

excellency at *Leeuwe*, to see in what forwardness the Fortifications there, are in. It is said, that the Citadell is quite finished.

Some days since arriv'd here the Heer de Groot Ambassador from the States General of the *United Provinces*, to the most Christian King, from *Paris*; he hath had several private Conferences with his Excellency; and yesterday went hence on his way home.

Saturday last Count *Philip* of *Hornes*, returned hither from *Copenhagen*; whether he had been lately sent by his Excellency, it is said, that that Court seems not very inclinable to hearken to the Propositions of the States General of the *United Provinces*.

From *Limburgh* they write; that there had some days before passed through that Province, great numbers of Waggon-belonging to the French, laden with Iron-Chains and Anchors, towards the *Rhine*; which are supposed to be intended for the making a Bridge over that River at *Nuis* or *Bon*.

At *Aix la Chapelle*, at the same time, are raising men for the King of *Spain*, for the Elector of *Cologne*, and for the Bishop of *Munster*.

*Brussels*, *Decr* 15. On Tuesday last the Heer de *Wit*; the States Deputy here, received by an Express from the *Hague*; advice of the States having made choice of him to be their Deputy or Plenipotentiary on their Fleet this Summer, which he immediately acquainted his Excellency with, and the next Morning early parted hence for the *Hague*, leaving Monsieur *Stribert* the other Deputy to remain at this Court.

Yesterday the Magistrates of this place, were to wait upon his Excellency, with an account of the Nine Nations (so the Commonalty is here called) having at length consented to the raising the 30000 Florins, by an Imposition on Wine, Cattle, and Corn; to be employed towards the carrying on the Fortifications of this place. It is certainly said, that the Bishop of *Munster* hath declared against the Dutch.

*Ostend*; *April* 14. Yesterday arrived here two small Frigates of this place from *Spain*, the one with 350 Spanish Foot from *Galicia*, and the other with 240 Horsemen from *Biscaye*, being to be Armed and Mounted here; They tell us, of three or four thousand Men more that are raising in that Kingdom, for the Service of these Countreys. We have here his most Christian Majesties Declaration of War against the States General of the United Provinces.

*Hague*, *April* 12. On Friday last Monsieur *Duvent* a Frenchman, Captain of Horse in the Service of this State, was by the States order taken into Custody, upon what account, is not certainly said. The ninth instant arrived here the Heer *Meerman*, Extraordinary Ambassador to His Majesty of Great *Brittain*, and the next day was to make his Report in the Assembly of the States General, (and afterwards in that of the Council of State).

The next week the States of *Holland* will make choice of the Officers to be employed in the Levies they are going to make of 14000 Men for their particular, besides their part of the 23000 Men agreed to by the Provinces in general. We cannot yet learn who is intended for the Extraordinary Embassy to the Crown of *Spain*, though we are assured, that an Ambassador will be suddenly sent thither.

The Deputies of the respective Admiralties are still in Town, and in daily debates with the Council of State, in matters concerning the Fleet;

From *Amsterdam* they tell us, that several of their great Ships got over the *Pampus* the 13 instant, but that they were in so great want of Men, that some of their Flag Ships, had not as yet any or very few Men on board, however, that they omit no diligence for the procuring of them; and to that end; every where beat their Drums, but find a great unwillingness in the Seamen to enter into the Service.

We are told of several Flying Armies this State will suddenly have on foot, the most considerable of which is, as is said, to be near *Maestricht*; from whence they write, of the arrival of 1000 Spanish Horse there from *Flanders*; That they begin to be extremely alarmed from all hands with the news of the approach of the French Forces towards those parts, and as is reported, with a particular design to attack that place; However in the mean time all endeavors are used, for the encouraging the people, who cannot but appear sensible of the danger that threatens them, and for the putting the place, into a posture of defence. The Heer de *Groot* is, as we hear, arrived at *Brussels*, on his way from *Paris*, so that he is daily expected here. It is said that the States have appointed the Heer de *Wit*, *Ruwaert van Putten*; to be their Plenipotentiary on board their Fleet this Expedition.

*Paris*, *April* 13. His Majesty hath lately caused an Ordonnance to be Published to this Effect; That his Majesty being troubled to find himself obliged to make War against the Countries Inhabited by the *Hollanders*, and his design being onely to punish their Governors, and no way to spoyl the Inhabitants, who cannot be blamed for the ill Conduct of those to whom they have entrusted the Government; his Majesty hath therefore thought fit to declare that his intention is, That his Armies being well and punctually paid, as he hath Commanded they shall be, that they be kept in all possible Order and Discipline, without being chargeable to the Countries through which they pass, for any thing, save onely Forage, and other things necessary for their Encamping. That the Inhabitants who will protect themselves from the Insolencies of the Soldiery, may upon the approach of any of his Armies, retire with their Cattle and Corn into the next Castles, or other strong place in the Villages, where his Majesty is well pleased, that they shall keep themselves in Armes, without permitting any persons to enter there, excepting onely the Safe-Guards, which his Majesty shall send thither, or such parties Commanded by Officers, as by his Majesties order shall desire to enter there. When his Majesties Armies shall approach any place within four Miles, they of every Castle, shall send to desire a Party of Horse for their Safe-Guards, to defend them from all violence and disturbance of the French Soldiery, whom they shall feed, together with their Horses, and give them besides four Rixdollers per day. And when his Majesties Armies shall be farther then three or four Miles from the said Castles, they shall then send back their Safe-Guards into the Army; And in case the Dutch Troops shall fall upon, or do any damage to them, either in their going to the said Castles, whilst they remain there, or in their returning back to the Army; His Majesty then declares, that he will not for the future, have any consideration of those Inhabitants, but that his Armies shall live with all Liberty and Licence.

*Dover*, *April* 9. Here hath been brought in the *St. Peter*, of about 60 Tuns, belonging to *Amsterdam*, and laden with Wines from the *Canaries*.