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Naples, March 16.

BY a Courier arrived from Catania, we have advice, that Don Diego Bracamonte, General of the Cavalry, going out with a Regiment of Horse, and another of Foot, had attacked and taken *Fraha-culta*, and two or three places more; upon which, the French had drawn out of Taormina and other places a Body of Men, with which they came suddenly upon the Spaniards, and obliged them to abandon the places they had possessed themselves of, and to retire with the loss of 3 or 400 Men. We are told that the French have discovered a Conspiracy for the putting the Tower of *Della Motta* into the hands of the Spaniards. The Viceroy of Sicily was preparing to remove from Palermo to Melazzo, to be so much the nearer to Messina.

Legorn, March 16. Since the attempt made by the French Men of War at Piombino, we have heard nothing farther of them; the two Spanish Men of War that put into Porto-longone, are sailed from thence for Sicily, according to the report of the Patron of a Bark arrived from Majorca. Here is come in a French Man of War in five dayes from Thoulon, by which we have advice, that at Thoulon lay eight Men of War ready to sail, designed, as was believed, for Sicily; though some are of opinion, they are intended for some design which is kept private.

Copenhagen, March 30. The Swedes are at present with their whole Force before Christianstadt, which, we fear, will not be able to hold out long, having want of several things. We have advice that a Swedish Caper of 70 Guns, some dayes since, fell in with a Fleet of Dutch Merchantmen near Katteg etc, and took three of them. We have just now a report that Christianstadt is surrendered to the Swedes.

Francfort, April 5. The Imperial Troops are marching towards the Rhine, and the first instant the Duke of Lorraine parted from his quarters at Essingen, on his way towards Philipsburgh, and from thence to the Rendezvous of his Troops. This day six Companies of Foot, and as many of Dragoons passed through this City, taking their march towards Oppenheim.

Cologne, April 6. Our Letters from above assure us, that the Imperial Troops begin to pass the Rhine, over which several Bridges are laid near Wormes and Mayence. From Suifferland they write, that the Cantons had assured the Emperors Minister, that they would not permit any more Levies to be made in their Territories for the service of France during this War. The Elector of Brandenburg continues still at Ham.

Metz, April 5. We have advice from several parts, that the Imperialists are drawing together near Mayence, upon which the Marschal de Crequi has sent Orders to the Troops which are quartered in Lorraine, to hold themselves ready to march upon the first Order.

Brussels, April 6. On Saturday morning his Excellency the Duke of Villa Hermosa went from hence to Antwerp, to meet there the Prince of Orange, as he did that afternoon; and after having had a Conference to-

gether, his Highness continued his journey towards Bruges, and his Excellency returned towards this place. We are told that his Highness design is positively to attempt the relief of *St. Omer*, which is now formally besieged, though we apprehend he will meet with great difficulty in it, because of the badness of the wayes between Ipres and *St. Omer*, to that degree, that according to our Advices from Ipres, they are become almost unpassable, through the great Rains we have had for some dayes past. Letters from Doway of the 3d instant say, that the Outworks of *Gambray* were all in the possession of the Besiegers, who doubted not but in a day or two to be Masters of the Town; that the Enemy had been much advantaged in their Attacks, by the discoveries made to them by a principal Engineer of the Garrison, who had deserted, upon some difference between him and the Governour; that the King had commanded that no Bombes should be shot into the Town; that the Batteries were all finished both against the Town and the Citadel, and played very furiously; and this morning we have advice, that the French are Masters of the Town, but that the Citadel still holds out. Our Letters from Liege tell us, that the Garison at *Maebricht* is above 10000 strong, and that 3000 are daily at work on the Fortifications.

Dino, April 9. We are here in great impatience to hear from the Prince of Orange, who, according to our last Advices, was past Ipres; on his march towards *St. Omer*, being resolved to hazard a Battel to relieve it. The Town of *Gambray* obtained very good Conditions of the French; and the whole Garison retired into the Castle, as well Cavalry as Infantry, the former killing their Horses they were forced to leave behind. We hope the Citadel will make a brave defence. From *Germany* they write, that the Imperial Troops, which together would make about 15000 Men, would pass the Rhine the 6th instant at *Oppenheim* under the command of the Duke of Lorraine, the rest of the Imperialists remain as yet in their Winter-quarters.

From the Camp before *St. Omer*, April 6. The Duke of Orleans having resolved to attack the Fort *des Vaches*, which covers that part of the Town of *St. Omer* where it is weakest, the 29 at night we began to work for the raising a Battery, and the making a Lodgement to secure it; the following night the Besieged made a Sally with 400 Men, and attacked the said Battery and Lodgement with great vigor, but the *Sieur d'Albrat*, with part of the Regiment of *Nauarre*, after a brisk skirmish, repulsed the Enemy, and in this action the Major of the Town and some other Officers were taken Prisoners, within 20 paces of the Counterscarp, and many others were killed, on our part we lost not above 20 Men. The same day the Duke d'Aumbrat arrived in the Camp with 3500 *Boulannois*. The 2d instant, Monsieur received Orders from the King to open the Trenches, which was accordingly done the 4th instant at night, our Troops having before possessed themselves of several Redoubts, and made the necessary preparations for their Attacks. The same night the Trenches were likewise opened against