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From Saturday July 22. to Tuesday July 25. 1710.

O From the Camp at Viller-Brulin, July 28. N. S. N. Thursday the 24th Instant about Noon the Garrison of Bethune made a Sally with nine Companies of Grenadiers, nine hundred Fusiliers, and a Detachment of Dragoons; they fell upon the Left of our Parallel, and put our Men at first into some Disorder, but they soon recovered themselves, and repulsed the Enemy with great Slaughter, before they could attempt to level the least part of our Works. The next Night we joined our Parallel to the Inundation on the Left, and begun two Communications from the Right and Left, in order to make a second Parallel, which was finished last Night, within two hundred Paces of the Palisades, and this Night we shall begin to work on the Batteries for ruining the Enemies Defences. The Coupures made for draining of the Inundation before the Gate of Ayre have had a very good Success, and it is hoped that to Morrow the Ground will be ready for opening the Trenches at that Attack. A hundred Boats laden with Artillery, Ammunition and Stores for the Siege arrived on the 24th at Pont à Vendin from Douay; they were convoyed by twelve Squadrons, seven Battalions, and twelve hundred detached Foot, which took such Precautions, that the Enemy did not offer to give them any Disturbance; the Boats are since unloaded, and the Stores coming forward with all possible Expedition to the Attacks. Detachments of Horse and Foot are ordered from the Prince of Hesse's Flying Camp, to take such Posts on the Road as may be necessary for the Security of our Convoys of Provisions during the Siege. The Quarter-Masters of the Army were Yesterday ordered to mark out a Field of Battel for the Troops to repair to, in case the Enemy should attempt to disturb the Siege, which extends from the Right at Maguicourt, to the Left at Viller-au-Bois. Yesterday our Hussars fell in with the Enemy's Foragers near Bappagne, and brought off two hundred and seventy Horses, with several Prisoners. The Duke of Marlborough is gone this Morning with the Prince of Savoy to the Camp before Bethune, to give Directions for the vigorous Prosecution of the Siege, and will return to the Army in the Evening.

From the Camp at Viller-Brulin, July 31. N. S. The Duke of Marlborough and the Prince of Savoy having on Monday last visited the Trenches, and other Works before Bethune, found, that for carrying on our Approaches with the necessary Dispatch, a greater number of Workmen were required than could well be furnished by the Troops appointed for the Siege; whereupon a Detachment of five and twenty hundred Men was ordered the same Evening to March thither from the Army, to be employed chiefly in draining the Inundations, which may very much facilitate the Success of the Siege. The same Night we began a Parallel from the Right of the second Parallel, in order to make a third near the Foot of the Glacis, which is so near the Enemy's Works, that we shall be obliged to finish it by the half Sap, and will require two or three Days more. The Batteries for ruining the Defences are in such forwardness, that they will be ready to fire in two or three Days; and that they may be duly supplied with Ammunition, each Battalion of the Army has furnished three Waggons, and each Squadron one, to join with five hundred others already employed in bringing forward the Powder and Ball from Pont à Vendin. General Schulemburg broke Ground on Sunday Night last on the side of a Castle near the Inundation, and run a Parallel of three hundred and fifty Paces, the Right ending at the Road of St. Paul, and has since been chiefly employed in making the Communication, and raising a Battery of Cannon, and another of Mortars, to ruin the Enemy's Outworks. Upon Advice that the Enemy were this Morning in motion, the Duke of Marlborough went out with the Picket of the Horse to observe them, and found they were marching towards Avené le Comte, upon which Orders were immediately given for the Prince of Hesse's Corps at Lens to come in and join us; as likewise for drawing ten Squadrons and twelve Battalions from the Siege, and calling in our Detachments

from other Posts for the reinforcing our Army; by the Motions which the Enemy make to Morrow, we shall know whether it be their Intention to give us Battel.

Hague, July 29. N. S. The Deputies for Foreign Affairs having, in pursuance of the Resolution of the States-General, drawn up an Answer to the Letter of the Ministers of France to the Pensionary Heinsius, the Ministers of the Alliance were assembled on Sunday the 27th Instant in the Chamber of Treves, where the same was communicated to them, and universally approved without any Alteration. Printed Copies thereof were yesterday distributed to all the Publick Ministers, after which it was published. In this Letter the French Plenipotentiaries pretend, that they had consented to all the Proposals of the Deputies without any variation, and had no way receded from the Overtures they had made in order to obtain a Peace; but that the Deputies, as a final Answer to whatever had been advanced on the part of France, had in the last Conference made new and unjust Demands, and such as were impossible to be executed by the French King; that these Gentlemen had acquainted them, it was the Resolution of their Masters, and all the Allies, absolutely to reject all Offers of Money from France for the Support of the War in Spain; that they would oblige his most Christian Majesty to compel his Grandson to renounce his Crown within two Months, and evacuate Spain and the Indies without their Assistance; that unless he were driven from the Throne within that time, they would resume their Arms against the King, their Master, tho' he should have performed all the other Articles; that if the French King would enter into these Engagements, then they would explain themselves on the Partition; and that as a favour, they might permit their Troops in Portugal and Catalonia to concur with those of France in the Conquest of Spain and the Indies during the space of two Months, after which time these Troops should no longer act, but the Truce expire. These Propositions, they say, they represented to the Deputies as contradictory, as well to their former Proposals, as to the fourth and fifth Articles of the Preliminaries; who replied, that since they had agreed to a Partition, they had now a right to insist on more than was contained in those Articles. In Answer to this the French Ministers say, that they demanded, whether a Partition had not been mentioned in all their Conferences, and whether upon that Foundation any thing more had been required of them, than to unite their Forces, and to act in concert with the Allies. This (say they) the Deputies could not deny, but only declared, in the Name of the Allies, that whether the Partition were accepted or no, they expected from the Hands of our King the restitution of the Monarchy of Spain and the Indies, let him take what Measures he pleased to effect it; whereby formally disclaiming all their precedent Demands, and rejecting whatever it was possible for us to grant, it appeared to be a formed Design to break off the Negotiations. After this they appeal to Europe, and even to England and Holland, to judge who are the Authors of the Continuance of this War. They allege, that the Allies have affected Obscurity in their Proceedings, heightened their Demands according to their Successes, and varied their Measures as they saw his most Christian Majesty's Concessions in order to obtain a Peace. They insinuate, that the Heads of the Alliance desired a Rupture of the Negotiations, and that those who govern the Republick are persuaded it is their Interest, to make the Peace depend on Conditions that are impracticable. They urge, as an instance that they had no design to amuse us, the quick dispatch of this Answer; and close their Letter with Complaints of the Contempt of their Character, of injurious Libels to inflame the People against them, of the opening their Letters, preventing any Persons from visiting them in their kind of Prison, and desire an Answer, or at least a Certificate of the Receipt of this Letter.

The Resolution of the States-General in Answer to this Letter of the French Ministers, is to this Effect: That it was with a deep Concern they found their Hopes of a