

## WAR DEPARTMENT.

*Downing-Street, September 25, 1813.*

**D**ISPATCHES, of which the following are extracts, have been received from Lieutenant-General Count Walmoden by Earl Bathurst, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

*Head-Quarters, Lubbeow, August 24, 1813.*

**O**N the 17th August Marshal Davoust put himself in motion, and, penetrating the line of neutrality, attacked our advanced posts on the Stecknitz. He was employed for two days to drive them from this small river, near Buchen and Lauenburg, during which time he evacuated Lubeck, and, with a few thousand men, made at the same time a demonstration upon Möllen. The next day, 18th August, collecting his force, he moved slowly forward in two columns, the one directing its march upon Lauenburgh and Bötzenburg, the other upon Bächen. After all observations we could not estimate these columns less than from twelve to fourteen thousand men, and I was informed that five thousand remained in camp near Schwartzenbeck. The advance of the enemy was so cautious, that they hardly gained one German mile in a day. In this manner he arrived, on the 21st, in the vicinity of Vellahn, two miles from Hagenow, where I had assembled the whole of my cavalry, and the one half of my infantry, with the intention of attacking, with superior force, one of the enemy's columns, should a favourable opportunity offer itself. In the meantime I engaged the enemy at Vellahn, in order to induce him to shew his force—this had the desired effect, and he appeared to have about twenty thousand men, as nearly as I could observe. The loss was on both sides some hundreds of men, and the affair having continued till night, both parties remained in their position. The next day, 22d August, not wishing to engage in a decisive action, I moved to Hagenow, and from thence, the following day, to the plain of Kraack, between Hagenow and Neustadt, leaving the advanced guard at the former place, in case the enemy should advance, that I might be enabled to judge of his strength, having determined not to retreat except before much superior force. In the meantime General Vegesack, commanding the Swedish troops, not having been attacked, had made a demonstration upon Möllen, on the 21st August, with twelve hundred men. On the 23d, I learnt that the enemy, who on the 22d had not pressed much towards Hagenow, was moving upon Schwerin, having left the environs of Hagenow and Cammin. Whilst I remained in my position at Kraack, I gave orders to General Vegesack to gain one day's march upon the enemy, to be before him in case he should move from Schwerin to Gustrow and Rostock. To-day, the 24th, it is reported to me that the enemy has left Wittenburg, and that he is moving with his whole force upon Schwerin. I conclude, therefore, that his intention is to march to Swedish Pomerania, which would decide us to follow him by cutting him off from his communication from Hamburg, by constantly engaging and harassing his rear guard. The enemy's march appears to me to be very hazardous; it is true that his force might decide much, but however superior he may be in point of

numbers, I flatter myself that, in the position which I have occupied, I shall find the surest means to resist him as long as possible in preventing him from gaining his object, which must have failed had I risked a decisive action with a corps so inferior in numbers as mine. In fact, the enemy would have, in less than eight days, made a conquest of the two duchies of Mecklenburgh, after we should have lost a battle, or after a retreat, which we should have been forced to make to avoid an engagement.

In case the enemy's intention should not be directed upon Rostock, and that he only means to turn my right; I hope to give him a good deal to do in the intersected country of Mecklenburgh, where I shall look for a favourable opportunity to defeat him, or, by manouevring, force him to retreat. I shall feel highly flattered, if the measures which I have taken, and of which I have given your Lordship a detailed account, should meet the approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

*Head Quarters, Grabau, August 26, 1813.*

I BEG leave to refer your Lordship to my last statement, and to inform your Lordship, that having been ordered yesterday by the Prince Royal of Sweden, to join his army, with the troops here under my command; I went to Grabau for the purpose of marching to this destination.

I am happy to receive to-day the accompanying bulletin, announcing the victory which the army under the command of His Royal Highness gained over the enemy.\* It is in consequence of this advantage, that I have been countermanded in the forementioned march, and that instead of joining the Prince Royal, I am directed to remain with my troops in Mecklenburgh, for the purpose of defending this country against the enemy.

\* The enclosure here alluded to has already been published.

*Head Quarters, Schwerin, September 4, 1813.*

**T**HE Prince Royal of Sweden, having countermanded the order which he gave me to join him, charged me with the defence of Mecklenburgh. In consequence of which, after having allowed my troops time to concentrate, I marched the day before yesterday on Crivitz and the neighbourhood, in order that I might effect a junction with the Swedish force which covered Rostock, which was under the command of General Vegesack. It was my intention by thus gaining one or two marches upon the enemy, and masking my movement by the advanced guard of General Tettenborn, whom I left before Schwerin, and who had kept the enemy in continual alarm, to fall with a superiority on General Loison, who was detached from Marshal Davoust, at Wismar. On my march I received the information, that the enemy (whose force consisted of eighteen thousand French, twelve thousand Danes, and one hundred pieces of cannon) had, notwithstanding his confirmed superiority, suddenly retired from Schwerin during the night of the 2d instant; by forced marches he reached Ratzeburg and Lubeck, and judging from the intelligence