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Hague, January 11. N. S.

**T**HIS Morning, the young Count de Colmenero, Son to the Governor of the Castle of Milan, arriv'd here with Letters for Count de Sinzendorf and Monsieur Sinslerling, which contain a Relation of the Battel fought in Spain: The Account was wrote by Marshal Staremberg to his Catholick Majesty the 12th of December, and brought to Barcelona by the Count Hamilton, who was dispatched with it from thence the 17th for Vienna, from whom the young Count de Colmenero had it as he pass'd through Milan the 30th of the same Month. The Marshal's Letter is as followeth:

S I R,

**Y**OUR Majesty will have been informed by the Captain of the Catalonian Guard, of what pass'd at the Army since your Majesty left it, and that the want of Provisions had oblig'd us to come nearer to the Magazines we have in Arragon; whereupon we thought fit to retire between the Tagus and Tajuna, which was perform'd with Success till we came near to Cifuentes, although the Enemy had endeavour'd several times to attack our Rear, and the Country People in Castille had taken Arms to fall upon our Troops, and plunder our Baggage, which we prevented on all sides with the greatest Care imaginable.

The late Season of the Year, and the Necessity of getting Provisions and Forage for the Troops, oblig'd us to March in Columns, and by different Ways: The English Troops believing they might find some Provisions in Brihuega, and subsist better there, took that Road, and halted there the 8th. The same Day the Enemy came up with their whole Army, and having surrounded them began to batter the Walls.

Before I was inform'd of this Accident I had given Order to all the separate Bodies of Troops to come and join me, as thinking that it was very hazardous to let them march in Columns. As soon as I had notice of the Danger which the English were in, I made the Army march the whole Night of the 8th, and all the Day following, to endeavour to relieve them.

We arriv'd, as Night was coming on, within a League of the Town; and I immediately order'd some Cannon to be fired, to give Notice to the Besieged that we were coming to their Relief. We found the Enemy drawn up in order of Battel. Our Troops which were shut up in Brihuega, consisted of eight Battalions and eight Squadrons. I thought I ought not to abandon so considerable a Body of Men, which was the reason that oblig'd me to hazard a Battel, although the Enemy's Army was much superior to mine, especially in Horse; besides that, the Ground was less advantageous for us than for the Enemy, we being in a Plain, and under great difficulty to form our selves in a Place which was open on all sides, but it was not a time now to think of retiring. I posted the Left Wing in a Ground which was difficult of Access, and I cover'd the Right on the side of the Plain with some Battalions. I placed the Horse behind the first and second Line, and so made four Lines. In this Posture I stood expecting the Enemy, who came on, and scarce gave me time enough to finish my Dispo-

sition. In the mean while the Artillery play'd continually, and did considerable Damage on both sides. The Enemy began their Attack in good Order, and with great Vigour, having flank'd our Right Wing in some Places, which however recover'd that Disorder immediately. But our Left being entirely routed, the Enemy attack'd us in the Rear; whereupon Major-General Contrecoeur, with three Squadrons of the Portuguese Horse, having with him three Battalions of the second Line, one of the Grisons, one of Babilon, and one of Report, advanced so seasonably, and in so good Order, that he repuls'd the Enemy. During that time our Left Wing rallied again, and the Enemy was routed both on their Right and their Left. We push'd them above half a League, pursuing and defeating them entirely. We made our selves Masters of all their Train of Artillery, and of a good number of Colours and Standards. The Slaughter was very great, and above six thousand of the Enemy lay dead on the Field of Battel.

Our Troops did not trouble themselves to make Prisoners, but kill'd all they could meet with; there were none spared but the Marquis de Thouy, some Brigadiers, and inferior Officers, and a very small number of Soldiers.

The Enemy's Army consisted of thirty two Battalions and eighty Squadrons; that is to say, twenty Battalions which were formed out of the Remains of forty four which they had at the Battel of Saragolla, and twelve more which they had drawn from Enramadura; and forty four Squadrons which had been formed in like manner out of the Remains of seventy which they had at the same Battel, and thirty six others which they had also drawn out of Enramadura.

Our Army was compos'd of twenty nine Squadrons and twenty seven Battalions; that is to say, four Imperial Squadrons, two Spanish, one English, ten Portuguese, six Dutch, and six Palatines. The Infantry consisted of fourteen Battalions of Imperialists, five Spanish, two Portuguese, two English, two Dutch, and two Palatines. The most part of these Corps were much weakened, which could not be otherwise after so hard a Campaign, and in the Month of December. The Horse of the Left Wing went off quite upon the first Shock of the Enemy, together with seven Battalions; so that I found my self reduced to fight with twenty Battalions and sixteen Squadrons, which was one to three. But God gave so much Courage and good Conduct to the Officers and Soldiers, that without being astonish'd at the great Superiority of the Enemy, they repuls'd them, and did such Actions as may almost pass for Supernatural. All of them distinguish'd themselves, but more particularly the Lieutenant-Generals Baron de Wetzell, Count d'Atalaya, and Don Antonio de Villaruete; the Major-Generals Count Eck and Hamilton, and Don Pedro d'Almada. These Gentlemen gave signal Proofs of their Bravery, Prudence and good Conduct. These were the only Persons that were able to act during the whole Engagement, we having lost in the first Attack the Generals Belcated, Frankenberg, Copi and St. Amand.

The Combat was so bloody, that several Times the Battalions and Squadrons charg'd by their own selves, their Commanders being oblig'd to do the Duty of Generals, in repulsing the Enemy on all sides, as they attack'd us.

I be-

I believe I do not exaggerate the Matter in saying, that there were above six thousand kill'd on the Enemy's side, who after an Engagement which lasted from three a-Clock in the Afternoon, 'till pretty late at Night, were entirely put to flight.

Having taken their Cannon, we turn'd them against the Enemy, and staid the next Day in the Place to which we had pursued them.

Having afterwards heard from Prisoners and Deserters, that the English in Brihuega were made Prisoners of War, and had marched out in the Morning an Hour before our Arrival; and part of the Left Wing being gone so far that I have not yet had any certain Account of it, only that, without stopping, they made their way towards Arragon; and the Troops being also without Bread, and in want of all sorts of Provisions in so rigorous a Season, I found my self necessitated to retire that Day, being the 11th, and to draw nearer to the Magazines in Arragon. Part of our Baggage, on which some Squadrons of the Enemy fell at the time when our Left Wing was in Disorder, was pillaged by them and the Country People.

Besides these Circumstances which hapned on this Occasion, there was likewise another, which was, that all the People belonging to the Artillery had run away with the Horses of the Train; and as it was impossible to carry off either the Enemy's Cannon or our own, I was obliged to burn the Carriages and the Wheels.

This, Sir, is as true and exact an Account as the shortness of the Time will allow me to make to your Majesty, &c.

*Hague, January 16. N. S.* The Trumpets have been sounded, and the Drums beat here, by order of the States, on Account of the Battel fought in Spain, which is looked upon to be very glorious on the part of Count Staremberg, and the Forces of the Allies, considering the great Superiority of the Enemy: Since it would have been equal to a compleat Victory, had not our Army been too much weakned, and unable to subsist in an Enemy's Country, and thereby incapable of improving the Advantage they had gain'd. Letters from France begin to own that their *Te Deum* cost them extremely dear, and that they had no great reason to be forward in singing it. We expect here every moment the Marquis de Lans, Aid-de-Camp to the King of Spain, who, as we hear, was to be sent Express to her Britannick Majesty and the States-General, with an exact Relation of all that passed in that Engagement. He was to embark at Barcelona a few Days after an Express which the Minister of Savoy sent to his Master, and who was arrived at Turin with the same Account as we have had from Count Staremberg.

*Brussels, January 17. N. S.* Besides the Letter wrote by Marshal Staremberg to his Catholick Majesty the 12th of December last, containing a Relation of the Battel fought in Spain the 10th of that Month, we have likewise received a Letter from a General Officer at Barcelona, giving the following Account of that Action, and some Circumstances preceding to it.

Whilst the Forces of the Allies lay at Madrid, and in the Neighbourhood of that Place, the Duke of Anjou was very diligent in reassembling the Remains of his Army, that had been defeated at Saragossa, and drawing several Regiments out of Estramadura, and raising Recruits both of Men and Horses; so that in less than two Months time he had got together an Army of sixteen thousand Men. In the mean while we began to be in great want of Provisions, and found it impossible for our Forces to subsist any longer in Castille; whereupon it was resolv'd in a Council of War held the 13th of November, that the King should first set out for Barcelona, and that the Army should break up soon after, and go into Winter Quarters in Arragon. Accordingly his Majesty left us the 16th, and the whole Army began to March the beginning of De-

ember in three Columns; one of which, consisting entirely of English, was Commanded by Lieutenant General Stanhope, and the other two by Marshal Staremberg and General Belcattel. General Stanhope directed his March towards the Left, for the better Subsistence of his Troops among the Villages on that side; but being arriv'd at a Place call'd Brihuega, he was there inform'd that the Enemy were upon full March in order to attack him, whereupon he instantly dispatch'd an Adjutant to General Staremberg, to let him know that if he was not immediately reliev'd he should be forced to surrender. In the mean while the Enemy had invested the Town with four thousand Men, and the Duke of Vendome coming up soon after with the whole Army, the Place was attack'd with so much Fury, that General Stanhope, after a very surprizing Resistance, was forced to surrender. This happened the 9th in the Afternoon; and the Officer whom he had sent to Marshal Staremberg having lost his Way, came not up to him 'till it was too late; however the Marshal being inform'd of the Danger he was in, march'd back immediately to his Relief, and arrived the 10th in the Plains of Brihuega, from whence he had a view of the Enemy, and had scarce time to form his Army before the Duke of Vendome's Right Wing attack'd our Left, and soon put it into Disorder: But our Right and the Center behaved themselves so well, that they stood five Attacks without being once broken, and kept their Ground 'till the Enemy's Horse began to be in Confusion; which being observ'd by General Staremberg, he pursu'd his Advantage with so much Conduct, that he soon constrain'd them to fly; and the River Tajuna, which they were obliged to pass, being in their Rear, the Slaughter prov'd the greater, and they had above six thousand Men kill'd upon the Spot, and left all their Artillery behind them. Their Army consisted of thirty two Battalions and eighty Squadrons, whereas ours was composed of no more than twenty nine Squadrons and twenty seven Battalions; so that, considering the inequality of the Numbers, this must be look'd upon as a compleat Victory. Our Army continu'd all that Night, and part of the Day following, on the Field of Battel; and forasmuch as we were in want of Horses to draw off the Artillery, Marshal Staremberg was obliged to nail up the Cannon, and burn the Carriages.

*Whitehall, January 8.* Her Majesty has been pleased to Appoint the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Orrery to be her Envoy-Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the States-General of the United Provinces, and to the Council of State in the Spanish Low-Countries; Mr. Hill, who was named for that Employment, having excused himself on account of the ill State of his Health.

*Sir James Wisbart, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, having received a second Letter dated the 6th of this Month and signed S. M. does hereby give Notice, that if the Person who sent the said Letter will come to his House in St. Alban's Street, and discover what he knows relating to the Abuses he mentions, he shall have all fitting Encouragement and Protection.*

*A Letter signed O. O. having been sent to Her Majesty's Secretary at War, wherein the Person who writ the said Letter offers to make a Discovery of some indirect Means made use of to Defraud Her Majesty, in relation to the Pensions allow'd to the Widows of Officers of the Army; notice is hereby given, that if such Person will attend the Secretary at War, he will receive all fitting Encouragement for any Discovery he shall make to the Advantage of Her Majesty's Service.*

*A Letter sign'd M. E. having been sent to the Secretary at War, concerning some Abuses committed in the Transport Service; if the Person who writ the said Letter will attend at the Office, and make out what he has to offer, he will receive all fitting Encouragement.*