had formed near the destroyed bridge of Tabor, and leaving the villages of Kahe and Hirschstetten to the left & Stadlau to the right, marched in the plain towards Aspern.

It was followed by the column, which, having left the road before the post-office at Stammersdorf, had marched from the right by half divisions. Its right flank along the Danube was covered by a battalion of St. Georgians, by the first battalion of Vienna volunteers, and by a battalion of militia, under the command of major count Colloredo.

Within a cannon-shot of Stadelan, the out posts met the enemy's piquets, which gradually retreated to their original divisions.

At this time general Nordman ordered two battalions of Gyulay to draw up *en echellon*, in order to favor the advance of the column. The enemy drawn up in large divisions, stood immediately before Aspern, having, to cover his front, occupied all the ditches of the fields, which afforded excellent brest works. His right was covered by a battery, and his left by a broad & deep ditch, (one of those that carry off the waters of the Danube when it overflows) as well as by a bushy ground, which was likewise occupied by several bodies in close order.

Though the enemy had advantage of position all to himself, inasmuch as the freshes of the Danube were only passable by a small bridge, at which he kept up a vigorous fire from behind the ditches, both with cannon and small arms, it did not prevent the second battalion of Gyulay, immediately after the first had penetrated as far as the bushy meadows, to pass the bridge in a column, to form without delay, and with charged bayonets, to attack the enemy, who precipitately retreated to Aspern, on which occasion that village, after a vigorous but not very obstinate resistance, was taken for the first time. It was, however, not long before the enemy had it in his power by the arrival of a fresh reinforcement, to expel again the battalions of Gyulay. By this time some battalions of the column had arrived, the chasseurs of Major Schneider, of the second column, joined the advanced guard of the first; Gyulay termed again, and the enemy was a second time pushed to the lower end of the village, tho' he succeeded again in regaining what he lost.

Both parties were aware of the necessity of maintaining themselves in Aspern at any rate, which produced successively the most obstinate efforts both of attack and defence; the parties engaged each other in every street, in every house, and every barn; carts, ploughs, & harrows were obliged to be removed during an uninterrupted fire, in order to get at the enemy; every individual was an impediment of the assailants, and a rampart of the attacked; the steeple, lofty trees, the garrets and the cellars were to be conquered before either of the parties could stile itself master of the place, & yet the possession was ever of short duration; for no sooner had we taken a street or a house, than the enemy gained another forcing us to abandon the former—So this murderous conflict lasted for several hours; the German battalions were supported by the Hungarians, who were again assisted by the Vienna volunteers, each rivaling the the other in courage and perseverance. At the same time the second column combined its attacks with those of the first, having to overcome the same resistance, by reason of the enemy's constantly leading fresh reinforcements into fire. At length gen. Yacquant of the second column succeeded in becoming master of the upper part of the village, and maintaining himself there during the whole night.

By the shells of both parties, many houses had been set on fire, and illumined the whole country round.

At the extremity of the right wing, on the bushy meadow, the combats were not less severe. The left flank of the enemy were secured by an arm of the Danube: impenetrable underwood, intersected only by foot paths, covered his front; and a broad ditch and pallisadoes afforded him the advantage of a natural rampart.

Here fought at the beginning of the battle, the first battalion of Gyulay, under col. Mariassy; and the battalion of chasseurs under maj. Schneider; next the St. Georgians under maj. Mihailovich; and finally, the two battalions of Vienna volunteers under lt. col. Steigentesch and St. Quentin. Here, also, the enemy was defeated; and the first day of this sanguinary engagement terminated by the occupation of Aspern by gen. Yacquant, at the head of eight battalions of the second column, while lieut. field marshal Hiller drew the troops of his corps from the village, placed them again in order of battle, and passed the night under arms.

Second Column.

The advanced guard, commanded by lieut. gen. Framel, advanced by Leopoldau and Kagram towards Hirschetten, and consisted of chasseurs, and two battalions of Anton Mitrovsky under gen. Winzingerode, as well as the brigades of cavalry, Klenau and Vincent, under gen. Vecsey. It was followed in the same direction by the column from its positions near Gerasdorf.

The enemy having been discovered from the eminences near Hirschstetten to be near Aspern and Esslingen, the brigade Vecsey was detached against the latter place, and brigade Winzingerode to dislodge the enemy from Aspern.

The column displayed before Hirschstetten in two lines, in order to support the advanced guard, and leaving Aspern to the right, followed upon the plain, at a proper distance.

The brigade of Winzingerode, however, met with so spirited a resistance in its attempts upon Aspern, that an attack on the front alone was not likely to be attended with success; the cavalry, therefore, of the advanced guard, was pushed forward from Aspern on the left, in order to support the attack on the flank with the battalions of cavalry, as well as to facilitate the junction with the 3d column, which was advancing by Brientenlee. At the same time the regiments of Reuss Prauen was ordered to take the right side of Aspern, with a view to attack on that place, the rest of the corps was formed into close columns of battalions.

Meanwhile the enemy formed his left wing, which he refused, towards Aspern, and his right upon Esslingen. Thus he advanced with columns of infantry and cavalry upon the main army, while an extremely brisk cannonade supported him. A line of twelve regiments of cuirassiers formed the centre of the 2d line of the enemy, giving to the whole an imposing aspect.

Meanwhile the attack of a battalion on Reuss Plauen of Aspern was repulsed, and it gave way, being thrown into consternation by the loss of its commander, but it rallied immediately after. Count Bellegrade ordered gen. Yacquant to renew the attack with the regiment of Vegensaug, and to carry the village at all hazards. The latter obeyed the order with the most brilliant success, and Aspern, though defended by twelve thousand of the best of the enemy's troops, was carried by storm; Yacquant being assisted by the regiment of Reuss Plauden, by a battalion of archduke Rainer, and by the brigade of Mair, of the 3d column.

To frustrate this attack, the enemy advanced with two columns of infantry, supported by his heavy cavalry upon the main army, repulsed the regiments of Klanau and Vincent's light horse and fell upon the infantry.

The latter expecting him, with their firelocks ready, and with cool intredity, fired at 10 paces distance so effectually, as totally to route the enemy, upon which gen. Veesey, at the head of a division of Klenau, attacked the enemies' cuirassiers with such energy that their retreat was followed by that of the infantry.

Hereby the army along the whole of its line was disengaged from the enemy, obtained communication on the left with the corps of prince Hollenzollern, and became possesed of the important post of Aspern. The enemy being in full retreat, attempted no further attack, and confined himself merely to a cannonade. The corps remained during the night under arms. The enemy repeated, indeed, his attacks on Aspern, but they all proved unsuccessful.

Third Column.

This column, according to its destination, had began its march from its position at Scieting, by the road of Sussenbrunn and Breitenlee. Some divisions of O'Reilly's light horse and chasseurs formed the advanced guard of the column, and at three o'clock in the afternoon, met near Hirschstten, the left wing of the enemy, which consisted mostly of cavalry.

As about this time the first and second columns advanced intrepidly upon Aspern, and the enemy began to fall back to his position between Esslingen and Aspern, lieut. gen. Hohenzollern ordered up his batteries, and a very brisk cannonade commenced on both sides.

The first line formed in close columns of battalions, and advanced with the greatest resolution upon the enemy, when his cavalry suddenly rushed forward in such disproportionate numbers, and with such rapidity, that there was scarcely time to save the artillery which had been brought up, and the battalions were left to defend themselves by their own unsupported exertions. This was the remarkable moment in which the regiments of Zach, Joseph Colloredo, Zuttwitz, Froon, a battalion of Stein's, and the second battalion of the archduke Charles's legion, under the direction of lieut. general Brady, and generals Buresch, Maier and Koller, demonstrated, with unparalelled fortitude, what the fixed determination to conquer or die is capable of effecting against the most impetuous attacks.

The enemy's cavalry turned these battalions on both wings, penetrated between them, repulsed the squadrons of O'Reilly's light horse, who were unable to withstand such a superior force, and in the confidence of victory, summoned these corps of heroes to lay down their arms. A well directed and destructive fire was the answer to this degrading proposition, and the enemy's cavalry abandoned the field, leaving behind them a considerable number of dead.

This corps, as well as the others, passed the night on the field of battle.

Fourth and Fifth Columns.

These were both composed of the corps of lieut. gen. prince Rosenberg, on either bank of the Russbach, and directed their march from their position to the right and left of Deutsch Wagram.

The fourth proceeded through Roschdorf straight to Esslingen. Colonel Hardegg, of Schwarzenberg's Hulans conducted the advanced guard.

The fifth directed its march towards the left, in order to go a circuit round the little town of Enzersdorf, and drive the enemy out of the place. It was reinforced by Stiptic's hussars, under the command of colonel Frolich. Lieut. general Klenau led the advanced guard of both columns.

As this circuit round Enzersdorf obliged the fifth to describe a longer line, it was necessary for the fourth to advance rather more slowly.

Enzersdorf, however, was quickly taken possession of by a detachment of Stiptic's hussars, and of the Walischo-Illirian frontier regiment, as it was already for the greatest part evacuated by the enemy, from whom no more than 30 prisoners could be taken.

Both columns now received orders to advance upon Esslingen.

The fourth in close columns of battalions of Czartorisky's, Archduke Louis's and Boburg, who were twice successively attacked by upwards of 2000 of the enemy's heavy cavalry; but these were each time put to flight by our brave infantry with considerable loss.

Of the fifth column, two battalions of Chasteler's advanced directly upon Esslingen, while two battalions of Bellegarde's were ordered to penetrate the left bank of the village, and the small contiguous wood. Two battalions of Hiller's Sztary's, besides the archduke Ferdinand's and Stiptic's regiments of hussars, and two divisions of Rosenberg's light horse, were in the plain, in readiness to support them.

These combined attacks were made twice successively, with uncommon intrepidity; the enemy's troops were repulsed at all times, and driven into the village of Esslingen, which had been set on fire. But as the enemy's army was drawn up in several lines between Esslingen and Aspern, and met each new attack with fresh reinforcements, because the safety of his retreat depended on the possession of the bridge, our troops were obliged to abandon it at the approach of night, and to await under arms, the arrival of morning.

The reserve corps of cavalry had marched in two columns, under the command of general Prince of Litchtenstein, and advanced upon the New Inn, between Raschdorf and Brietenlee. General count Wartensleban, with Blankenstein's hussars, conducted the advanced guard.

No sooner did the enemy perceive the general advance of the army, than he placed the bulk of his cavalry, supported by some battalions of infantry, in order of battle between Esslingen and Aspern, and commenced a brisk cannonade upon the columns of Austrian cavalry as they advanced.

Prince Lichtenstein directed his columns to march forward in two lines, on which the enemy detached four or five thousand cavalry from his position to the right by way of Esslingen, and excited some apprehension that he would impede the progress of the fourth column, or even break through it. The prince, therefore ordered four regiments to the left, and kept the second column formed, in two lines, till he was convinced that the fourth would not meet any impediment to its march.

During this movement the remainder of the enemy's cavalry, also advanced with the greatest confidence towards the right wing of the Austrian army. They were received with a firmness which they probably did not expect. The intrepedity of the cavalry which had marched up, particularly Maurice Lichtentein's regiment and the archduke Francis's cuirassiers, the former headed by its gallant col. Roussel, frustrated the repeated assaults of the enemy by counter attacks, by which they at length put a stop to his impetuous advance, and completely repulsed him with considerable loss. In these conflicts the French general of division, Duresnel, equerry to the emperor, was taken prisoner a few paces from him, as was also general Fouler, equerry to the empress, after naving been slightly wounded. Notwithstanding the fire of musquetry which now ensued, the prince ordered a general advance, by which the enemy was straitened in the alignment between Esslingen and Aspern, but on account of the flanking fire from Esslingen, could not be pursued any further. The fire of his guns was answered with spirit by the horse artillery. About seven in the evening, three thousand horse were again detached towards the point of union between the cavalry of the corps of reserve and the left wing of prince Hohenzollern, and fell *en masse* upon the brigades of cuirassiers of generals Kroyher, Klary, and Seigenthal; but by the steady intrepidity of the Blackenstein's and Riesch's regiments, who with the utmost gallantry made a sudden attack on the enemy's flanks, his cavalry was again repulsed, and part of it, which had fallen upon some regiments of the new levies, placed in the third line, was cut off, and there taken.

Meanwhile night came on, and it was passed by the Prince in the best states of preparation, on the ground which he had gained from the enemy.

For the first time, Napoleon has sustained a defeat in Germany. From this moment he was reduced to the rank of bold and successful generals, who, like himself, after a series of destructive atchievements, experienced the vicissitudes of fortune. The charm of his invincibility was dissolved. No longer the spoiled child of fortune, by posterity he will be characterised as the sport of the fickle goddes. New hopes began to animate the oppressed nations. To the Austrian army the 21st of May was a grand and glorious epoch, that must inspire it with a consciousness of its strength, and a confidence in its energies. Overwhelmed by our irresistible infantry, its proud opponents were extended in the dust, and the presence of their hitherto unconquered emperor was no longer capable of snatching from the heroes of Austria the laurels which they had acquired.

Napoleon's glory was obviously at stake. New efforts were to be expected the following day; but he was also obliged to fight for his existence. By means of fire ships sent down the Danube, the archduke had caused the enemy's bridge on the Lobau to be broken down, and its repairs would take up several hours—Meanwhile Napoleon had already, in the evening, been joined by the corps of gen. Oudinot; and all the disposeable troops followed from Vienna and the Upper Danube, and were transported across the river in vessels as fast as they arrived.—The archduke, on his part, ordered the grenadier corps which had not had any share in the first engagement, to advance from its position near Gerarsdorf to Breitenlee; and the short night was scarcely sufficient to complete the respective preparations for the commencement of a second tragedy.

BATTLE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND MAY.

Corps of Lt. Gen. Hiller.

With the morning's dawn the enemy renewed his attacks, which far surpassed in impetuosity those of the preceding day. It was a conflict of valor and mutual exasperation. Scarcely had the French guards compelled gen. Yacquant to abandon Aspern, when the regiment of Klebek again penetrated into the burning village, drove back the choicest troops of the enemy, and engaged in a new contest in the midst of the conflagration, 'till at the expiration of an hour, it was also obliged to give way. The regiment of Benjovsky now rushed in, and at the first onset gained possession of the church yard; the walls of which field-marshal lieut. Hiller immediately ordered the first division of pioneers to pull down, and the church, together with the parsonage, to be set on fire. Then was this regiment, supported by some battalions commanded by gen. Bianchi, at length enabled to maintain itself at the entrance of the village, after overcoming the resistance bordering on despair, opposed by the flower of the French army.

Neither could the enemy produce any farther effect upon the bushy meadow, after lieut. gen. Hiller had ordered the force there to be supported by two battalions of Anton Mittrowsky's and a battery; on which the villagers, St. George's, and two battalions of Vienna volunteers, drove him from his advantageous position, which he never afterwards attempted to recover.

At about this time the left wing of the corps was likewise placed in security by three batteries sent by the lieut. gen. to support the general of cavalry, count Bellegarde, and the latter maintained his ground against the most desperate attacks of the enemy; the lieut. gen. Hiller kept his position on the flank of the enemy, and the victory was decided in this quarter. The corps was therefore again formed in two lines, and thus awaited the approaching events.

Corps of the gen. of cavalry the count Bellegarde.

Count Bellegarde, having received a message from gen. Yacquant that the enemy was assembling in force before Aspern, towards the Bushy Meadow, and apparently had in view an assault upon that point, was just going to throw a fresh battalion of Argenteau's into Aspern, when the enemy, in heavy columns of infantry and cavalry, supported by a numerous artillery, began to advance upon the centre of the corps in the plain.

The troops stationed at Aspern, exhausted as they were with the incessant fire kept up during the night, were unable to withstand the impetuosity of the attack: their ammunition, both for artillery and musquetry, began to fail, and gen. Yacquant retreated in good order to the church yard. This post, gained at so dear a rate, was again taken from him, after several attacks sustained in conjunction with gen. Hiller; the place was alternately taken and lost, till at length the superiority of our fire obliged the enemy to abandon the houses, and a last assault of Hillers corps prevented all further attempts.

From the moment of the retaking of Aspern it became possible to oppose an offensive movement to the enemy advancing upon the centre, and to open upon his flank a communication. The defence of Aspern was therefore left entirely to Hiller's corps, and while count Bellegarde occupied his right wing on Aspern, he formed his left and the centre in the direction of Esslingen, in such a manner, that by degrees, he gained the right flank of the enemy, compelled him to retreat, and, by the complete effect of the artillery brought to bear upon the left wing, which commanded the whole space from Aspern to Esslingen, gave him a most severe defeat.

Corps of the lieut. gen. the Prince Hohenzollern.

The dawn of morning was with this corps also the signal for the renewing of the gigantic conflict. The enemy's infantry was in large divisions, and between the whole of the heavy cavalry was formed en masse. The gen. cavalry, Prince Litchenstein, on observing this order of battle, perceived the necessity of keeping up a close communication with the infantry placed near him; he therefore drew up his right wing en exchequer, behind the corps of infantry, but kept his left wing together, with reserves posted in the rear.

A prodigious quantity of artillery covered the front of the enemy, who seemed desirous to annihilate our corps by the murderous fire of cannon and howitzers. Upwards of 200 pieces of cannon were engaged on both sides, and the oldest soldiers never recollected to have witnessed so tremendous a fire.

Vain was every effort to shake the intrepidity of the Austrian troops. Napoleon rode through his ranks, and, according to the report of the prisoners, made them acquainted with the destruction of his bridge, but added, that he had himself ordered it to be broken down, because in this case there would be no alternative but victory or death. Soon afterwards the whole of the enemy's line put itself in motion, and the cavalry made its principal attack on the points where the corps of cavalry of prince Lichtenstein communicated with the lieut. gen. prince Hohenzodern. The engagement now became general; the regiments of Rohan, D'Aspre, Joseph Colloredo and Stain, repulsed all the attacks of the enemy. The generals were every where at the head of their troops, and inspired them with courage and perseverance. The archduke himself seized the colors of Zach's and the battalion, which had already begun to give way, followed with new enthusiasm his heroic example. Most of these who surrounded him were wounded; his adj. gen. count Colloredo received a ball in his hand, the wound from which was considered dangerous; a squeeze of the hand signified to him the concern of his sympathising commander, who filled with the contempt of death, now fought for glory and his country.

The attacks of our impenetrable corps, both with the sabre and the bayonet, so rapidly repeated and so impetuous, as to be unparalelled in military annals, frustrated all the intentions of the enemy.

He was beaten at all points, and astonished at such undaunted intrepidity, he was obliged to abandon the field of battle.

About this time lieut. gen. prince Hohenzollern observed on his left wing, near Esslingen, a chasm which had been formed during the heat of the engagement, and afforded an advantageous point of attack. Fretsch's regiment commanded by colonel Meesery, was ordered thither in three corps, and repulsed four regiments of cavalry, accompanied with infantry and artillery. The corps remained in the position which they had taken, till the grenadiers of the reserve which the archduke had ordered forward from Breitenlee, arrived to relieve the battalions exhausted with the sanguinary conflict, and continued the attack upon the centre of the enemy's position. Lieut. general D'Aspre penetrated with the four battalions of the grenadiers of the Pizezmsky, Puteany, Scovaux and Scarlack, without firing a shot, to the enemy's cannon, where he was flanked by such a destructive fire from Esslingen, that nothing but the presence of the archduke, who hastened to the spot, could have induced his grenadiers to maintain their ground. Capt. count Dombasle had already reached the enemy's battery, when he was wounded by two balls and quitted the field.

About noon the archduke ordered a new assault upon Essling, which was immediately undertaken by field marshal lieut. D'Aspre, with the grenadier battalions of Kirchenbetter and Scovaux on the left, and Scarlack and Gregory in front. Five times did these gallant troops rush up to the very walls of the houses, burning internally and placed in a state of defence; some of the grenadiers thrust their bayonets into the enemy's loop holes; but all their efforts were fruitless, for their antagonists fought the fight of despair. The archduke ordered the granadiers to take up their former position, and when they afterwards volunteered to renew the assault, he would not permit them, as the enemy was then in full retreat.

Corps of Field Marshal Lieutenant Prince Rosenberg.

Both divisions of this corps, which in advancing to the engagement, had composed the 4th and 5th columns, were formed before the break of day for a new attack, for which the enemy likewise made preparation on his side, but with a manifest superiority in numbers.

Prince Rosenberg resolved to attack the village of Essling with the archduke Charles' regiment of infantry, to push forward his other troops in battalions, and in particular to go and meet the enemy, who was advancing in the open country between Essling and the nearest arm of the Danube.

The village was already gained, and battalions advancing on the left, obliged the enemy, drawn up in several lines, to yield. The most violent cannonade was kept up incessantly on both sides, and it was sustained by the troops with the greatest fortitude.

Favored by a fog which suddenly came on, the enemy's heavy cavalry ventured to attack on all sides the corps formed by Sztarrey's and Hiller's regiments of infan-