

The London Gazette.

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From Thursday April 9. to Monday April 13. 1696.

Alicant, March 19. N. S.

THE Romney Frigate, Capt. *Loas* Commander, brought in here this day a French Privateer called the *Phoenix* of *Marseilles*, of 20 Guns, 10 Patereroes, and 180 Men.

Barcelona, March 25. This morning were seen from our Cattle 45 Ships in the *Offis*, plying with a contrary Wind to the Westward, which, by a Genouele Bark come in here this afternoon, we understand to be the French Fleet under the Command of Monsieur *de Chasteau-renaut*, who sailed from *Toulon* the 22th of this month, being in all about 60 Sail.

Cadix, March 29. Sir *George Rooke* with the Fleet of English and Dutch Men of War, and Merchant Ships bound to *England*, sailed from hence the 23d Instant with a fair Wind at N. E. but yesterday he returned into this Bay with all the Ships under his command, being put back by the bad Weather and contrary Winds; None of the Ships have suffered any damage, and they will sail again with the first opportunity.

Madrid, April 4. We had yesterday an account from *Cadix*, that Sir *George Rooke* was forced back into that Port by contrary Winds, after having been 5 days at Sea; but that he intended to make use of the first opportunity of Weather to sail again. We have heard nothing of the French Fleet since their being seen the 25th past off *Barcelona*; and in all probability they have felt the effects of the late Storms. Orders are sent to *Cadix* to fit out the Spanish Armada with all expedition. In *Catalonia* they are preparing for the Campaign. The Queen Mother is very much indisposed.

Corunna, April 10. This day arrived in this Port a Ship called the *Santa Theresa* of *Newports*, who came from *Offend* with 6 Ships more bound to *Cadix*, and the 31th past, about 25 Leagues from *Cape Finister*, met with 6 French Men of War, two of them being 3 Deckt Ships, and the others from 50 to 70 Guns; This Ship made her escape, as did likewise another Flyboat called the *Joseph*, but the rest were taken. Here is also arrived an *Offend* Man of War of 24 Guns, in 5 days from that place, having on board the Count of *Bergeycke*, who is gone to *Madrid*.

Paris, April 13. The French King has put off his Journey to *Compeigne*, which was intended for the 30th of this month. The French Guards are ordered to begin their march the 27th Instant towards *Flanders*. Monsieur *de Vaubau* is gone to view the Fortifications of our Frontier Places on the *Meuse* and in *Flanders*. We have received no news of the French Fleet since their departure from the *Isles of Hieres*; and the Weather has been so Stormy, and the Winds so contrary, that 'tis believed they have been forced to shelter themselves under the *Island of Majorca* or *Minorca*. They write from *Calais*, that the French Troops intended for the Invasion of *England*, are gone back to their Quarters, and that many of the Transport Vessels that were in that Port, have got away in the night, and are returned to *Havre de Grace* and other Places. We have seen a Mandate which the Bishop of *Soissons* gave our lately within his Diocess, to this effect. That the French King having once more refused to attempt the Restoring the late *K. James* to his Dominions, which he had left for the sake of his Religion, and to that end having ordered his Forces to pass over to *England*, he Requires and Exhorts all his Clergy and others to Pray for the good Success of that Design. The Bishop of *Noyon* did the like within his Diocess; and this has been the Subject of most of the Sermons which the Jesuits and others have made this Lent in and about this City. We have an account, that the Marquis *de Nesmeud* has taken 5 or 6 Ships belonging to *Offend*, who were bound to *Cadix*.

Brussls, April 15. The Forces of the Allies quartered in *Flanders*, are forming a Camp near *Ghent*, and those that lie towards the Meuse are to encamp near *Namur*. The *Marschal de Boufflers* arrived the 11th Instant at *Mons* from *Flanders*; The Troops he is to command between the *Sambre* and the *Meuse* begin to move that way; and the *Marschal de Villeroi* who is to command the French Army in *Flanders*, is expected there in the beginning of the next month. We have an account, that a Fire happened at *Charlotoy* 5 or 6 days ago, which burnt down all the Upper Town except 4 or 5 Houses. The Prince of *Vaudemont* is gone to the *Bath* of *Aix la Chapelle*.

Hague, April 17. N. S. The *Henrietta* and *Navy Vacht*, with their Convoy the *Lincoln* and *Severn*, arrived at *Helveedhuys* the 10th Instant; and the *Venerian* Ambassadors are gone to the *Briel*, in order to Embark for *England* with the first fair Wind. The Letters

from *Ghent* tell us, that the 11 Companies of *Bellasis* and *Erle's* Regiments, which were taken in their passage to *England*, and carried to *Dunkirke*, are released and come to *Bruges*. The Duke of *Wittemberg* is arrived with the Forces from *England* at *Yere* in *Zealand*, The Fleet of Merchant Ships that sailed the last week out of the *Macle* for *England*, with 7 Dutch Men of War commanded by Vice-Admiral *Callenburg*, are forced back again to *Helveedhuys*.

Kensington, April 9. His Grace the Duke of *Ormond* was this day, by His Majesty's Command, Sworn one of the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and accordingly took his place at the Board.

Westminster, April 10. The King came this day to the House of Peers, attended with the usual Solemnity; and being in His Royal Robes, seated on the Throne, and the Commons being sent for up, His Majesty gave the Royal Assent to

An Act for Granting to His Majesty several Rates or Duties upon Houses, for making good the Deficiency of the Clipp'd Money.

An Act for Granting to His Majesty an Additional Duty upon all French Goods and Merchandize.

An Act for the Continuing, Meeting, and Sitting of a Parliament, in Case of the Death or Demise of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors.

An Act to Continue Four former Acts for Preventing Thefts and Rapine upon the Northern Borders of *England*.

An Act for Raising the Militia of this Kingdom for the Year One thousand six hundred ninety-six, although the Month's Pay formerly advanced, be not Repayed.

An Act for the further Regulating Elections of Members to Serve in Parliament, and for the Preventing Irregular Proceedings of Sheriffs, and other Officers, in the Electing and Returning such Members.

An Act for Continuing several former Acts, for Punishing Officers and Soldiers, who shall Mutiny or Desert His Majesty's Service, and for Punishing false Musters, and for Payment of Quarters for ~~one~~ longer.

An Act for the Increase, and Incouragement of Seamen.

An Act for Preventing Frauds, and Regulating Abuses in the Plantation Trade.

An Act to Incourage the bringing Plate into the Mint to be Coined, and for the further Remedying the Ill State of the Coin of the Kingdom.

An Act Requiring the Practicers of Law to take the Oaths, and Subscribe the Declaration therein mentioned.

An Act for Repairing the Highways between *Wymondham* and *Attleborough* in the County of *Norfolk*.

And to Severen Private Acts.

Kensington, April 12. The Association of the Lord Lieutenant, the Lords and Knights, Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace, Gentlemen, Clergy, Freeholders, and others of the County of *Leicester*, as also of the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, Burgesses, Clergy, and Inhabitants of the Borough of *Leicester*, subscribed by above 8500 Hands, was presented to His Majesty by *William Chesing* Esq; High Sheriff, the Knights of the Shire, and the Burgesses for the Town of *Leicester*, being introduced by his Grace the Duke of *Bedford*, and the Right Honourable the Earl of *Stafford*.

The Association, with an Humble Address, signed by the High Sheriff, Deputy Lieutenants, Justices of the Peace, Grand Jury, Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of *Bedford*, was presented by *William Milard* Esq; High Sheriff of the said County, and the Honourable Lord *Edward Russell*, and *William Duncomb* Esq; their Representatives in Parliament, being introduced to His Majesty by his Grace the Duke of *Bedford*, Lord Lieutenant of the said County; and His Majesty was pleased to confer the Honour of Knighthood upon the said *William Milard* Esq;

The Association, with an humble Address, signed by the Mayor, Aldermen, Justices of the Peace, Burgesses, Freeman, and other Inhabitants of the Town of *Bedford*, was presented to His Majesty by the Right Honourable the Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, and *William Farrer* Esq; one of the Representatives in Parliament for the said Town.

The Association of the Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough of *Liskard* in *Cornwall*, was presented to His Majesty by *William Bridges* Esq; one of their Representatives in Parliament, being introduced by his Grace the Duke of *Ormond*.

The Association of the Mayor, Deputy Lieutenants, Justice