

Letter to the Archbishop of *Gnesne*, amongst other things of moment, informed him of his Majesties resolution to retire himself from publick Affairs, and by quitting the Government, to pass the rest of his dayes in devotion and retirement; to which the Chancellor seemed much averse, it being a business, which in the present juncture of affairs, might involve the Kingdome in much trouble.

The people are with greedines expecting the issue of the ensuing Diet, and 'tis said that all the Provincial and Lesser Diets, have unanimously resolved to petition his Majesty for the dismissal of the French Ambassadour, before they make any progress into other affairs of the Kingdome.

*Vienna, Jan. 21.* The Levies upon the account of the Spanish Ambassadour being compleated, and most of the new raised men already upon their way for *Milan*, care is now taken for the speedy raising of 10000 men, to recruit the Emperors old Regiments.

A Courier sent lately to this Court from the Governor of *Inpruck*, to acquaint the Emperour of some apprehensions he had lest the French might make a sudden attempt upon the Neighbouring Countries, is again returned with Orders from the Emperour for the necessary defence of that Countrey, and the reinforcement of the Garrisons in the Frontier Towns upon *Alfania*.

No time nor place is as yet prefixt for the Diet, which is to be held in *Hungary*, but 'tis supposed the Deputies from those Estates will in little time be dismissed with a Resolution in that point. The Turks reinforce their Garrisons about *Offen*, and draw some Forces together, which administers matter of jealousy to our Governours upon the Frontiers, though to divert our apprehensions the *Bassa* gives out, that his intention is only to take care to have some succours in readines to be sent to the Grand Visier to reinforce his Army against Spring for the better pursuing of his design for the taking in of *Candia*.

*Genova, Jan. 25.* Yesterday arrived here the submission from *Yarmouth*, who lest the *Happy Return* of London about 4 days since coming in for this Port, and is hourly expected. The Dutch Convoy from *Spain* may also suddenly arrive in this Port.

From *Milan* we are told, that notwithstanding the great preparations for War, they have some leisure for diversions, having there began the Carneval with a Masquerade on horseback, composed of 12 Squadrons, all of them excellently mounted and habited, and at the head of them *Seignior Montato* Lieutenant of the Company of Launces, preceded by a great number of Trumpets, Drums, and kettle Drums.

The several Provinces of *Milan*, have lately by their Syndics and Orators, applied themselves to the Governor *Don Luis Pons de Leon*, complaining of the great burthens laid on them for the maintenance of the souldiery; to whom the Governor has returned fair promises, with some hopes of redress; in the mean time taking care to reform some abuses which are crept in amongst the Officers of the Army, particularly that of giving liberty to the Souldiers to absent themselves from their Quarters, and in the mean while themselves receiving their pay.

*Paris, Feb. 8.* The Prince *Maximilian* of *Bavaria* is here arrived *incognito*, whose intended marriage with *Madamoiselle de Bouillon* is reported to be fully agreed and concluded on, and that the Prince is preparing to appear publicly with a Train of above sixty persons, with Liveries and Equipage suitable to his dignity.

This day *Monsieur de Beaufort* leaves this place, intending for *Bress*, to take care of the Maritime Affairs committed to his Charge, and to be able to set out his Fleet by the first of *March*.

The King is far advanced on his journey, and 'tis believed may this day enter into *Franche Comte*, where the Prince de *Conde* is already in the Field, and 'tis said has taken in some small Castles and Forts, and that their design is in little time to lay siege to *Besancon* and *Salins*.

*Monsieur de Lionne* intends suddenly to marry his Daugh-

ter to the Duke de *Vantadour*, with whom he will give a portion of 10000 Crowns, and the King the summe of 20000 *livres*.

*Monsieur* the President *Pelletier* has lately received a Brief from his Majesty, conferring on him the Honourable Charge of *Provost des Merchants* in *Paris*.

*Tarmouth, Feb. 3.* This morning 20 sail of light Colliers passed through this Road to the Northwards, and upon the Flood, 3 or 4 laden ships came in from the Northward, a greater Fleet being suddenly expected to follow them. This day arrived a vessel of this Town from *Bordeaux*, much complaining of the rudeness of some Ostenders, who boar'ing her took away some barrels of Herrings; with some Wine, stripping her men, and beating the Master: about 50 sail of ships are here fitting out, and may in few days sail to Fish in the North seas: several others are intended for *Ireland*.

*Bristol, Feb. 3.* The Master of a Galliot newly arrived here from the River of *Charante* informs us, that during his stay in the River, the Magazine of Naval Provisions belonging to the French King, by some accident took Fire, and in his sight blew up; in which were said to be many thousand barrels of Powder, with all other Provisions for the Fleet, and that the Fire took hold of four of their best men of War of Sixty and Seventy Guns apiece and upwards, and utterly destroy'd them, and had not a company belonging to a Provincial ship then in the Road, stoutly adventured in their Boats with great danger to prevent it, most part of the French Fleet might in probability have been destroyed.

*Whitehall, Feb. 5.* His Majesty continuing to pursue, what he hath so happily begun, for the better regulating his affairs for the future; and having amongst other important parts thereof, taken into his Princely consideration, the wayes and methods of managing matters at the Council Board, was pleased on Friday, *Jan. 31.* to declare his pleasure to the Board, that certain standing Committees of the Council for several businesses, should be henceforth established, together with regular dayes for their assembling.

1. A Committee for Forreign affairs, to which is to be also referred the corresponding with the Justices of the Peace, and other his Majesties Officers and Ministers in the several Counties concerning the affairs of the Kingdom, &c. to meet always on Mondayes.

2. A Committee for such matters as concern the Admiralty and Navy, as also all Military affairs, Fortifications, &c. so far as they are fit to be brought to the Council board, without intermeddling in what concerns the proper Officers, unless it shall by them be so desired, to meet on Wednesdayes.

In pursuance whereof, that Committee did this day meet, and his Royal Highness (according to his indefatigable Labour and industry in what ever concerns his Majesties service and the Publick) was pleased to be present, and to preside in it.

3. A Committee for the business of Trade, under whose consideration is to fall whatsoever concerns his Majesties Foreign Plantations, as also what relates to his Kingdomes of *Scotland* and *Ireland*, with the Isles of *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, to sit on Thursdayes.

4. A Committee, to whom are to be referred all Petitions of Complaints and Grievances, to whom His Majesty hath thought fit particularly to prescribe, that they meddle not with Property, or what relates to *Mum* or *Tum*, to which Committee His Majesty is pleased that all matters which concern Acts of State or of the Council, be referred; to sit on Fridayes.

For the rendering which Constitution the more effectual, His Majesty was pleased to declare, that for the future, as nothing is to be resolved in Council till the matter hath been first examined, and have received the Opinion of some Committee or other, so on the other side, nothing be referred to any Committee, until it have been first read at the Board; with other wholesome Rules, which are for the future to be strictly observed.