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From Saturday May 7. to Tuesday May 10. 1720.

From on board the Barfleur in the Bay of Mondello, four Miles from Palermo, April 27, N. S.

AD MIRAL Byng has received Advice from the Imperial Camp, that General Mercy having no Magazines in the Tract of Country he left, and finding none in that he marched through to Alamo, could not provide his Army with Bread and other Necessaries till the 18th Instant, when he marched from thence towards the Spaniards. The Marquês de Lede retreated before him towards Palermo, and taking his Way by a very strong Defilé called the Ferro di Cavallo, posted a Body of Men there: General Mercy detached M. Zumjungen with all his Horse (except the Hussars and one Regiment of Dragoons) and seven Battalions of Foot, towards that Defilé; while he himself marched by very difficult Passes over the Mountains, designing if the Marquês de Lede should move with his Army to support the Body posted at Ferro di Cavallo, to fall in between him and Palermo. But the Marquês de Lede with his main Army making no Stop in his Retreat, General Mercy advanced, and having possessed himself of all the Eminences in the Country near the Spanish Army, sent for General Zumjungen to join him. On the 21st General Mercy with the Imperial Army began to descend into the Plain before Palermo, having had a very difficult March thither through Passes where 'tis not known that Troops ever went before; but it was performed with great military Skill and Expedition. The Imperialists are now encamped between two Hills, with the Spanish Army in Front, and within Cannon shot of them. The latter are very strongly posted and intrenched, from the Walls of Palermo on their Right to a Mountain on their Left. On the 25th, Admiral Byng sent a small Vessel with British Colours out, to sound the Bay of Palermo, that he might know where the Men of War and Transports might anchor the most commodiously, if there should be Occasion: The Cannon from the Town and the Batteries in the Spanish Camp fired upon this Vessel: Whereupon Yesterday the Admiral ordered two Men of War to stand in and fire upon a Tower and some Posts possessed by the Spaniards, who were forced to abandon them, and afterwards the Imperialists made themselves Masters of them. The Situation of the two Armies renders it likely there will be Action between them in a few Days, unless Orders come to the Marquês de Lede to authorize him to treat of the Evacuation of the Island as well as of the Suspension of Arms. The Admiral has used his utmost Endeavours to accommodate this Affair,

but in vain: The Marquês de Lede affirms that he has not yet any other Power than only for treating of a Suspension of Arms, on this single Condition that each Party should keep the Country and Posts they possessed: As this would have confined the Imperialists to a small part of the Country, which would not afford them Subsistence, while the Spaniards having in their Hands the chief Magazines of Corn and the best Part of the Island, would have Plenty of all things, a Suspension of Arms on such Terms could not be judged reasonable; especially while the Marquês declines giving any manner of Assurance of his performing the Evacuation, though the Time for it, as stipulated in the Treaty signed by his Catholick Majesty's Minister at the Hague, be already expired.

Berne, May 8. The Canton of Soleurre having acquainted this State with their having named four Deputies of Distinction for the Management of the intended Conference with others of this State at Langenthal, about settling Limits and other private Differences between the two Cantons, our Sovereign Council has likewise named four Members of the same Rank to go and meet them at the appointed Place the 12th Instant. Upon Advice this State received some time ago of certain Levies which were making underhand by one Merveilleux of Neuschatel in this Canton, for the Service of the Mississippi Company, a Proclamation has lately been issued out, by which it is forbid, upon rigorous Punishments, to all the Subjects of this Canton, to list themselves in the said Service. It is said that the like Prohibitions have been made in the neighbouring Cantons. The Currency of the French Louis d'Ors coined last Year, has been reduced to their intrinsic Value in this Canton by an Order of the State.

St. James's, May 7. Baron Sparre, Envoy Extraordinary from Sweden,

M. le Coq, Envoy Extraordinary from Poland,

M. de Wallenrodt, Envoy Extraordinary from Prussia,

Sig. Pucci, Secretary from the Great Duke of Tuscany,

The Marquês de Costanze, Envoy Extraordinary from the King of Sardinia,

Had this Day private Audiences of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; to which they were introduced by Sir Clement Cottrell, Kt. Master of the Ceremonies.

Whitehall, May 9. Letters from Elfenore dated the 2d Instant, give an Account of the safe Arrival there of Sir John Norris with the Squadron under his Command.

Sir Robert Raymond is appointed His Majesty's Attorney General.