

requires of us, for the Maintenance of the System of the Empire, and for the real Assistance to be given to the respective Kings and Electors, who are united with us for the Preservation and Welfare of the Empire. We should have been glad to have employed our own Imperial Troops for the speedy Deliverance and Defence of the aforesaid Countries of Juliers, Bergue, and Cleves against the Danger of an hostile Devastation, with which they are threatened: But as that is impossible (as it is easy to judge) as well upon Account of the Distance of those Troops, as because they are very necessary for the Defence of our Electoral and Hereditary Countries: The most Christian King, in Consideration of these Circumstances, has been prevailed upon to grant us again a Corps of Auxiliary Troops, and to order them to march for the Defence of the Countries before-mentioned. A Resolution for which we, and the High Electors and Princes in Union with us, shall ever retain a particular Gratitude. For these Reasons we graciously require your Dilection, in an affectionate and brotherly Manner, to grant these Auxiliary French Troops, which are advancing by Land and Water, not only a free Passage, conformably to the Constitutions of the Empire, but also to dispatch as soon as possible the Orders for furnishing them with the Provisions and other Things necessary for their Subsistence.

We shall acknowledge this as a fresh Mark of the brotherly Sentiments and Regard, worthy a State of the Empire, with which your Dilection is animated with respect to us, and shall always remember this Complaisance on your Part. As to the rest, We are, &c. &c.

*Translation of a Letter from his Serene Electoral Highness of Cologne, to his Imperial Majesty, dated from Bonne, Dec. 23, N. S. 1744.*

A Little before your Imperial Majesty's Requisition Letter, dated the 24th of October last, which was presented to me last Night by your Minister, came to my Hands, I had received the annexed Requisition from Marshal Maillebois. Your Imperial Majesty has been pleased to demand a bare Passage, whereas the said Marshal insists upon Permission for the Troops under his Command to make such Stay in the Country as they shall have Occasion for. As I have before my Eyes the sad Example of what is passing in the Territories of his Dilection the Elector of Mentz, although that Prince has had Recourse to your Imperial Majesty, and to your High Quality of Emperor, and instantly implored the Succour and Assistance, which by Vir ue of the Capitulation sworn to by you Imperial Majesty, there was all the Reason in the World to expect from you, against the Oppressions of the Neutral States of the Empire, exercised by a Foreign Power, even in the Name of your Imperial Majesty: This Exam-

ple has determin'd me to make and put in Execution the Dispositions that are conformable to the Constitutions of the Empire, in order to keep off the Invasion with which I am openly threatened, and to satisfy the Obligation I am under to provide for the Defence of my Country and of my Subjects. Your Imperial Majesty, according to your known Justice, will vouchsafe to approve the Measures which I have taken, and will not take it ill, that for the pressing Motives above set forth, I have not been able to grant either a Passage or Leave to halt to the Troops of the King of France, especially since in permitting the first, it would be impossible to hinder the latter. I have requainted Marshal Maillebois with this Resolution in my Answer, a Copy of which I have the Honour to annex to this; as to the rest, recommending myself, &c.

*Translation of a Copy of Marshal Maillebois's Letter to the Elector of Cologne, December 18, N. S. 1744.*

My Lord,

THE King has sufficiently made known his Intentions and his Cares for the Re-establishment of Peace, in the Declaration which his Majesty made to the General Diet of the Empire upon the 2d of May last. Your Electoral Highness will have been able to convince yourself of the Necessity the King found himself under of repelling Force by Force, and no longer delaying to declare War against the Queen of Hungary, and the King of England Elector of Hanover. All that has since passed, has only served to multiply the Reasons and Motives which his Majesty has to pursue his Enemies, and those of the Emperor, to support his Rights, and those of the Empire, and to obtain a just Satisfaction for so many Injuries accumulated one upon another, and for the Violences which the Austrians, depending upon Alliances fatal to the Repose of Germany, do not cease exercising upon those Princes who are zealous to perform the Duties and the Obligations which unite them so closely to their Head.

His Majesty therefore hopes, that your Electoral Highness, and the laudable Circle, will voluntarily second, in every Thing which depends upon them, a Defence so just and so necessary as this, which he cannot avoid undertaking in Consideration of what he owes to himself, and what he owes to the Emperor, the Empire, and his Allies. His Majesty therefore expects, that your Electoral Highness will dispose the States which are entrusted to your Direction, to grant, by fair Means, to the King's Army, the same Facilities and Succours which have been granted to the Austrian Troops, and to the Allies of the Queen of Hungary, and that in Consequence thereof, not only the free Passage shall be granted, which I require by Virtue of the Command in Chief

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