

It is impossible but your Majesty must know that I have at all Times taken Seckendorff's Part ; and as nothing has passed since, which can so much as give a Suspicion that I have had the least Disgust from him, it is only, as your Majesty certainly sees, my Fidelity for the Service of your Majesty, which obliges me to relate all this to you. I do not think indeed that his Views of Interest therein are as Mortagne presumes, and as Belleisle and Argenson also think ; but I cannot however comprehend (unless your Majesty hath ordered Seckendorff's making that Motion to prevent the Junction of the Saxons with the Austrians) what Seckendorff can think of doing in the Upper Palatinate, leaving all the Danube and Bavaria to the Enemy, his Idea of turning afterwards towards Passau being then no longer practicable ; for, if he is not Master of the right Side of the Danube, How will he attack Passau ? The Enemy with 15000 Men will easily hinder him from passing the Danube so low, and they will post themselves between the Inn and the Danube near Passau. How does M. Seckendorff then propose to take them ? He must even want Subsistence, because the Enemy, retiring from the Upper Palatinate, will certainly leave him nothing, should they even burn what they cannot carry off. If M. de Seckendorff does not enter by Dillingen and Lauingen into Bavaria, the Army of France cannot take Winter Quarters in Suabia upon the Iller ; and the Austrians, passing the Danube with a strong Body, either again during this Autumn, or the Winter, on the Side of Donawerth, or Ingolstadt, may be able to fall upon that Imperial Army, which could not, after having entered so far into the Upper Palatinate, but take Winter Quarters in Francony and a Part of Suabia, which is on the Left of the Danube, and be constantly exposed, besides what I have just mentioned, to the Incursions of great Parties of the Austrian irregular Troops, who may be able to carry off whole Bodies of them from their Quarters.

I have wrote twice to Seckendorff, since the Letter of the 20th, in the most friendly Manner that can be, desiring him to lay aside all Passion, and all that might pique him in the Points that I wrote to him in that Letter, since he would easily comprehend, that that had been wrote to push the Duke of Noailles to do better, and to act with more Vigour against the Enemy, and attack them before they could pass the Rhine ; but that we ought to unite, when the Service of our Masters, and of the Common Cause, was concerned : But he has never answered me, and does not only communicate nothing to me, but acts also quite contrary to what I have wrote to him. I had demanded (for Example) 16 Battering Cannon and eight Mortars ; he, to make a Merit to himself of his Economy in the Expenses which that might occasion to France, said, that Half was enough for him ; the Mar-

shal de Noailles having even declared, that he had told him by Word of Mouth, that perhaps he might still find Means to do for the present entirely without that Artillery. I had demanded the Junction of 10 French Battalions, and of 20 Squadrons ; he said again, that it was too much, and that he asked but six Battalions, and 14 Squadrons. See there some Instances of his Economy, whereby he thinks to render himself very agreeable, whilst he loses by it the Main of the Plan, and Noailles has taken Advantage of it against Seckendorff himself ; for two Days ago he replied to the Minister of War, that it was I who demanded double Quantities, whilst even the General who commanded the Army, and who ought to know the Wants of it better than I, did not demand them, and that he had not since insisted even upon the Junction of the French Troops.

Seckendorff has acted the same Part with Regard to the Plan of subsisting the Emperor's Troops ; when, to shew that he knew how to maintain and recruit them at a much cheaper Rate than his Predecessor Count Töring, he demanded but six Millions of Livres Fournois, which the Court and the Comptroller General not only granted upon the Estimates, that Seckendorff gave in for that Purpose, but which they have also exactly paid. It is not then surprizing, that, when he saw he was grossly mistaken, and that every Thing was now wanting, that the Officers had six, and a great many nine Months Pay in Arrear ; that neither Saddles, nor Arms, nor Regimentals for the Recruits, could be paid for, and was desirous to get off of it again, alledging, that it was not his Meaning to comprehend in those six Millions all these Particulars, the Ministry here should stick to their Point, and that M. Orry should tell me, that after this Rate they could depend upon no Establishment with M. Seckendorff ; and that it being impossible in France, that after having formed the Estimates of the War for the Year, and given themselves all the Trouble to regulate the necessary Finances for it, they should be able afterwards to answer the Demands of all those who might say they had asked too little. I cannot even complain of M. Orry, for, upon all the Points that I have asked of him on the Part of your Majesty, he has shewn himself ready to comply with the best Grace in the World. He has given the 930,000 Livres that Marshal Noailles demanded for Recruiting the Emperor's Army, and, upon my Instances, he has augmented, by 100,000 Livres per Month, the Subsistence of the said Troops, and has moreover given separately 200,000 Livres for the extraordinary Occasions. He has promised likewise his Assistance in the Project of Augmentation to 60,000 Men for the next Campaign, as far as should depend upon the Finances required for it. This is the State Things are in with Regard to Marshal Seckendorff ; I know not what your Majesty may