

# The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday September 23. to Saturday September 27. 1718.

*Escurial, September 11.*

ON the 8th of August towards Night the English Squadron appeared at the Island of Stromboli; and the Marquess de Ledé having the next Day sent an Officer of the Marine on board Admiral Byng who was at Anchor at Cape Mortelli, to learn the Motive of his coming, he answered to that Inquiry, that he had written a Letter and appointed a Person to carry it, and that he came only as a Friend and Mediator of Peace.

The Letter was delivered into the Hands of the Marquess de Ledé, and was in the same Terms as that which he wrote near Cadiz, and which was delivered to the King by Mr. Stanhope, notifying his Arrival, and his Master's Orders to employ Force of Arms, in case his Majesty did not desist from his Enterprizes on Italy: Only in this last Letter written to the Marquess de Ledé there was this Variation, that instead of naming the Dominions of the Archduke, he mentioned the Kingdom of Sicily as a Part comprehended in the Neutrality of Italy. The Person who in the Name of Admiral Byng conferred with the Marquess de Ledé, made very pressing Instances that all Operations of War might immediately cease, and a Suspension of Arms be speedily concluded. And it being answered on our Part, that this could not be done without having the necessary Orders first from Court, the Englishman was dismissed to return on board; but before he went, the Marquess de Ledé reproached him with the conveying of 14 Tartars having German Infantry in them from Naples; this he excused, saying that those Tartars were met near the Coast of Sicily, and that his Chief had judged it would not be proper to hinder their Passage, seeing they were bound for Bijoles in Calabria, whither indeed they actually went; on this Occasion he confirmed, that his General was not come to declare War, but only as a Mediator of Peace, and that he would not commit any Hostility.

Admiral Byng being told the Answer and Sentiments of the Marquess de Ledé, sent the Consul of his Nation residing in Messina, to acquaint the Marquess, that within eight Days he would return with his Squadron into that Neighbourhood, and then he hoped they should eat a Soup together, seeing by that Time the Marquess might receive Orders for an intire Conclusion of Peace.

On the 10th he entred the Faro with his whole Squadron, standing to the Southward, our Fleet being gone the same Course before: He held on his Way till he came into the Height of Syracuse, and on the 11th coming up with the Rear-guard of the Marquess Mari, he committed downright Hostility and all the Actions of open War. And though the King cannot persuade himself that this Proceeding (in which Breach of Faith has so great a Share) is the Act of the English Nation, yet no Body is ignorant that it is the Effect of the artful Projects of the Ministry at London, who are capable of attempting the greatest Wickedness, to

bring about their Designs, which are no less pernicious than fatal to the common Liberty.

As our Naval Forces were divided into five Squadrons; and as by our-Advices it does not yet appear, that after what passed with the Squadron of the Marquess Mari, the other four (including that which before went to Malta, and 'tis said was returned) commanded by the Chiefs Castagneta, Chacon, Guevarra, and Cammock, engaged with the English; as likewise on the 12th both Fleets were out of Sight of Sicily; we know not yet what has befallen either of them since.

*Extract from Sir George Byng's Letter to Colonel Stanhope, to be communicated to the Court of Spain, dated the 20th of June, O. S. from on board the Barfleur, off the Coast of Spain.*

I desire you will give me leave by you to acquaint his Catholick Majesty of my Affairs, and that I am instructed, in the King my Master's Name, to promote all Measures that may contribute to composing all Differences that have arisen between his Catholick Majesty and the Emperour.

But if his Catholick Majesty should not please to accept of the Mediation of our Master, and his Friendly Offices, but continues in the Resolution that his Troops shall attack the Emperour's Territories in Italy, I must then acquaint you, Sir, that in that Case, I am commanded by the King our Master, to use all the Power of his Fleet, and Forces with me, to maintain (as much as is possible for me to do) the Neutrality of Italy, and defend the Emperour's Territories therein, by opposing all Force that shall endeavour to attack him in his Dominions there.

*Extract from Sir George Byng's Letter to the Marquess de Ledé, dated from on board the Barfleur, near the Faro of Messina, the 29th of July, O. S.*

His Catholick Majesty the King of Spain making warlike Preparations for attacking Italy, and having already actually seized on part of Sicily, without any War declared against that Kingdom, — the Consequence of which may be followed with further Designs to invade the Kingdom of Naples.

— I send this Gentleman, Mr. Saunders, who is my first Captain, to wait upon your Excellency with the Tenders of my best Offices, for promoting the Measures that may be advanced for settling Peace in this Part of Europe. If they shall be accepted on the Part of Spain, my Endeavours shall be likewise used with the Viceroy of Naples, and the other Generals, and Ministers of the Emperour in Italy, for composing the Differences that have arisen.

A Suspension of Arms, and Forbearance of all Acts of Hostilities on all Sides being absolutely necessary for setting on foot proper Negotiations of Peace; I do, in my Master's Name, propose to your Excellency that there be an immediate Cessation of Arms, and a Forbearance of all Acts of Hostilities on all Sides, for the Space of Two Months,