

\* The French Soldiers being part of them removed out of *Bon, Nuis, Keyserwaert, and Kempen*, into the Neighbouring Villages, seem to live at much more ease, and not so subject to distempers as before. We hear nothing farther of the Duke of *Lorraine's* accommodation with his most Christian Majesty, though it is certainly said, that the *Sieur Canon*, isitating concerning it at the French Court.

From *Ratisbonne* they write, that the Dyet was at present about framing Instructions for the Council of War, which is, as hath been said, to consist of six persons, to that purpose nominated by the Dyet, together with the Velt Marshal General who is to preside in it.

*Hague, Feb. 25.* The States General having yesterday in a full assembly, with a general satisfaction, conferred on his Highness the Prince of *Orange*, the Command of Captain General and Admiral for this Campaign, that is, till he arrive to the 22 year of his age, engaging, that then his Commission shall be renewed, with this additional clause, during Life; in the afternoon they sent ten of their Body to acquaint his Highness with it, and to Compliment him thereupon; in the Evening the Streets were every where filled with Bonfires, and other publick demonstrations of joy, the Inhabitants endeavoring on this occasion, to express the affection they have for his Highness, and the satisfaction they received at his advancement; this Morning his Highness, accompanied with several persons of quality, went to the assembly of the said States, who had before sent their *Grossier* the *Heer Fagel*, to wait upon him thither, where he accordingly took the Oaths of Captain General and Admiral, and after having continued about a quarter of an hour in their Assembly, returned to his own apartment, the *Heer Fagel* carrying his Commission before him in a Silver Box, which after many Compliments, he left with his Highness, who was how wholly busied with receiving the Congratulations of all the persons of quality about Town; in the mean time great preparations are making for a splendid Entertainment, with which his Highness intends to Treat the States of *Holland* on Tuesday next in his Garden here in Town.

The States of *Holland* have, as is said, consented to an other Leavie of 20000 Men, as likewise the encreasing this years Equippage to 75 Men of War, besides Fireships, &c. From *Amsterdam* they write, of a great Fire that had happened there the 23 instant, in the *Grave Street*, near the *new Church*, which had burnt from three of the clock in the Morning till that noon, and had done much harm, especially in the *Sieur Btaeu's* Famous Printing House, though as yet we have not the farther particulars.

The Lieutenant Admiral *van Ghent* hath, together with other Deputies of the Admiralties, been to visit the several men of War, intended for Sea this Summer, and to take care that those Maritime preparations, be carried on with all possible diligence.

*Ditto, March 1.* The States General have finally resolved to send forthwith an Extraordinary Ambassador to *England*, the person they have not as yet nominated, though it be generally thought, that the *Heer Meerman*, will be employed on this occasion; the *Heer van Beverning* being appointed by the States, for one of the Field Deputies this Campaign.

The States have acquainted the several Foreign Ministers residing here, with their having

advanced his Highness the Prince of *Orange* to the Command of Captain General, and Admiral over all the Forces of this State. The *Rhyngrave* being arrived here from *Brussels*, and having been in the Assembly of the States General, to give them an account of what had passed in the conferences he had with the Count *de Monterey* Governor of those Provinces, is since gone to his Government of *Maesricht*.

This day the Prince of *Orange* entertains the States of *Holland* at a most splendid entertainment; his Highness hath already given order for the providing his Equippage for the Field. From *Westphalia* they write from all hands; of the preparations that *Bishop* continues to make for War, that he had commanded a very considerable quantity of Corn to be provided for the subsistence of the Forces he intends to bring into the Field this Spring.

*Brussels, Feb. 16.* Yesterday arrived here two Extraordinary Couriers from *Spain*, the one by Sea, and the other by Land; they have, as is said, brought Bills for a considerable summe of Money, which is remitted to his Excellency for the Service of these Countries. The Duke *de Bourbonville*, hath been by his Excellencies order at *Louvain*, to visit that place, and to see what may be done for the present strengthening of it. Our Fortifications here go on apace, and at *Mons* the Duke *d' Arschot* omits no diligence, for the perfecting the works there, for which, all the Inhabitants with great readiness contribute their endeavors, so that in a short time they hope to make that place almost impregnable.

The Deputies from the States General of the United Provinces are still here, and in frequent conference with his Excellency, and other principal persons of this Court. His Excellency hath made several new Propositions to the States of *Brabant*, for the borrowing a summe of Money of them, though as yet, we hear not of any thing they have done in it.

The Countess of *Monterey*, after having been reduced to that weakness, that we had almost despaired of her recovery, is at present much better, her Fever beginning to leave her, to the great joy of his Excellency and the whole Court. Here hath been lately taken into custody Monsieur *Gabillard* Captain of Horse, for having, as is said, written indiscreetly, concerning the interest of *Spain* and these Countries, in the present conjuncture. The 30000 Gilders which this Town hath lately given his Excellency, is to be raised by an Imposition on Tobacco, Soap, and some other commodities.

Most of the Governors of the several Provinces are now here, and have daily consultations concerning the present posture of the affairs of these Provinces, continuing, in what they may, to provide for their farther security.

*Ditto, March 1.* From *Limbergh* they write, of the great diligence that was used by the Prince *de Nassaw* Governor of that place, for the repairing the Fortifications there, and to put all other things into a good posture of defence, Count *Marcin* is perfectly recovered of his late indisposition, so that we hear nothing farther of the Duke *de Bourbonville's* being to be joyed in Commission with him. Here are arrived several Officers from *Holland*, to desire leave of his Excellency the Count *de Monterey*, to raise Men in these Countreys, for the service of that State; we have advice of 3000 Spaniards that are on their way hither from *Spain*, and are daily expected to arrive at *Ostend*.