

A. D.
1757.

which his Prussian Majesty had so long in vain attempted to provoke them; but to attack them in

rest having been detached, by order of the Margrave of Baden-Durlach, along the Sala, for the security of the interior circles) had orders to continue and cover themselves by felling trees, and this place was fortified besides with some redoubts, being the only one against which the enemy could form its attack, and the intervals were guarded by several pieces of artillery. The Imperial cavalry and that of the Empire, occupied a very advantageous spot near this wood, and extremely proper for their purpose. The French troops, whose left wing was defended by an impracticable ravin, joined them; besides all which there was a corps of reserve, of eight battalions and 16 squadrons, of the same auxiliary troops, to be employed as occasion might require.

In this posture nothing could be more desirable than to be attacked. On the 3d the enemy appeared, and reconnoitred the camp from the eminences, but discovered no tokens or disposition to risque an action with the combined army so advantageously posted, but encamped near the village of Rosbach, where it was equally inaccessible both in front and flanks. This camp was on a ravin and a small eminence. A brook, no ways considerable but for its steep banks, perfectly covered either army from the other; and the troops posted in the manner of an amphitheatre, formed two lines of infantry on the hanging of the hill, and the third of cavalry, in the plain behind the two former.

It was three in the afternoon before they quitted their camp, and made a shew of retreating to Mersebourg: but taking advantage of an eminence, which intercepted them and their motions from our view, they ranged their cavalry behind it. A person of credit and distinction came in the interim, and assured the Duke of Saxe Hildbourghausen, general of the combined army, that there was scarce a handful of the enemy behind the said eminence. But bye and bye we saw them ad-