

# The London Gazette

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*From on board the Barfleur in the Road of Trapani, April 10, N. S.*

**A**fter several Messages between the Imperial and Spanish Camps, relating to a Treaty for a Cessation of Arms, without Effect; General Mercy and Admiral Byng judged it necessary to write a Letter on the 31st of last Month to the Marquess de Lede, desiring his positive Answer whether he had full Powers to treat of a Suspension of Arms and of the Evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia, and in Case he had, proposing an Interview at a House called the Cassine du Rossignol between the two Camps, leaving it to him to appoint the Day and the Number of Guards he would bring with him. On the 1st Instant the Marquess de Lede sent a Trumpeter with a Letter to acquaint General Mercy and Admiral Byng, that the next Day at Noon he would meet them at the Cassine they had proposed, attended by 200 Horse. They all met accordingly, and in the Conference they had together the Marquess de Lede acknowledged that he knew the King his Master had signed the Quadruple Alliance, and did not doubt his Intention was to evacuate Sicily pursuant to the Treaty; but declared he had not Orders to treat about it, that he expected full Powers and Instructions very soon, and wished that in the mean while a Cessation of Arms might be agreed on. He was asked what Proposals he had to make for that Purpose, he answered none, unless that each Army should remain on the Ground they possessed, till he should receive Orders to treat of the Evacuation. General Mercy and Admiral Byng not judging it reasonable that the Imperialists should be restrained to a Tract of Country where they could not well subsist themselves, asked the Marquess de Lede, whether in Case they should consent to his keeping Possession of Palermo, he had Power to agree to give up to the Imperialists Augusta and the other Posts on the other Side of the Island, which were now of no manner of use to him, and so he might draw to his Army the Garrisons and Troops he had on that Side, in order to the Evacuation; he replied, that he could nor yield up or quit the Possession of any Part of the Island till he had received Orders from the King his Master; and thereupon he read Part of his Instructions: On the other hand General Mercy produced Part of the Instructions he had from the Emperour, which ordered him to agree to a Suspension of Arms for proceeding to the Evacuation of Sicily and Sardinia, and to concert with the Marquess de Lede the necessary Conditions for facilitating the same, and for adjusting this Affair by all reasonable Measures; but directing him, that if the Marquess de Lede should alledge he had not Orders, or should evade them to gain Time under Pretence of sending to Madrid for further Instructions, and should decline naming a reasonable Term for beginning to embark Part of his Troops, in such Case he (General Mercy) should make use of Arms to oblige the Marquess de Lede to execute the Treaty which the

Minister of Spain had signed at the Hague. At the same time General Mercy told the Marquess de Lede, that the 17th of April was understood to be the Term on which the Evacuation ought to begin; but that if it was not possible for him to begin it so soon, he would make no Difficulty of lengthening that Term some Days, provided the Evacuation were in some Manner or other settled between them. General Mercy offered him likewise the Transports which were kept in Readiness for his Service, and assured him that he would accommodate his Troops at their Imbarcation, and oblige him in any thing else that he could reasonably demand. Admiral Byng gave him the like Assurances on his Part, and that he should have such a Convoy of the King his Master's Ships as he should desire. The Conference passed without the least Heat, the Marquess de Lede owning that all the General and Admiral had said was reasonable, and professing that he was sorry he had not Orders. So the Conference was ended without any Resolution taken. On the 4th Instant Captain Falkingham of the Orford, who had cruised off Palermo and intercepted a Felucca which had been dispatched by Cardinal Acquaviva at Rome to the Marquess de Lede with Packets of Letters, brought those Packets to Admiral Byng at Castel Vetrano. General Mercy and the Admiral agreed to send them unopened to the Marquess de Lede. On the 5th the Admiral left the Camp and returned to Trapani; and the Imperial Army marched from Castel Vetrano towards the Spaniards. This Evening an Officer sent by General Mercy came on Board, and gave the Admiral an Account, that the Imperial Army had advanced on the 7th to Sta. Nympha, on the 8th to Fournarée, and on the 9th to Alcamo; and that the Spanish Army had decamped from Alcamo the 7th in the Evening with Precipitation, leaving some of their Sick behind them. The Imperialists having taken Possession of the Castle in the Gulph of Castellamare, which the Spaniards has abandoned, General Mercy had written to Admiral Byng, to desire him to send him a Supply of Provisions from Trapani thither by Sea.

*From on board the Barfleur in the Road of Trapani, April 12, N. S.* This Morning Baron Neyperg arrived from General Mercy, to confer with Admiral Byng about the necessary Dispositions for supplying the Imperial Army with Provisions and Ammunition by Sea. Which Dispositions being settled between them, the said Baron is gone back; and it is believed General Mercy will march again from Alcamo towards the Spanish Army, or towards Palermo, within these three Days. But it is hoped that before he approaches either of them, the Marquess de Lede will receive proper Orders to agree at once upon a Cessation of Arms and the Manner of evacuating Sicily. On the 8th the Marquess de Lede decamped from Valguarnera, and on the 9th removed to Montreat, which was three Marches distant from Alcamo.