

the Field Posts have been fallen upon under the Cloak and Name of Friendship.

Wherefore I beseech your Highness to declare, whether all these Undertakings, against an Imperial Fortrefs, are in Consequence of your Orders and Command, at a Time when, on the Part of his Imperial Majesty, all Hostilities directly and indirectly, upon the Territory of the Empire, have been avoided since last Year, the whole Winter, and till Yesterday; to which End his Imperial Majesty has encamped his Troops in a Manner sufficiently convincing of his earnest and sincere Design to draw the War from those Circles of the Empire who take no Part in it.

Tho' upon the last Occasion, when the Austrian Troops advanced so far, the Cannon of the Fortrefs was not fired upon the Aggressor, out of a Consideration that his Imperial Majesty never intended to engage the Empire in a War, yet I submit it to your Highness's Judgment, whether I can allow that the Troops of the other Party shall Patrouille and send Detachments under the Cannon of the Fortrefs, and cut the Inhabitants of this Place, who belong to the Empire, from the Communication from one Door to another, with their Fields and Meadows in these Parts, and to hinder them from pursuing their Commerce with the Empire, since they every where take away, and stop in every Shape, even the necessary Provisions of the Civil Officers and Burghers of Speyer, as well as for this Imperial Garrison, which the Peasants bring in. I will therefore not be answerable, if through such actual Proceedings to Hostility as have already been committed against an Imperial Fortrefs, a greater Confusion should be occasioned in the Empire, since for the future I see my self obliged to treat as Enemies every body that shall approach this Imperial Fortrefs in a hostile Manner. On the contrary, it must be owned by the Impartial World, that his Imperial Majesty has not given the least Occasion for committing Hostilities upon the Territory of the Empire, consequently they must be looked upon as Enemies to the Empire, who have given Occasion for such hostile Proceedings. In the mean while, I send back the Prisoners which were made on our Side Yesterday, and beg your Highness will send back those which have been made on your Side, so that in Time the Thing may be settled; especially as I propose to my self the Honour of sending you in a few Days a farther Proposition for the ransoming of the Prisoners made last Year, having learned from Colonel Wittgenstein, sent as Commissary on the Part of your Highness, for the regulating and ransoming of those Prisoners, that he had been sent back without executing his Commission, for Reasons unknown to me. *From my, &c.*

N<sup>o</sup> II.

*Copy of a Letter from me Charles Duke of Lorraine to the Bavarian Field Marshal Count*

*Seckendorf, sub dato, Head Quarters, Wisloch, the 6th of June 1744.*  
P. P.

Nothing could ever have astonished me more than the Contents of your extensive Letter to me of the 4th, which was delivered to me Yesterday late in the Evening by Count Nadasty, in which you try to represent what happened on the 2d Instant, near Neudorf and in those Parts, between a Body of the Queen's Hussars and the Bavarian Patrouille, as an actual Proceeding to Hostility against the Imperial Fortrefs Philipsburg and its Inhabitants, and consequently against a State of the Empire not at all engaged in the War, and even as a Breach of the Neutrality.

How ungrounded and Proofless this Allegation is in itself, appears to every Body who has the least Knowledge of the past, and an impartial Insight into the present. For who would judiciously infer from the driving back of a Patrouille of Bavarian Troops into their Bounds (over which your Excellency has not, as is known, the Command as Governor of Philipsburg, but a commanding Feld Marshal) that through an Action to which the Queen's Troops were forced, the Neutrality of the Fortrefs of Philipsburg, and that of the Empire, have been violated, and thereby the whole Empire attacked.

As little as this Inference will find Credit amongst the judicious Part of the World, as evidently it appears that the said Bavarian Troops are not to be looked upon as Neutral Troops of the Empire, but as such as have united themselves with the late open declared Enemy of her Majesty the Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, notwithstanding the solemn Assurances which were given last Year to the contrary, by whom they are daily assisted to intrench themselves, and notwithstanding that they seek their Security under the Cannon of this Neutral Imperial Fortrefs, are the less to be regarded as Friends, as they depend wholly upon the French Troops, who have so lately declared themselves as Enemies, as well with Respect to their Subsistence and Maintenance, as even with respect to the known late French Muster, and their common Views in the hostile Designs of the Enemy.

And since your Excellency cannot deny what goes before; which is of such a Nature, as that the Contents of your Letter upon this Account agree by no Means with the Propriety of Things,

Therefore, without doubt, you will not only very well comprehend, but also be convinced, that what has happened in the little Rencontre between the Queen's Hussars and the Bavarian Patrouilles, which you so much exaggerate, and even extend to an imaginary Attack of the neutral Imperial Fortrefs Philipsburg, is nothing else but what the Right of War, in such Circumstances as the present, demands, though it must not be forgot to observe, that as your Excellency yourself cannot deny your Patrouilles had already,