

were immediately taken to recover these places & to succour Clairfaits broken army with whom a junction was to be formed. In consequence a most desperate & bloody battle ensued which commenced in the morning when the French *seemed* to give ground, unfortunately this redoubled the ardour of the British troops, who were led too far, surrounded and above a thousand killed or taken prisoners; the duke of York escaped the latter fate with great difficulty. The Austrians, Hanoverians & Hessians then fled in all directions. The English lost all their artillery, & the guards their colours: seven thousand of the allies were killed or taken—some say many more. I mention this action more particularly, because notwithstanding our defeat, it redounds greatly to the honour of the British who did all that courage & discipline could do, but they were I fear very ill supported by our allies. The duke retreated into Tournay where the army now are. In the mean time the French have driven Clairfait back to Bruges & Ghent, have laid seige to the city of Ypres, & fears are entertained for the fate of Ostend. Towards Charleroi the French have been twice defeated with considerable loss, indeed in both they are said to have lost many thousands. I do not give entire credit however to the Brussels Gazette, because if those defeats were of the magnitude stated the French could not have returned almost immediately and opened the trenches of Charleroi in the face of a victorious army. Towards the Rhine the King of Prussia has done nothing: he however receives about two millions & a half subsidy from this country to furnish 64,000 men. he takes the money & tells us the men are *coming*. The King of Sardinia, another of our allies gets £200,000 pounds for his assistance, but so far from assisting, he cannot even defend himself; for his troops have been beat in a variety of actions, the principal posts leading to Turin taken, & that capital itself threatened, the enemy having been within two days march of it [at] last accounts. The Spaniards have not been much more successful. they have been defeated by Dugom[m]ier (he commanded at