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Berne, December 20. N. S.

THIS Canton having long observ'd that the Baillages belonging to their Government have given ground to many Cabals, and created several Disputes among the Competitors, they have at length come to this Resolution; That the Choice to these Baillages, as they shall hereafter become Vacant, shall be determined by way of Lot; which they think will be the only means to render all previous Measures and Intrigues useless, as leaving the several Candidates to the Decision of Chance. It will at the same time remedy a great many Corruptions that have crept into the State, through the too earnest pursuit after these Preferences, which influenced Men too much in all public Debates, and made them act with a view only to their own private Interests. Our Letters of the 12th Instant from Coire advise, that Mr. Manning, her Britannick Majesty's Secretary, had presented a second Memorial to the Helvetick Body in behalf of Monsieur Masner. It is not yet known what Resolution the Congress of the three Leagues will take on this Occasion, but it is generally expected it will be in Favour of Monsieur Masner, especially since the Grand Prior is by the Emperor's Order conducted to Munich, which is look'd on as a plain Indication, that his Imperial Majesty approves of what Monsieur Masner has done.

Venice, December 26. N. S. Signior Savioni is named by the Senate to be Resident in Swisserland, in the room of Signior Capello, who is appointed to go in that Quality to the Czar of Muscovy. The Imperial Ambassador, and the rest of the Foreign Ministers, have been to Complement the Doge and Senate, on account of the Festival. On Christmas-Day the Signieurie assisted at Mass in the Cathedral of St. Mark, and in the Evening a magnificent Entertainment was prepared for them by the Pope's Nuncio. They write from Rome, that there was a greater Appearance at Cardinal Conti's Entry, than had been known on the like Occasion for many Years before, he being of the ancient Roman Nobility, and much respected on that account. There hath of late been much talk of a Match between Don Carlo Albani, the Pope's Nephew, and a Daughter of Count Carlo Borromeo; but it is thought the Conclusion of it will be suspended 'till his Holiness has declared what Estate he proposeth to settle on his Nephew, and has dignified him with some Title of Honour. It was generally expected a Promotion of Cardinals would have been made in the last Consistory, but People are now of Opinion the Pope will defer it 'till the Christian Princes engaged in the present War consent to a general Peace. They write from Naples, that the Duke de Loria, who had been confined by the late Viceroy Cardinal Grimani, was releas'd by Order of the present Viceroy, and restor'd to the Posts he was possess'd of before his Disgrace.

Berlin, December 30. N. S. The Commissioners formerly appointed to enquire into the State of his Majesty's Revenues, having made their Report to the King, his Majesty order'd Count Wittenstein, Great Marshal of the Court, and President of the Finances, to be put under an Arrest; which Order was executed accordingly on Saturday last, and he was yesterday Conducted to Spandaw, under the Guard of a Lieutenant-Colonel and twelve Soldiers. Several others that acted under the said Marshal are likewise confin'd, and amongst them his Secretary and Commissary Ackerman. His Majesty has had several Conferences with his Ministers upon the Rupture between the Turks and Muscovites, but they are not likely to come to any Resolution here, 'till they see what Measures will be taken by the Allies, and Guarantees for the Neutrality of the Empire. Monsieur Klein, Privy-Counsellor to her Prussian Majesty's Brother, the Duke of Mecklenburg, having executed the Commissions he had at this Court, is set out from hence in his return to Mecklenburg.

Hamburg, January 5. N. S. Part of the Foreign Troops quarter'd in this Place having been withdrawn, to the general Satisfaction of the Inhabitants, each of the Superior Officers belonging to those Forces was presented with a golden Medal at their Departure. They write from Barde in Pomerania, that a Person had been seized there upon Suspicion of some Design against King Stanislaus. He at first pretended that he came from Bender, with Letters from the King of Sweden to that Prince; but being examined, he proved to be an Impostor, and that he had formerly served in the King of Denmark's Army, but had been turn'd out of the Service upon some Misdemeanor. He had eight hundred Ducats of Gold about him, and several Papers of Consequence. The Poles seem much concern'd at the News of the Rupture between the Port and the Muscovites, which comes confirm'd from all Parts; and we are told, that the Turks have expos'd the Horse Tail, and that publick Prayers have been appointed in all their Mosques for a Success upon their Enterprizes. The Swedes are raising four Regiments in the Dutchy of Deux-Ponts, and are buying Horses to remount their Cavalry in Pomerania. They give out, that the Troops under the Command of General Crafsau are to join the Turks near Sendomir, and that the King of Sweden is to put himself at the Head of that Army. In the mean time the Tartars threaten to invade Muscovy with forty thousand Men, but the Czar has made such Dispositions, that they are like to meet with a vigorous Opposition; and our Letters from Dantzick of the 31st of the last Month make mention of an Action on the Frontiers, wherein the Tartars are said to have been defeated; but as the Letters from General Janus, who Commands in those Parts, take no Notice of any such Engagement, little Credit is given to that Report. Our Advices from Dantzick add, that the States of Prussia are separated without coming to any Resolution. The King of Denmark's