rallied about a company of them, near the cypress trees on the Alby road. They suffered greatly in their flight, and the consequences might have been worse if the enemy had followed up the advantage with spirit. The great exertions of General Freyre, and of the staff officers, Mendizabal and Barcena among others, formed them again sooner than might have been expected after such a failure, and they were again placed in position, from which they afterwards

CHAP.
XLVI.
1814.

April.

CHAP. moved to their left in support of the 6th division ; but they were
 XLVI. not again brought into serious action.

1814. This was not the only time at which the circumstances of the day
 April. turned in favour of the enemy. Picton saw that a great advantage
 might be gained at this moment by pushing across the canal,
 while the enemy were engaged so far in front : and thinking to
 profit by the opportunity, having driven them within their *tête-*
de-pont at Pont Jumeau, he attempted, contrary to his instruc-
 tions, to carry it. It was not till the assailants were on the
 counterscarp that they discovered the formidable nature of the
 works, which had been regularly formed, and with the greatest
 possible care ; an assault, indeed, was impracticable ; they were
 exposed to a heavy fire of musquetry in front, and to a numerous
 artillery in their flank, and nothing but a speedy retreat could
 have saved them from destruction. Lieutenant-Colonel Forbes
 was killed here, and Major-General Brisbane wounded.

Meantime Beresford was more successful. The 4th and 6th
 divisions moved on till they came opposite to the points of attack
 assigned them ; there they halted, and formed in three lines.
 Sir Lowry advanced against the extreme right of the enemy's
 line, where General Leseur guarded the heights of Montaudran
 with one brigade, having General Berton's cavalry in his front,
 on the road to Bordes : and Sir Henry moved up, in front, to
 attack the redoubts on Mount Calvinet, which were occupied by
 Harispe's division, now considerably reinforced with the troops
 whom the repulse of the Spaniards had rendered disposable for
 this service. The face of the heights was irregular and steep,
 yet the 6th division steadily ascended under a severe fire of
 artillery, to which at every step they were exposed. A body of
 cavalry made many serious attacks on their right flank when
 they had gained the summit ; the 79th formed into a square,

received the charge, and totally routed them; and the troops drove back every thing that opposed them, carried with the bayonet the principal redoubt on the right, and established themselves on the crest of the position. Sir Lowry on his part, though menaced by Berton's cavalry on his left, and opposed by infantry in front, made his way successfully up, and having driven the enemy from the heights beyond the right of the intrenchment, took up ground on the left of Sir Henry Clinton, just before noon.

Two divisions of the allies were thus formed on the heights; but their artillery which had been left at Montblanc was not yet brought up, and the enemy meantime moved in force toward the points which were now threatened. The whole face of the hill is intersected with deep hollow roads; and the soil is a stiff heavy clay, in which at this time horses could with difficulty move out of a walk: the French, therefore, had laid planks from one of their works to another, on which their artillery could rapidly be moved wherever it was most needed. During the interval which elapsed before Beresford's guns arrived, they had time to effect this removal from their left, on the heights of Pujade, to those of Calvinet; and General Taupin's division was moved to the same point from the Fauxbourg S. Cyprien (where Reille commanded with Maransin under him) when it was perceived that no serious attack was intended against that suburb. The roofs and steeples of Toulouse were at this time covered with spectators, who, whatever their hopes and fears might be for the issue of the battle, execrated Marshal Soult for bringing the war thus to their own doors, and exposing a populous city to its horrors. About one Beresford was joined by his artillery; and the 4th and 6th divisions advanced steadily in line against the redoubts on the heights of Calvinet. Soult thought he could overpower

CHAP.
XLVI.
1814.

April.

*Précis His-
torique,*
P. 2. p. 61.

Ib. p. 47.

CHAP.

XLVI.

1814.

April.

Sir Henry's division by a vigorous attack both in front and flank, before Sir Lowry's could come up to its support; with this view the French pushed forward beyond their works to meet the assailants, Clausel and Taupin against the front of the 6th division, Leseur's brigade and Berton's cavalry against its flank. They could receive no support from the fire of their intrenchments in this advance; it became, therefore, a trial of courage; and the brave movement was as bravely met: Sir Henry Clinton, instead of waiting to receive the attack, pushed forward and met it with the bayonet; and his charge was a most determined and successful one. General Taupin was killed. The French were not only broken but routed; and General Pack's brigade carried the two principal redoubts and fortified houses in the enemy's centre. They made a desperate effort from the canal to recover these redoubts; and a Scotch battalion, which was placed in the interior of one, was nearly exhausted in defending it, when a brigade came in good time to their assistance, charged the French, and drove them down the hill. The enemy then formed their two routed divisions and General Rouget's brigade in a line from the heights of Pujade to Pont des Demoiselles, a bridge over the canal on the Montaudran road; from thence they made a second attempt in great force to recover that redoubt, which they looked upon as the key of the position; and the English, seeing them approach, planted their colours on the parapet in defiance. The French soldiers never throughout the whole war displayed more courage, nor more of that intelligence, which is their peculiar praise, than on this day; and in no part of the action did they behave better than in this attack, where they knew that they had support at hand, and, if need were, a sure retreat. To that need they were driven by men who exceeded them in cool and patient courage, a courage depending less upon excitement than upon con-

stitution ; and after many and strenuous efforts they were finally repulsed with great loss.

The victorious division continued its movement along the ridge ; and the Spaniards, brought into a serviceable position, though not into action, made a corresponding movement upon the front. The enemy did not wait to be assaulted in their remaining works : they withdrew from them gradually, and removed their artillery by the hollow road across the bridge over the canal. By four o'clock the action was at an end ; and the allies, having accomplished the object of the day, were with their artillery formed on the hills, looking down on the city ; the French occupying in strength an intermediate rising ground. Sir Rowland on his side had done all that was assigned him ; he had driven the enemy from their exterior works in the suburb, and made them retire within the ancient wall. This had had the intended effect of distracting them, and keeping one of their divisions employed.

The loss in this severe action was very great ; that of the British being in killed and wounded 2124, of the Portuguese 607, of the Spaniards 1983, in all above 4700*. The brunt of the action fell on the 6th division, which had 13 officers killed, and 88 wounded. General Pack was wounded, but remained in the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Coghlan was killed ; Mendizabal and Espalata wounded. The loss of the enemy was not known ; but from the circumstances of their position they

CHAP.
XLVI.

1814.

April.

* French exaggeration has seldom been carried farther than in the accounts of this action. One account makes the loss of the allies 21,000 in killed, and nearly 15,000 wounded ! and the author of the *Précis Historique de la Bataille* takes credit to himself for moderation and candour in reducing the number of the slain to 17,000.—P. 3. pp. 32—37.

CHAP. are believed to have suffered less than the allies: their dead
 XLVI. lay in full view of the city, and they asked leave on the
 1814. following day to bury them. General Lamorandiere was killed.

April.

Generals Harispe, Baurot, and S. Hilaire were wounded and made prisoners. Only one gun was taken in the position; the rest the enemy withdrew in time. Soult's force had consisted of not less than 36,000 men, that of Lord Wellington's was numerically little greater.

*Soult retires
 from Tou-
 louse.*

At night every post of the French was withdrawn within their intrenched line behind the canal. The only remaining bridge over the Ers was in possession of the allies, and the road from that over the Garonne was guarded by Sir Rowland: Toulouse was thus closed on three sides, and preparations were made for completing the investment. There was a want of ammunition, so much had been expended in the action; the reserve therefore was ordered up from Aire and Orthes; and shot were collected from the field of battle, the men searching for them at a fixed price. The inhabitants had now the miseries of a blockade before them, or the fear of having their lines forced, and the city at the mercy of an enemy's army. Above all they dreaded the rockets, which it was falsely reported would be discharged against the town; but so far was Lord Wellington from entertaining any such purpose, that though some heavy guns were fired from the ramparts, not a shot was directed against the city in return. It was said that Marshal Soult hesitated what part to take; whether to hold Toulouse, in the likelihood of obtaining some great advantage by bringing his forces out in a mass against any part of a line widely extended, and occupied by a force little more numerous than his own; or, retiring toward Carcassonne, to effect a junction with Suchet. General d'Armagnac is said to have advised this course, in consideration of the inhabitants, and

they blessed him for it; for Soult, whom they hated, and whom they openly accused of extortion and rapacity, followed the advice: a considerable body of his troops left the city on the night after the battle, leaving their wounded, 1600 in number, much of their artillery, and stores of all descriptions in large quantities.

CHAP.
XLVI.

1814.

April.

The allies entered Toulouse not as conquerors, but as friends and deliverers, amid cries of "*Vivent les Anglois!*" "*Vive le Roi!*" "*Vivent nos libérateurs!*" It was known officially at this time that the allied armies were in possession of Paris; and, though it was uncertain what measures might be taken with respect to the government of France, the wishes of the people were loudly declared, and the white flag hoisted. That same evening Colonel Cooke arrived from Paris to inform Lord Wellington that the allied Sovereigns had declared they would enter into no fresh negotiations with Buonaparte, because of his bad faith; that the Senate had passed resolutions declaring he had forfeited all right to the crown, and absolving the soldiers and the nation from their oaths of allegiance; finally, that he had submitted to their decree, and was permitted to retire to Elba, with the independent sovereignty of that island. Colonel St. Simon accompanied the British officer, charged with the same communication from the Provisional Government to Marshals Soult and Suchet. It was in the theatre that this news was published, for the theatre was not closed that night: the dead were lying all around the walls; the hospitals and many of the houses were filled with wounded, all of whom were not yet brought in: the inhabitants themselves had been, by the mercy of Providence, spared from the horrors of an assault, of a blockade which would speedily have caused famine, and from the evils of fire and sword which they had apprehended; and it was the theatre at Toulouse that was opened, not the churches! . . . But the play was altered, and Richard Cœur de Lion was represented, for the sake

The allies enter.

CHAP.

XLVI.

1814.

April.

of its applicable passages and songs. Nothing could exceed the cheering at these passages, except the bursts of applause with which Lord Wellington was received and greeted whenever he moved: only those who know the French character, said one who was present, could imagine the excessive joy of the people; they shouted and wept, and shouted again. In the midst of this exultation, an unusual tumult announced something new; and a person in black, attended by many candles, and having a paper in his hand, appeared in one of the side boxes, struggling for room, and endeavouring to obtain a hearing. Many minutes elapsed before even the eagerness of their own expectation could still that vociferous audience sufficiently for the magistrate to make himself heard; nor was any thing then audible except that he announced the abdication of Buonaparte, and the proclamation of Louis XVIII.

*Louis
XVIII.
proclaimed.*

*Sally of the
French
from Ba-
yonne.*

Here it might have been hoped that the bloody account of this long war had closed; even this last bloodshed might have been spared if, through some great treachery or inexcusable neglect, there had not been either delay in sending off tidings of the cessation of hostilities, or in impeding them upon the road; for the courier, who was dispatched on the first of the month, ought to have arrived a week before the battle; indeed suspicions were expressed in the *Moniteur* that orders and dispatches had been intercepted, with the view of giving Marshal Soult an opportunity of retrieving the reputation of the French armies by fighting in a position which he thought inexpugnable. Colonels Cooke and S. Simon had passed through Bourdeaux, and advice was dispatched from thence to Sir John Hope before Bayonne, while they proceeded to Toulouse. As this advice was not official, Sir John did not think proper to notify it officially to General Thouvenot, till he should receive orders from Lord Wellington; but he caused it to be communicated to the

French officers at their advanced piquets, in the hope and expectation that it might prevent any hostilities in the meantime. The intimation seems to have produced a very different effect. On the night of the 13th, two deserters came from the town, and gave information that the garrison were to make a sortie in great strength early on the morrow. The first division, upon this, was ordered to arms at three in the morning; and in a few minutes afterward a feint attack was made upon the outposts in front of Anglet. But it soon appeared that the chief effort would be on the right of the Adour. Parties from the citadel crept up the hill on which the piquets were stationed, took them almost by surprize, and instantly two columns rushed forward with loud cheers, and by their numbers broke through the line of piquets between St. Etienne and St. Bernard; another strong column advancing at the same time against the former village. The line of outposts through this village, and along the heights toward Boucaut, was marked by a road worn in some places to a deep hollow way, and in others bounded by high garden-walls, so that it was not easy to get out of it, except where gaps at long intervals had been broken down for the passage of the troops. The piquets, therefore, were cut off from their supports; and, fighting with desperate animosity on both sides, heaps of slain were found here, both French and English, mostly killed with the bayonet. Sir John Hope, hastening with his staff, in the early part of the attack, to St. Etienne, entered this road, as the shortest way, not aware that great part of it was in the enemy's possession, and that the piquets of the right flank had fallen back when the line of outposts had been pierced. As soon as he discovered this, he endeavoured to retire; but, having been in front himself, with his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Moore, and Captain Herries, of the Quarter-Master-General's department, they were conse-

CHAP.

XLVI.

1814.

*April.**April 14.*