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Rome, March 17. N. S.

**T**HE Pope has held several Congregations of State, to consult upon the Means of Securing the Ecclesiastical Territories, against the Excursions both of the Imperial and the French Parties; in order to which it has been proposed to make a Line along the Confines of the *Boloneze* and *Ferrareze*, which border upon the Dutchies of *Modena* and *Mirandola*; and Orders have been sent to the Count *de Paulucci*, who commands the Pope's Forces in those Parts, to view the Ground, and report whether this is practicable, and what the Expence of it would amount to. Signior *d'Asti*, the Pope's Commisary at War, and Colonel *Casuti*, his first Enginier, are sent to *Civita Vecchia*, to visit that Port, and to consider what Fortifications are wanting to make it more secure. Letters from the Province of *Abruzzo* in the Kingdom of *Naples*, say, they have had another Shock of Earthquake, whereby *Castiglione delle Valli*, *Scoranno*, *Campoli*, and some other small Towns, were almost ruined. The Pope has appointed a Congregation to consider of rebuilding the Cities of *Norcina* and *Cassia*, which were destroyed by the late Earthquake: He has directed, That a Jubilee of several days continuance be observed throughout all *Italy*, during which time Indulgencies are to be bestowed on all Persons that shall perform certain Acts of Devotion, to avert the Wrath of God, and implore him to put an end to the War which is carried on in this Country between the Emperor, France and Spain. The Spanish Ambassador being dissatisfied with the Pope's causing a Guard to be posted near his House, which was occasioned by some Disorders committed by his Servants, is thereupon retired to a Country House, called *Villa Ludovisia*, declaring, That he would not return to Court, till such time as the said Guard was removed; wherein it is not likely that the Pope will comply with him. The Prisons of the Inquisition here are full of Persons who are accused of holding certain Opinions in Matters of Religion, which are looked upon to be altogether heretical; and the Congregation, to whom is committed the Care of those Matters, is directed to be very strict in their Enquiry into the Rise and Progress of this Sect. The Abbot *de Lionne*, a Titular Bishop in *Chinensis* arrived here from that Country, to give Evidence against the Jesuits, in the Cause which has been so long depending before the same Congregation, concerning their allowing the Converts they make in those Parts to retain divers Idolatrous Superstitions. The Abbot *Archinto*, Nephew to the Cardinal *Archinto*, Archbishop of *Milan*, is made Bishop of *Vigevano*, in that Duchy.

Venice, March 24. Signior *Lorenzo Tiepolo* went from hence this Week on his Embassy to

France; and Signior *Giovanni Delphino*, who is chosen Ambassador from this State to the Emperor, is on his Departure. The Convoy which sailed lately from hence for the *Levant*, met with a great Storm off of the Coast of *Dalmatia*, which having dispersed the Fleet, the Man of War, on board which was Signior *Fustiniani*, this Republick's Bailo or Ambassador Ordinary to the *Ottoman Porte*, was forced into the Port of *Ancona*, with 4 Ships more, which have since taken the Opportunity of a fair Wind to continue their Voyage; and we hope to receive the like good Account of the rest. Our Letters from the Imperial and French Armies bring Advice, That the Duke of *Vendosme* had removed his head Quarter from *Guaftalla* to *San Benedetto*, which place he was fortifying, as also several Posts along the Rivers *Mincio* and *Secchia*, and was assembling a Body of 20000 Men near *Luzzara*, in order, as was thought, to pass the *Secchia*, and to attack some of the German Quarters; whereupon the Count *de Staremberg* had given Orders for the Imperial Forces to draw together in two Bodies, one to be commanded by himself, and the other under the Conduct of the young Prince of *Vaudemont*, intending to dispute the Passage of that River with the Enemy; for which purpose he had also raised a Battery of 14 Pieces of Cannon at the Mouth of the *Secchia*: That the Count *de Solari*, who commanded at *Guaftalla* when it was taken by the French, and was under an Obligation, with his Garrison, not to bear Arms against them during a certain time, having accomplish'd that Term, is returning with those Forces to *Italy*, having besides with him a good Number of Recruits for the German Forces: And that the French having for several days batter'd the Town of *Bersello* with 30 Pieces of Cannon and 20 Mortars, had been obliged, by the very great Rains, which have lately begun again to fall there, to give over playing with their Batteries till the Season becomes more favourable.

Paris, April 2. On the 25th past the Abbot of *St. Maurice* was consecrated Bishop of *Saintes*, by the Archbishop of *Sens*. The French King took a Review, on the 29th, in the Plains of *Marly*, of his Musketer Guards. The Chevalier *de Tressmane*, Major-General of the French Army in Germany, is come from *Strasbourg* to give the King an Account of the Condition of those Forces, which, according to our last Advices from thence, continued in their Quarters, and the Marshal *de Villars* was still at *Strasbourg*. It is given out here, That he has Orders to endeavour a Junction with the Elector of *Bavaria*, and that in the mean time the Marshal *de Tallard* will command the French Forces in *Alsace*. Monsieur *de Guiche* has bought of the Count *de Toffe* the Post of Colonel General of the Regiments of Horse called the *Cravates*, for the Sum of 480000 Livres, and has sold for 280000 Livres, to the Marquis of *Hautefeuille*,

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