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From on board the Barfleur in the Mole of Messina, November 30, N. S.

THE Squadron of British Men of War with the Emperour's Transport Ships under their Convoy bound to Trapani, sailed from hence the 23d Instant, having on board 7000 Foot and 500 Horse, commanded by General Zumjungen; the Wind has been so fair ever since their Departure that we cannot doubt of their being arrived there before this time. As soon as these Troops were landed the Ships were to return and take in here the same Number of Horse and Foot, and carry them likewise to Trapani, which with the Reinforcement that is ordered thither from Naples, will make up a Body of 14000 Foot and 3000 Horse, which will be able to secure that advantagious Post, and thereby to facilitate the reducing of Palermo. It would have been almost impossible to have carried on this Undertaking altogether by Land, Provisions being very scarce in the Country, and Horses not easily to be procured for the drawing of our Artillery and Waggons, and carrying our Baggage; but by this Motion we have put the Spaniards under those Difficulties and all the other Hardships attending a Winter Campaign, which must entirely ruin their Troops that already want Cloaths and divers other Necessaries. The Marquess de Lede no sooner had Intelligence of the Departure of the Convoy abovementioned and the Course they steered, but he drew together his whole Army, abandoning Catania, Taormina, Mola, and several adjacent Posts, and marched the 27th towards Palermo. In the mean time General Mercy continues with the Remainder of the Imperial Army, which is quartered part in this City and the rest in the neighbouring Towns, ready to act in such Manner as shall be judged proper upon the Accounts we shall receive of the Marquess de Lede's further Motions.

From on board the Barfleur in the Mole of Messina, Dec. 1, N. S. Sir George Byng having received Information from several Hands, that

the Maltese, contrary to the Neutrality they ought to have observed between the several Parties engaged in the present War, had fitted out Privateers, under Pretence of having Spanish Commissions, to cruize against the Subjects of His Britannick Majesty and his Allies; that the Subjects of Malta frequently entered themselves on board Spanish Privateers, and that even a Privateer with Maltese Colours had assisted a Spanish Privateer in taking a British Merchant-Man, and they had carried her as a Prize to Malta; he sent thither Captain Saunders on board the Dreadnought to make the proper Representations to the Government of that Island against such Proceedings, and to demand Satisfaction and Reparation for the Injuries and Losses which the British Subjects had sustained. Accordingly Captain Saunders being arrived there in October last, sent in a Memorial to the Grand Master of Malta to the Effect abovementioned; the Grand Master and Council thereupon deputed the Commander Sanfedoni and the Chevalier Delaval to confer with him, who endeavoured to excuse what had happened, as being done without the Knowledge or Consent of the Government; but Captain Saunders insisting upon Reparation, they at last agreed that the Government should make good the Damages done by their Subjects to those of Great Britain and to other Merchants, trading in British Bottoms; and the 27th a Convention, settling the Method of ascertaining the particular Claims and the fixing times of Payment, was signed by Captain Saunders and the said Deputies, and it was ratified the next Day by the Grand Master and the Council. Captain Saunders is since returned hither and has brought a very obliging Letter to Sir George Byng from the Grand Master, who, as well as the Council, did in this whole Transaction express the utmost Veneration for His Majesty of Great Britain, and a very great Regard for the Admiral and the British Nation.

Naples, Dec 8, N. S. A Fleet of Transport Ships under Convoy of some Men of War sailed from hence the 5th Instant with 700 Imperial