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Metaphysics in Spain, Decemb. 20.

THE Queen Dowager of England being perfectly recovered of the illness which hath detained her about 3 Weeks in this place, her Majesty intends to set out this day 10 *de Janeiro* del *Castro*, and to be the 24th of this month at *Salamanca*; and from thence continue her Journey to *Alcala*, the first Town in *Castile*. The Marquis *d'Arcebis* and his Son-in-law, are come hither from the King of *Portugal* to attend her Majesty, and have been here these 10 days.

Turin, Decemb. 27. The Marquis *d'Legnes* having Assisted several Counts, and been very splendidly Entertained by this Court, returned yesterday to *Alcala*. The last Week were brought hither two or three Prisoners of Quality, being accused of having had to do with the French, in order to surprize some of our Troops Quarters in *Castile*, and to betray likewise the Town of *Com* into their hands; which they were near Executing, that the Enemy were already marching that way, when the Treason was discovered. The Prisoners have been several times Examined, and we are told that they have discovered the whole Conspiracy. Our Preparations are carried on with all possible Application for an early Campaign. On the other side the Enemy give out that they will enter into *Piedmont* with a great Army betimes in the Spring, and that Monsieur *Cottinat* is gone to the French Court to receive Orders for that purpose. On Monday last the Count *de Montford* was brought to the Citadel here, who having some Land within a certain Pief which the Duke of *Savoy* bought lately of the Emperor, refused to pay the usual Contribution, and made Resistance against the Officers appointed to receive it. His Royal Highness recovers his strength every day, goes frequently to take the Air in his Gardens, and is sometimes on Horseback.

Vicna, Decemb. 31. The Arch-Duchess *Maria Antonia*, Daughter of the present Emperor *Leopold*, and of the Empress *Mary* Infanta of Spain of Happy Memory, Wife to Duke *Maximilian Emanuel* Elector of *Bavaria*, having been brought to Bed of a Prince on the 28th of *October* last, was afterwards taken very ill, and died in this City on the 24th instant, about 6 in the Evening, in the Age of 23 years 11 months, to the extraordinary Grief of his Imperial Majesty and this whole Court. The New Levis are continued with great diligence in the Hereditary Countries, and the other Preparations for the next Campaign are likewise in good forwardness. The last advices from *Hungary* say, that the Turks were drawing a Body of their Troops together about *Semen*, designing, as 'tis believed, to Attack *Peter Warasina*, upon which, the Council of War here has met several times to give the necessary Orders for the Preservation of that place, which is now our Frontier towards *Belgia*. The Emperor has Ordered Count *Guido of Starckenberg* to repair forthwith to *Coblentz* on the *Rhine*, to Command there.

Waldelbergh, Jan. 6. The French Cavalry in the *Palatinate* and *Alsacia*, have orders to be in a readiness to march upon the first notice: And 'tis reported that they design to pass the *Rhine* at *Fort Lewis* or *Philipsburg*, to make a Ravage in the Country on this side. We hear from *Strasbourg*, that the Count *de Tulla* was dangerously ill of a Wound he received in the Siege of *Rheinfelt*, and that the French were very much mortified by the ill News they had from thence.

Rheinfelt, Jan. 3. The Repulse the Enemy received in their great Attack on the 27th past, did so far discourage them, that they durst not venture upon making any more, however they continued to ply us very hard with their

Cannon till the first instant, when being Alarm'd with the approach of the Confederate Forces, they ran away with their Cannon, except two Pieces and a Mortar, which continued to fire upon us till the following Night, together with their Baggage, and part of their Foot, and the next day the rest of their Troop drew off, and retired towards *Montroy*, leaving behind them a good quantity of Ammunition and Provisions, and some Baggage, and divers Sick and Wounded men in the Hospitals of *Charmel* and *Becherach*. The great Tower of the Castle, with some other of our Works, are very much injured by the Enemies Cannon; and during the Siege, we lost on our side a Lieut. Colonel, a Major and 2 Captains, with several other inferior Officers; and in all we had between 4 or 500 men killed and wounded. The Enemies Loss amounts to above 3000. The Landgrave of *Hesse* is come hither, to see what condition the place is at present in, and to give Orders for repairing the Fortifications, as well as to thank the Governor, the Baron *de Goss*, and the whole Garrison, for having so bravely defended it.

Cologne, Jan. 9. The French, under the Command of the Count *de Tullard*, came before *Rheinfelt* on the 16th of the last month, with 12 Pieces of Cannon and 5 Mortars, and having been Employed two days in raising their Batteries, they began on the 18th to Cannonade the Town and the Castle, making account to be Masters of both in 6 days. They made several Attacks, and among others one that lasted 5 hours, but were repulset in all of them: In the last they were once possessed of the Counterescarp, but were forced to abandon it again with the loss of above 1200 Men killed and wounded. After this the Major General *Baron de Goss*, who Commanded in the Forts, hung out a red Flag, to let the Enemy know that he was resolv'd to defend it to the last Extremity. The French being distressed with these Losses, and the little progress they had made in the Siege, not having yet gained one Foot of Ground, and understanding that the Confederate Forces were marching to the Relief of the Besieged, began on the 31st to send away their heaviest Cannon, the rest followed the next day, and in the Night between the first and second instant, their Infantry decamp'd, and retired towards *Montroy*, being covered by their Horse, who before they marched off, which they did as well as the Foot did in great confusion, set Fire to their Camp, leaving behind them a good quantity of Powder, Cannon Shells, and other Ammunition of War, and 800 of their Sain-ambuscade. The Enemies Loss is computed at 3000 Men, among whom are said to be three General Officers, and 36 Captains, most of them persons of condition; of the Troops of *Hesse*, who were in Garrison in the Town and Castle, 200 are killed, and about three hundred wounded. A Detachment of Dragoons was sent in pursuit of the Enemy, to attack their Rear, but they had made their Retreat with so much haste, that our men could not overtake them, but met a French Party, of whom they killed 60, and took 16 Prisoners, with a Lieut. Colonel and a Captain. Seven French Regiments of Horse were come to reinforce the Enemy: And the Marquis *de Harcourt* was arriv'd at *Montroy*, with divers Engineers, to be Employ'd in the Siege, but the News of their precipitate Retreat prevented his going on. The Landgrave of *Hesse*, who was on his march to relieve the Besieged, has since sent his Troops back to their several Quarters, and is come himself to *Erenbreytstein*, to confer with the Elector of *Trier*, and from thence will return to *Cassel*. The Generals of the Confederate Forces, are going to hold a Conference in this City, in order to provide for the security of the Circle of the *Lower Rhine*.

Paris, Jan. 9. The last Week Monsieur *de St. Hilaire*, General of the Artillery, was sent away with several Engineers to our Camp before *Rheinfelt*, and a considerable Reinforcement of men was likewise ordered thither, this Court being extremely concerned for the Success of this Expedition, which they look upon to be of very great importance.