

That the Elector of Brandenburg upon his arrival in those parts, and at the same time to pay him in an half year of the sum annually paid him by the House of Austria. The Count *Roningmark* is past by here incognito from Sweden to France. Our last Letters from Spain tell us, that the Dutch Men of War at the Streights Mouth, are driven to great necessities; and that at Cadix they have been forced to sell their Cannon to buy Provisions, and the small number of men they at first had, so wasted or starved out of the service, that they have been obliged to man one half of their number out of the other, which are passed up into the Streights to convoy some Corn ships trading from Sicily to Spain, and the rest are left useless at Cadix. At the same time it is advised from good hands at Amsterdam, that necessities of all kinds fall so thick upon them, that the whole Bank of Amsterdam, within these few days, could not furnish Cross-Dollars to the value of Forty or fifty thousand pound sterling.

*Hague, Decemb. 11.* The Bishop of Munsters affairs are much in the same condition as my former mentioned, he remaining still master of the Fort near *Winsthoren* and the Gro's of his Army at *Wedde* and *Appel*, two considerable Posts, from whence he hath a free passage into the Provinces of *Overysse*l and *Zutphen*, ours having not yet been able to regain any one Post from them. We keep our selves however in heart, with great expectations from our forces, part of the French Troops having marched through *Zutphen*, on the eight instant, and the rest through *Doesburgh*, quartering in the neighboring places, whilst Prince *Maurice* is at the house of *Velde*, and the *Rhinegrave* at *Verden*: Nay some fresh Letters from *Zutphen*, dated the eighth, say the Leaguer is before *Lochem*, and all Mortar pieces and other necessaries ready for an attack; and those from *Arnhem*, Decemb. 9. that such great shooting was heard at *Doesburgh*, that they judged as well *Bercto* as *Lochem*, was assaulted at the same time. But this is but conjecture and needs further confirmation. It was high time indeed to press the French upon action, for though upon the fourth instant, at a muster of the Regiments about the *Velde*, two were shot to death, and two others ordered to be hanged for robbery, they so continued their rapine, that the Suters are afraid to frequent the Camp any more. And already two hundred of their Carts are left in, with resolution not to deal further with them. Colonel *Ashin* could give but a slender account of his design, who being commanded with one thousand five hundred men to attack *Wedde*, was by the unseasonable weather forced to return *in infeda*, when he was half way on his march. The success of our forces is much feared, the Enemies Garrisons being well provided, and the men obstinate in maintaining them. And most certain it is, that should our forces suffer any considerable loss, we should not be able to recruit them, several of our Garrisons being already drained beyond the prudence of War: And for our new Levies, it is scarcely imaginable how they can be made up in most of the Divisions, especially in *Overysse*l and *Geldre*, where they will be very miserable, that County not being in a condition to pay them; insomuch, that the Council of War have it under consideration, what remedy to apply to it. The taking of Colonel *Gorgas* proves a meer Fob. There is small appearance of marching into the Bishops Territories this Winter, the onely aim is to dislodge him of those places he hath already gained, which as yet appears to be a business thrust upon us by the French disorders, without any farther probability of success, then an handsome way of ridding our selves of such a people, as by their insolent debauchery have rendered the contrivers of it odious to all those that are acquainted with their department.

*Amsterdam, Decemb. 11.* The Deputies of the several Admiralties are met at the *Hague*, with Lieutenant Admiral *de Ruyter*, to consult about the Affairs of the Navy, and setting out a Fleet with the first convenient season. The late great Storms have caused so general an Inundation, that it will be some time before we can receive the particular account of the mischiefs it hath done. The Dyke was broke down at *Durgendam* about twenty foot broad, and forty foot deep, and much Castle lost. In the *Felder* many houses, with the new Sconce, washed away. *Shewelingen* was all Water. Trees tore up by the Roots, and several houses thrown down, and the

Church, with the rest, every minute expected to be levelled by the Water. In the *Texel* and the *Vly*, some ships were utterly left with all their men; among which, two bound for *Bremen*, a small Caper with all her men, and those that escaped best, were most miserably torn in their Masts and Rigging. About *Groningen* their Datts were over-flown in several places, both Men and Beasts swept away by the violence of the floods.

In the other part of *Holland*, the ravage by this storm hath not been less, a great Tract of it being over-flowed as high as *Puremerend*, the *Moerdyke*, the *Kieldyke*, and the *Glunderdyke* near *Willemestadt* being broken, whereby not less then One hundred Villages are destroyed, a loss not to be repaired with many Millions.

*Paris, Decemb. 12.* The great Storms have done much harm in all parts of this Kingdom. At the Mouth of the *Charente* a very good ship of this Kings, of fifty four Guns, was lost, called the *Breze*; and pieces of ships and goods every where found upon that Coast. They keep a great stir at *St. Maloes*, in preparing for an expedition for *Madagascar*, which design hath yet had but an ill beginning: A ship of four hundred Tun intended thither, and newly lanchd, being by some casualty burnt down to the Water in the Haven there; and another of their ships stranded on the Western Coast near *Brouage*. And this hath been observed to have a strange kinde of influence in all those that have adventured on that design.

*Antwerp, Decemb. 5.* The Spaniards begin to make their preparations against the designs of the French Troops, having at *Mechelen* cast molds for ninety peece of Ordnance, and demolished all the Out-houses in the Suburbs of *Namur*, and cut down the Trees to render the place the more tenable.

*Harlem, Decemb. 11.* It is now about three moneths since the Jews gave out that near 600000 men were arrived at *Mecha*, professing themselves to be of the lost Tribes. Since which it is affirmed, that a new Prophet is arisen in *Jerusalem*, who finding no credit there went to *Gaza*: where working several miracles, he obliged the Rabbi's of *Jerusalem* to repair thither, who upon a conference accepted him as a great Prophet, and that the Bassa's of *Jerusalem* and *Gaza* were inclined to go and kiss his hands. This Prophet (say they) foretells the Restauration of the House of *Israel*, and to that purpose hath invited a young man of the Tribe of *David*, called *Sabbars Levi*, for their King, who was followed by thousands of people, and that he intended for *Constantinople* to demand the Empire.

It is strange, that not onely the Jews here, but some hundreds that own the name of Christians among us, think themselves concerned in it, though the wiser sort of people sufficiently understand the cheat.

*Bristol, Decemb. 6.* On the third instant here arrived the *Nevis* Merchant, One hundred and twenty Tun burthen, from *Nevis*, laden with Sugar and other Commodities of that Island, who found the Coast clear of any Enemy, and affirms that the Inhabitants of that Island have made it so strong, that they do not fear the surprize of an enemy. About twenty Dutch prisoners not long since made their escape out of *Bridewel*, but are since retaken, and a stricter guard put upon them.

*Oxon, Dec. 9.* Letters from *Copenhagen*, dated Dec. 2. give us advise, That three *Holland* Fregats came lately into *Christiana* to fetch home the *East India* Ships, which have lain there ever since the great Storm scattered their Fleet, and that the Vice-Roy refused to let them depart, till he received Orders from the Court; the issue of which, the Dutch fearing, threatened to go away without leave, till the Vice-Roy planted sixty Piece of Cannon all along the Port where they are to pass, and a Guard of Musqueeters to play upon them, if they should offer to loose their Sails. That King is sending Major General *Reiss*, his chief Engineer, to view and rectifie the Fortification of *Odenburg*. Field-Marshal *Weris* hath taken leave of the Court, and is going to *Hamburg* in some discontent. Prince *Christian* is contracted to a Daughter of *Hesse*, and the Prince of *Saxe* is returning home.