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Malta, January 16.

ON the 9th Instant, about 10 o'clock, happened here an Earthquake; and another on the 11th at 3 in the afternoon; The last was so violent, and lasted so long, that every Body thought this City would have been quite destroyed. The Roof of the

Church of our Lady de *Pilar* was thrown down, with part of that of *St. Lawrence*; The Church and Colledge of the Jesuits suffered also very much, but the Cathedral and the Church of *La Gufmane* received the greatest damage, and are so ruined that they can hardly be repaired; Most of the Houses are extremely shattered, and deserted by the Inhabitants, who lie now in Grottoes, and under Tents in the Fields; The Great Master of the Order was then abroad a Hunting, and he and all his Company were in great danger by the falling of a Mountain near them; We cannot yet tell you the particulars of the loss this Island has sustained, but only in general, that 'tis very great, and the Consternation of the Inhabitants unexpressible; which has received a new addition by the sad accounts we have from *Sicily*, of the same Calamity that has befallen that Island in a yet more terrible manner; for by the return of our Gallies from *Augusta*, whither they went to lade Corn, we are informed, that on the 9th they had an Earthquake there which threw down several Houses, and killed 400 Persons; but on the 11th (at the same time it happened here) it returned with such violence, that it overthrew all the Churches, Convents, and remaining Houses, and reduced that City to a heap of Ruines; At the same time a Magazine of Powder took fire, and destroyed a great number of People, among whom was the Governor's Son, and 180 Persons belonging to our Gallies. As they passed by *Siracusa* they perceived likewise the Ruines of that City, occasioned by these late Earthquakes; which have destroyed 5 Cities, with a great number of Bourgs and Villages, and (as is reported) 150000 of the Inhabitants, and have caused an astonishing desolation throughout all that Island; Their Misfortune is the more sensible to us, because we are supplied with all our Subsistence from thence, and the coming back of our Gallies empty has much increased our uneasiness here; and therefore they are ordered to return immediately, as well to give all the assistance they are able to the Inhabitants that are left at *Augusta* and *Siracusa*, with which Places we have a more particular Correspondence, as to lade what Corn they can find in the parts thereabouts for the use of this Island.

Lisbon, Febr. 2. The Queen Dowager of England is still at *Alcantara*, whither Her Majesty went upon Her first arrival here, and continues in perfect Health.

Rome, Febr. 14. Here was lately some expectation of a Promotion of Cardinals, but at present there is no more talk of it, though there are now Eight Vacancies in that Colledge. The Pope has published a Bull for suppressing the Office of Legat of *Avignon*, the Profits whereof are to be applied to the use of the Chamber, except those of the Seal, which are to be enjoyed by the Vice-Legat, and may be worth 3000 Crowns yearly. The Pope holds his Resolution of going to *Civita-Vecchia* presently after

Easter, where the Ecclesiastical Gallies are in the mean time fitting out for the assistance of the Venetians.

Genova, Febr. 14. By a Vessel which arrived here this week from *Toulon*, we have advice, that there lay several French Men of War at the Isles of *Hieres*, and others were fitting at *Toulon*, in order to join them, and that the whole Squadron, under the Command of the Count *d'Estree*, would, when ready, consist of 22 Men of War and 6 Fireships. Two Gallies of the Duke of *Tusis's* Squadron are gone from hence to join the other 5 that are at *Gseta*.

Venice, Febr. 20. The Doge goes very frequently to visit the Men of War and Gallies that are fitting in the Arsenal here. The Recruits and new Levies arrive every day at the *Lido*; and another Convoy is preparing for the *Levant*, which may be ready to sail in the beginning of the next month.

Turin, Febr. 27. The Duke of *Savoy* has lately had several regular Fits of a Tertian Ague, but very favourably; They speak at Court of his going abroad in few days to take the Air, and it's hoped that a short time will perfect his Recovery. His Royal Highness has granted a general Amnesty to those that were concerned in the late Disturbance with the *Marquis de Montford*, but he himself remains still a Prisoner. Count *Caprara* and Count *Palfi* are still here. The Battalion of Foot which has been some time in this Cittadel is marched to *Cumiana*, a Village not far from *Pignerol*, to observe that Garison.

Madrid, Febr. 19. The Council of State are at present taken up with regulating divers matters concerning the Supplies of Money that are to be sent to *Flanders*, *Milan*, and *Catalonia*. Two hundred Horse are now posted near this place, to guard the Passes, and prevent the bringing in or carrying out of any prohibited Merchandises. Some new raised Troops marched from hence this week towards *Catalonia*.

Vienna, Febr. 25. We have an account from *Hungary*, that the Turks are drawing some of their Troops together about *Belgrade*; That they have laid a Bridge over the *Save*, and that their Parties have made several Incursions into *Sclavonia*; That on the other side some Detachments had been sent from *Essecke* and *Peter-Waradin* to observe them; That the Fortifications of the last of these places are almost finished, and the Garison in so good a condition as not to fear any attempt of the Enemy; and that the Imperial Troops that are quartered in those parts, would, so soon as the Weather was proper for it, draw together and form a Flying Camp near *Essecke*. The States of *Bohemia* have compleated their Quota of the Recruits, that were ordered to be raised for the Imperial Troops in the Hereditary Countreys, and those in the other Provinces are likewise in very good forwardness. The Duke of *Croy* went from hence two days ago to his Government in *Croatia*, and is expected here again towards the end of the next month; when, it's believed, he will be declared General of the Emperor's Forces against the Turks.

Cologne, March 6. The Letters come in this day from *Frankfort*, tell us, that Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*, who continues still at his House in *Bohemia*, is expected at *Nuremberg* on the 15th of this month.