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At the Court at St. James's, March 1.

P R E S E N T,

The Queen's most Excellent Majesty in Council.

THIS Day the Right Honourable George Earl of Orkney, was, by Her Majesty's Command, Sworn one of the Lords of Her Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, and took his Place at the Board accordingly.

Hague, February 24. N. S. The Secretary to Monsieur Colliers, the Dutch Ambassador at Constantinople, who came hither lately from that Place, will be sent back the next Week, with an Answer to the Dispatches he brought; and some People think, that if the Turks are sincere, the Overtures which have been made by them, in relation to their Quarrel with the Muscovites, may be put into the way of a Negotiation, and prevent or retard the Violence of the War on that side; from whence France seems to hope for a considerable Diverſion. A Courier arrived here lately from Saxony, with Orders from his Polish Majesty to his Ministers here; those Gentlemen represent the Swedes to be very strong in Pomerania, that they are on the point of Marching, and that their Designs are extremely dangerous, both to the Emperor, and the Common Cause of the Allies against France; and therefore they press, with the greatest earnestness, that the Troops appointed for the Preservation of the Neutrality may be immediately assembled; but hitherto no farther Resolutions have been taken by the States-General in that nice and important Matter, since that which mentions the Places of Rendezvous for the Forces of the respective Guarantees. The Advices we have here of the Elector of Hanover's putting a Garrison into Peyna, a small Town in the Bishoprick of Hildesheim, gives some alarm to the Ministers of some Roman Catholick Princes, who are apt to conceive Jealousies, as if his Electoral Highness had a Design upon that Bishoprick; but we are assur'd that it is only to preserve the Protestants there in their just Rights and Privileges, which are said to have been often violated contrary to Solemn Agreements, and no Redress given after repeated Complaints made. We hear his Electoral Highness has concluded a Bargain with the Swedes for two Bailiages in the County of Bremen, for which he is to pay two hundred and forty thousand Crowns. We have no Advices here of the Motions of General Staremberg, that can be depended upon, nor of the abandoning of Balaguer. The French Letters since the Surrender of Gironne, and of all the Forts, talk with much Assurance of their great Projects on that side. The Duke of Noailles is said to have put his Troops, which are extremely harass'd, into Quarters of Refreshment in Catalonia; and at the same time the Enemies threaten to lay Siege to Tarragona, and to reduce the Alps into a very narrow Compass in that Country,

before the Succours can arrive from Italy, or They be obliged to send back the Troops which have been detach'd from the Army in Dauphiné; but People hope here, that such Measures will be taken, as may disappoint those Designs, and retrieve his Catholick Majesty's Affairs by timely Reinforcements.

Hague, March 6. N. S. Sir James Wishart arrived here the 25th of the last Month from England, and was introduced the same Day to the Grand Pensionary, by his Excellency my Lord Townshend; he has since been taken up in following the Business of the Commission he is employ'd in to this Government. Captain Cosby, Aid de Camp to Lieutenant-General Stanhope, who was sent by him to Marshal Staremberg with Advice of his being surrounded in Brihuega, is come hither from Barcelona with my Lord Forbes: They left that Place the 15th of January, and confirm the gallant Behaviour of our Troops at the Battel of Villa-Viciosa. They assure us, that Marshal Staremberg brought ten thousand Men back with him to Catalonia, and that he arrived himself the 3th at Barcelona. King Charles was expecting the Supplies of Mony and Troops which he had desir'd, and was in hopes upon their arrival to act with Vigour and Success against the Enemy, notwithstanding the Loss of Gironne. The Swedish Envoy has presented a Memorial to the States-General, declaring in his Master's Name, that he cannot agree to the Neutrality as it has been hitherto regulated by the Allies. The Ministers of Poland and Muscovy have thereupon renew'd their Instances for the immediate March of the Troops of the Guarantee; and it is not doubted but that all possible Care will be taken to prevent any Enterprizes in Violation of the Neutrality. The Duke of Marlborough having embarked on Tuesday Morning last at Harwich, arrived here on Wednesday about nine, at Night. His Grace has since been several times in Conference with the Members of this Regency, upon the important Affairs that are now in agitation. The Earl of Orrery, her Majesty's Envoy-Extraordinary to this State, as well as to the Government of the Spanish Netherlands, did not come hither till yesterday in the Afternoon. His Lordship has been this Day to Visit the Grand Pensionary, and to Morrow he intends to wait upon the President of the States for this Week. The Mareschal de Villars is very busy in visiting the Frontier Towns, and reviewing the Troops, in order to make a Report to the King, his Master, of the Condition they are in. The French use extraordinary diligence to be forward in their Preparations for the Campaign; but we do not apprehend they will be able to take the Field so early as they give out they intend to do: However, it has been resolv'd to assemble a Body of about twelve thousand Men, of the Troops of the Allies, near Orchies, between Lille and Douay, both to observe the Motions of the Enemy, and to execute such Designs as we may have in view. We have nothing remarkable here at present, either from France or Spain.

Whitehall,