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Hague, January 11. N. S.

THIS 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,

YOUR 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 Villaruet; 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 attacked us.

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