

*Ghent, Nov. 20.* I make no doubt you will be anxious to receive an accurate account of the dreadful situation in which your friends have been in Ghent.

On Friday the 13th, early in the morning, the Patriotic Army, to the amount of 700, arrived at the Bruges Gate, where they met with little resistance from the soldiery. The gates, however, being kept shut, they burst them open by continual firing, which alarmed us very much, as you may suppose. The bridges were immediately drawn up, to prevent the approach of the Patriots; the battle was then continued for some hours; at last the Patriots drove the troops, some into the Citadel, the rest into the Barracks. The firing before the Barracks lasted till Monday at five o'clock, when Col. Lunden hoisted the White Flag, and immediately the troops marched out, to the number of 500, and surrendered their arms. They were then conducted through the town to different Convents, where they are kept prisoners.

The Patriots obliged Col. Lunden to write to the commander of the Castle, ordering him to surrender, which he refused; but in the middle of the night he ordered it to be evacuated bag and baggage, after having pillaged and massacred men, women, and children.

We are confidently assured, that there were no less than 4000 men in the Citadel. What a miracle, that undisciplined men, with indifferent arms and ammunition, and so few in number, should conquer: if the soldiers had behaved as they ought to have done, they must have driven them out of the town at the first onset. The ravages they have committed at St. Peters, and the Citadel, are shocking beyond description: Nobody that has not seen it, can believe the horror of the scene. The soldiers come out every morning, and pillage the neighbourhood, and kill every one that obstructs them.

The Patriots have eight officers prisoners; there are three to be shot soon;—poor Mulcion is dying of his wounds. All this is very distressing, but nothing in comparison to the scene that presented itself in the Citadel: the soldiers collected every combustible matter they could find, and threw bombs into the town. It was certainly their intention to have burnt the whole City; and if they had not been forced to retire so precipitately, they would most likely have effected their horrid purpose; as, wherever a bomb fell, it burnt all before it. More than thirty houses are reduced to ashes; some of the most elegant in town.

In some streets it is impossible to pass

for the ruins, and on account of the stones which are continually falling;—3,000 men are to be kept by the Town, in order to guard it; 2,500 are already engaged. I hope tranquillity will soon be restored. Every inhabitant is obliged to mount guard.

Another battle is hourly expected at Brussels, which will most likely decide the fate of this country, at least for some time. The Patriots have got possession of Ostend, Bruges, Ghent, and Louvain. General Dalton, a man execrated by all, it is said, ordered the soldiers to kill women and children; one infant in a cradle was brought to town, and flogged to death by the savages; an officer tossed another on the point of a sword. In short, it is shocking to humanity to see and hear the acts of brutality that have been committed.

*Liste, December 17.* The official account of the capture of Brussels, published by the Patriots, is as under: It is dated the 17th of December.

At length, notwithstanding the armistice, and every other pretence, 500 brave Patriots of Brussels have dared to engage in battle with 6000 Austrians. The action commenced yesterday afternoon, at four o'clock. The first attempt was to make prisoners of all the soldiers who guarded the Mint, and those who were quartered in the different convents. General Dalton did his utmost from five o'clock in the morning to negotiate an armistice. About seven o'clock 800 men of Bender d'Alost entered the city with two pieces of cannon, which they planted on the Grand Place. About ten o'clock General Dalton thought proper to send a large detachment in order to release, by forcible means, the officers and privates made prisoners in the Basseville. This was the signal for a new engagement, which will be ever memorable for its victory. The Patriots, no longer able to contain themselves, routed the whole detachment. To the number of 500, at the utmost, they invested the great market, and after a most obstinate conflict, they made themselves masters of the Corps de Garde, and two pieces of cannon; and took about 400 Austrian prisoners. About the same time, the engagement recommenced in all quarters of the city; and, in less than two hours, the Patriots made themselves masters of the barracks of the military, and of the magazines, in which they found near 2,600 muskets, besides cartridges, ammunition, &c. Towards noon, they attacked the Park, and the Place Royale, where the greatest body of troops were concentrated, with 12 pieces of