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Rome, December 30. N. S.

**T**HE Pope does frequently assemble his Congregation of State, to consult upon the Means of bringing about a Project, which this Court seems very fond of, for procuring a Neutrality for Italy, and they are said to have Encouragement from the French, who find that the War in this Country is not to be carried on by them without a vast Expence both of Men and Money; but for this very reason it cannot be expected that any Proposals of this kind will find Admittance at the Court of Vienna. The Congregation of the Inquisition meets very often, to examine into the Accusation of countenancing Idolatry, with the Jesuits in China are charged with by the other Missionaries in that Country; yet this matter seems to be as far from being determined as ever. The Difference between the Pope and the Duke of Savoy, touching the Right of Presentation to divers Ecclesiastical Preferments in Piedmont, is at length adjusted, by the good Offices of Cardinal Barberini, who has taken more than ordinary Pains in that Affair, wherein he has succeeded to the Satisfaction of both Parties. Signior Bichi, whom the Pope has appointed to go in the Quality of his Nuncio to Switzerland, is made Titular Archbishop of Laodicea. The Pope, upon the Death of Cardinal Ganselmi, Archbishop of Naples, appointed Signior Panciatici, his Nuncio there, to take care of the Administration of that Archbishoprick as his Vicar, during the vacancy of the Archiepiscopal See; but the Chapter pretends to a Right of electing a Vicar upon such Occasions out of their own Body, and before they had received the Pope's Brief in favour of his Nuncio, they had already proceeded to an Election, which they now insist upon. The Waters of the River Tiber are fallen, after having done a great deal of Damage in this City and the Neighbouring Country, by their overflowing, having been to high, that we were forced to make use of Boats in several of our Streets. Signior Cecodoro, one of the Pope's Secretaries, was murdered this week in the Palace, as he was passing from the Pope's Lodgings to his own, and a writing was found pinned to his Clothes, intimating that this was done in Revenge, for his having made too free in his Discourses with the Reputation of some Persons.

*Venice, January 5.* The Germans are making Lines, and taking all the necessary Precautions for securing their Quarters, particularly those of *Ostiglia* and *Finnle di Modena*, the Garison of which last Place they have reinforced with two Regiments of Foot. The same Care is taken on the Borders of the Bishoprick of *Trent*, where, since the late Attempt which the French made of going thither by the Lake de *Guarda*, the Militia is raised, and posted on all the Avenues, and Redoubts and other Works are erected

there to keep off the Enemy, for the Germans are not without a Jealousie that the French have thoughts of endeavouring to get a Passage that way into Germany, in order to reinforce the Elector of *Bavaria*. The French did not come off without Loss from the Expedition abovementioned, having adventured so near to *Riva* and *Torbole*, that before they could get out of Cannon-shot of those Places, three Discharges had been made upon them, which killed many of their Men, and very much shatter'd several of their Boats. The French have now, it is believed, given over the bombarding of *Bersello*; they continued it for three days together, without doing any other Execution than the killing of one Man, burning of 5 or 6 Houses, and doing some damage to a Monastery in the Town.

*Cologne, January 19.* The French at *Bonn* are endeavouring to repair the Damage which the late Floods have done to their Fort over-against that Place. Several Parties of the Forces of the Allies are quartered along the *Rhine*, both above and below that Town, to prevent the sending of any Provisions or other Necessaries thither by Water; and more Forces will be posted in convenient Places for streightening that Garison. General *Somerfeld* march'd last week with a Body of 500 Men of the Confederate Forces, and some Cannon, to attack the Castle of *Sassenbourg* on the River *Aar*, belonging to the Count de la *Mark*, who is in the French Service, in which Place there is a Garison of 200 Men; but our Men finding this Enterprize to be more difficult than they had imagined, and not having made all the necessary Preparations for it, were forced to give it over. A Party of 150 Men of our Garison burnt lately a Magazine of Provisions which the French had got together not far from this Place, in order to have sent them into *Bonn*.

*Falmouth, January 16.* On the 14th Instant was sent in hither by a Dutch Caper a retaken Merchant Ship, called the *Olive Branch*, - - - *Corbin* Master, who having but 12 Guns, and 25 Men, did on the 12th Instant maintain a Fight of 5 hours off the *Manacles* against a French Privateer of 16 Guns, and 100 Men; but at length the Master of the English Ship, his Mate, and 7 more of his Men, being killed, the French took her, though with the Loss of their Captain, and 9 or 10 Men more. The Dutch Caper came up with them the next day, and having retaken the English Ship, gave Chase to the Privateer, but was outtailed by her. Yesterday came in here 6 Ships, having Letters of Mart, bound up the *Streights*. Another came in this day, and the Wind coming about to the N. E. 5 of them are putting to Sea. The *Sidney Galley*, Captain *Upton* Commander, sail'd from hence the 12th Instant to cruize.

*Plimouth, January 17.* The *Alexander Galley* of *London*, *Joshua Winter* Master, bound to the *East-Indies*; the *Dragon*, *John Bramble* Master, and