

through the last line, and six only being made prisoners* ; and though prodigies of valour were performed, every vacancy in the ranks was instantly filled up, and the whole still moved forward over numberless dead bodies, until they found themselves almost in the midst of the French camp.

"The battle now seemed won ; and already, in the assurance of victory, the whole Allied columns set up a shout of triumph, which was heard above the thunder of the cannon, even as far as the ramparts of Tournay, on which the Flemish soldiers had crowded to obtain a distant view of the battle ; understanding the meaning of the hurrah that was borne on the gale, they answered it with a corresponding shout, and then ran down to make a sortie on the besieging squadrons of French immediately underneath their walls.

"The discomfited troopers of the French squadrons were now forced back in disorder to the very place where the King and his son were posted, so that, at one time, the two Princes were actually separated by the dismayed crowd of soldiery that came tumbling in upon them in the terror of retreat. His Majesty, however, showed no inquietude, and still refused to seek safety for his person by crossing the bridge.

"Marshal Saxe now sent orders to the Count de la Marck to evacuate his position in St. Antoine, and to move back towards the bridge on the Scheld, to favour his retreat, in case of disappointment in a last effort against the British columns ; but the Count, mortified at the idea of giving up his position to the tardy Dutch, who, though doing nothing now to assist the victorious English, were ready to take possession of his guns, and to turn them on his King the moment he abandoned them, dared to disobey. The day, however, seemed past hopes to the French, and even the artillery were now whirling in, in numbers, from the front of the field.

"Distracted with anxiety for his Sovereign, Marshal Saxe sent a second order for the evacuation of St. Antoine, and despatched another officer to command the blowing up of the windmill, formerly mentioned, a measure, which had been previously arranged, as a general signal in case of retreat ;

* These six men were sent back by the Duke of Cumberland on the following day, from regard to their bravery.