

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Thursday December 29. to Sunday January 2. 1692

Vienna, Decemb. 20.

The Emperor has finally decreed the Duke of Hanover the Ninth Elector; and yesterday the Baron de Groot, his Minister here, received in the Name of his Electoral Highness, the Investiture of that Dignity with the usual Ceremonies.

Coblentz, Decemb. 28. The French began on the 21st instant to batter the Fortrefs of *Rhinfelden* with 4 pieces of Cannon; The 22d they finished another of 3, and the 23d a third of 2 pieces; But finding these Batteries lay too much expedit to the Cannon of the Besieged, they removed them, and raised others; and have since continued to fire upon the Fortrefs and the Town of *St. Goar* with 12 pieces of Cannon, which have very much damaged the Ravelin, and another Work of the new Scans or Fort; But whilst the Enemy were thus employed, the Troops of *Hesse* and *Trier* were not idle, having reinforced the Garrisons in the Town and Cattle, and supplied them with Provisions and Ammunition; and having besides raised several Batteries on the other side of the *Rhine*, and planted thereon 18 great pieces of Cannon, which greatly annoyed the Enemy, and obliged them to abandon their Trenches, and some other Works they had made against the Town. On the 26th came hither several French Deserters, who assured us, That the Enemies whole Strength, at present employed in this Siege, consisted but of 8000 Foot and 2500 Horse; but that some more of their Troops lay at *Summern* and *Castellans*; That they had in their Camp but 12 pieces of Cannon and 3 Mortars, most of their heavy Cannon that was brought from *Montroyal* having stuck by the way. One of our Parties that was sent abroad returned 2 days ago with 9 French Prisoners, 14 Horses, and 2 Mules. Yesterday we were informed by other Deserters, That 4 pieces of Cannon more were brought into the Enemies Camp; And this day we have advice, That the French, after having thrown divers Bombs, did yesterday Storm the Town of *St. Goar*, as also the new Fort, with 3000 Men, who were from time to time relieved by fresh Detachments; The Enemy made several Assaults, which lasted from one at Noon till 5 in the Evening, but they were repulsed in all of them with the loss of 1500 Men, the Ditches being filled with dead Bodies; And of the Troop of *Hesse*, who were in Garrison there, and made this brave Defence, were killed, a Lieutenant Colonel, 7 Captains, and 200 private Soldiers. This day the Landgrave of *Hesse* passed the *Reine* with his Cavalry, and formed a Camp near this place; his Foot will follow to morrow; and the Confederate Forces from the Diocese of *Cologne*, and the Parts thereabouts, are on their march to join him.

Cologne, Dec. 30. The last Letters from *Coblentz* bring an account, That the French had been repulsed in a great Attack they made the 27th upon the Town of *St. Goar*; That the Action was very sharp, and lasted several hours; and that of the Enemy near 2000 were killed and wounded, and of the Garrison about 200; which is confirmed by the Baron de *Saffich*, Chief Marshal to the Elector of *Trier*, who this day came hither from *Coblentz*. And by a Letter from an Officer in Garrison at *Rhinfelden* of the 29th instant, we are told, That the Enemy were very quiet the Night before, not having fired at all; That on the 28th they sent a Drummer into the Fortrefs to desire leave to bury their Dead, but he would not go back to them, being glad of that opportunity to quit the French Service; and that as well the said Drummer, as another Deserter reported, That in the last Assault the Enemy had 2000 Men killed, and wounded so as to be unfit for Service; That 100 Wagons had been sent with wounded Men (there being 5 or 6 on each) to *Montroyal*; That they had lost a great many Officers; and that their Troops were so weakened, that they had hardly 15 Men in a Company; But that they expected a Reinforcement of 16 Battalions; and continued to work very hard in carrying on their Trenches against the Fortref, and had lodged themselves near the

great Redoubt. In the mean time the Landgrave of *Hesse* is marching with all possible diligence to the Relief of this place; He has already passed the *Rhine* with his Forces, at *Coblentz*; and the Generals *de Hesel* and *d'Autel*, with 2000 *Banzenburg* and *Neuburg* Horse have joined him there; the rest of the Confederate Forces that are drawn together out of these Parts were encamped yesterday, under the Command of General *Fleming*, near *Euskirken*, eight Leagues from hence, where they expected the coming up of some other Troops, and after that would continue their march towards the *Asselt*.

Huy, Dec. 28. The 26th in the Evening our Governour the Baron de *Rouff* was informed of the approach of the Enemies Troops with a design to attack this place; upon which the Garrison was immediately ordered to their several Posts, in the Castle, and at the Gates of *Namur*, *St. Denis*, *St. Germain*, *Rient*, and *Moulin*, and all the Buildings on the River of *Hoyot* were broken down, except that nearest to the Church of *Nostre Dame*. In the Night the Enemy advanced on the Valley of *Nostre Dame*, and to the Hills on both sides the Town, and the next Morning posted themselves on the Hill of *Coren*, as likewise on the Hills behind the *Recollets* on the side of *Hesbays*, where about eleven a Clock they began to throw up Earth, making use of a great many Falcones which they had brought with them; All this while our Cannon played upon them, as it continued to do the whole day, with good Success; Towards Noon the Enemy attacked our advanced Guard at the Gate, called *des Aveugles*, in the Suburb, which they forced, by the Assistance of a Sergeant, who Deserted from hence not long before, and being got with a small party through the Gardens into the Suburb, came upon the backs of our Men. In the Afternoon 400 of the Enemy advanced towards the Great Mill and *St. Chroisine's* Church, and possessed themselves of that Post, (which was defended for some time by a Sergeant and 9 Men) and afterwards of the whole Suburb, but with the loss of many of their Men, most of whom were killed by the Cannon from the Castle: The Night following the Enemy was very quiet; And this Morning about 9 a Clock a Trumpeter was sent in by the Chevalier de *Gaffion*, with a Letter to our Governour, offering to release the Prisoners taken at the Gate *des Aveugles*, upon Condition he would likewise set at liberty the French that were Prisoners here, which was consented to. Soon after several Deserters came in, and assured us, That the Enemy began to draw off their Troops upon the News they had received that a considerable Body of the Confederate Forces was marching this way, and that they would be joined by a strong Reinforcement from *Leige*; This is confirmed by the Parties sent out from hence to observe the Enemy, who tell us, they are retired towards *Namur*. Their Forces which appeared before this place, on both sides the River, consisted, according to our best Information, of about 16000 Men.

Paris, Decemb. 29. The firstest Letters that are made publick here, from the French Camp before *Rhinfelden*, are of the 25d instant, which say, That they had raised several Batteries against the Fortrefs, That their Cannon being in divers places pierced the principal Tower, and they hoped to be Masters of the place by the end of this month. The Count de *Tallard*, who Commanded the French Forces at the beginning of the Siege, was removed out of the Camp by reason of the wound he had received in his Breast. Several Colonels and other Officers, who had leave to come hither, are returned to their Commands in *Flanders*; from whence we hear that a Body of our Troops is marched towards *Furres*. Monsieur de *Casimat* is returned towards *Picamont*; The last Advice from these parts, say, That the Enemy continue to threaten *Pignard*.

Brussels, Decemb. 31. The French appeared on the 26th instant before *Huy*; The Count de *Guiscar* approached on the other side of the *Meuse* towards the *Condour* with a Body of 9000 Men; Monsieur de *Gaffion* with 6000, must