

to put their own Troops in a condition to make the Campaign; and we are told, that the Marechal de Montreuil is appointed to serve under the late Elector. The Marechal de Villars arrived at Arras the 23d of last Month in the Afternoon, where he review'd the Garrison, and visited the Works. It was expected that he would have gone on to visit the other Frontier Towns on that side; but a Courier from Court brought Orders to him to repair thither without delay; and he has given the King an account of the condition in which he found Hesdin, Montreuil, and other Places in that part of the Country. The Chevalier de Luxemburg arriv'd the 3d at Valenciennes. It was immediately said that he had some Secret Design in view, and that he might probably endeavour to surpris St. Amand or Mortagne; but we have since heard nothing further of the Execution of his Projects. The French talk much of being very early in the Field. It is said the Troops of the Household will begin their March about the 12th towards the Somme; and that the Gendarmerie, and some Regiments of Horse, which have been quarter'd in Poietou, are ordered to March the same way. At the same time several Officers are very lately gone from the Frontier Garrisons into France, and some as far as Toulon, to fetch their Recruits, which are to be taken from among the Galley Slaves. The Advices which the French let us have from Catalonia, continue to speak of the Progress they make in that Country, by extending their Quarters, and taking several small Posts. They speak of making the Siege of Balaguer, which is said to be still in the Hands of the Allies; and at the same time the Duke of Vendome is represented to be very pressing to undertake the Siege of Barcelona, and very confident of the Success of it; but we are told that Marechal Staremberg is fortifying Ostalric, and has posted a Body of Troops there under the Command of a Lieutenant-General, it being a very important Pass for hindering the Approach of the Enemy towards Barcelona. We hear, that the Fleet of the Allies met with a great Storm on the Coast of Catalonia, in which it is supposed they received considerable Damage; but we cannot give credit to the Particulars which are reported concerning that Misfortune, 'till we have Accounts of it from our own People.

Whitehall, March 5. *Captain Cosby, Aid de Camp to Lieutenant-General Stanhope, is arrived from Barcelona, and has brought the following Particulars of the late Action near Villa-Viciosa in Spain.*

Before his Catholick Majesty left Cienpoznelos, it was resolv'd in a Council of War, that the Forces should retire into Winter Quarters on the Frontiers of Arragon; whereupon the several Garrisons were drawn out of Toledo, and the other Posts, and the necessary Dispositions made for the March of the whole Army. The fatigues of a long Campaign, the badness of the Weather in a Season so much advanced, and the want of Tents and Provisions, made General Staremberg judge it more convenient for the Troops to March in several Columns, with the Commanders of each Nation at the Head of their own People; and accordingly they began their March on the 3d of December, N. S. from Chinchon and Villarizo. By this Disposition it was the Post of the English, under the Command of the Generals Stanhope, Carpenter, Wills, Pepper and Gore, to direct their Course along the Tajuna; and in pursuance to the Orders they had receiv'd, they marched the

6th to Brihuega, a Village of about one thousand Houses, situated on the side of a Mountain near the Tajuna. Here they halted the 7th, as did all the rest of the Troops in their respective Cantons. The same Night General Stanhope expecting Marshal Staremberg's Orders, commanded the Forces to be in a readiness to March at an hour's warning. The next Day about eleven a-Clock we discover'd on the top of a Hill that overlooks the Town, a Body of two thousand Horse; and some Foot; but having been followed in the two Days March before by several small Parties of the Enemy, whose Design was to intercept such Straglers as fell into their Hands, and not knowing any thing of an Army they had in those Parts, where the whole Country were our declared Enemies, and depriv'd us of all manner of Intelligence, we conceiv'd those Troops that appear'd on the Hills consisted only of the small Parties mention'd before, which were now join'd in one Body. However, General Stanhope gave Orders to beat to Arms, and immediately caused the Troops to be assembled. The Enemy having march'd their Battalions and Squadrons under the cover of the Hills, and having possess'd themselves of all the Avenues to the Town, they planted a Battery of five Pieces of Cannon on the Place where the two thousand Horse were drawn up, and from thence played upon our People. When General Stanhope perceiv'd himself involved in this manner, he order'd Captain Cosby, his Aid de Camp, to go to Marshal Staremberg, who then lay at Cifuentes, a Town about four small Leagues distant from Brihuega, and inform him of the Circumstances he was in, particularly that he had but very little Ammunition; which, however, he wou'd manage in the best manner he cou'd, and not fire a Shot, but where there was an absolute Necessity; and that he wou'd endeavour to maintain the Place 'till his Excellency had time to come to his Relief, or send him Succours. The Aid de Camp left the General at six in the Evening, and being obliged to quit the direct Road for fear of the Enemy's Parties, he came not up to Marshal Staremberg 'till eleven a-Clock the same Night. So soon as the Marshal had Notice of the Danger the English were in, he order'd all the Troops that lay at Cifuentes, and the adjacent Villages, to be assembled, and began his March the 9th, a little before ten in the Morning. Being arriv'd by five in the Afternoon at a Place about half way between Cifuentes and Brihuega, he order'd nine Pieces of Cannon to be fired as a Signal to General Stanhope, that he was marching to his Relief, and there lay under Arms all that Night. Early the next Morning, being the 10th, he dispos'd his Army into a Line, and so march'd on in good Order 'till one a-Clock, by which time he perceiv'd the Enemy forming themselves into order of Battel, with their Right Wing at the Village of Villa-Viciosa, and their Left at a Wood on the Plains of los Campos de los Mancebos; and having by this means all the Advantage of the Ground, the Marshal found himself oblig'd to extend his Left against some square Walls, drawing the Horse of his Right in the Rear of his first and second Line, and covering his Flank with four Companies of Grenadiers, two Battalions, and two Squadrons. In the mean while the Cannon play'd on both sides, but ours with more Success, 'till about three a-Clock; at which time the Enemy attack'd our Right Wing with much Vigour, and made them give way at first, but they soon recover'd, and form'd themselves into good Order. At the same time our Left was so closely push'd by a much superior Number of Horse, that they were dispers'd, and

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