

Magnificence and Politeness. His Palace was finely illuminated, Concerts of Musick in several Rooms, and the Company entertained with Chocolate, Iced Waters, &c. &c. for two Days, during which Time the Palace was croud- ed with Masks. His Liveries and Equipages were numerous and splendid.

*The Earl of Holderness's Speech to the College, at his publick Audience the 21st of February, 1744-5.*

Most Serene Prince,

Most Illustrious and Excellent Lords,

I Have His Majesty's express Commands to give your Serenity and Excellencies, in this publick Manner, the strongest Assurances of his Friendship, and that He will, upon all Occasions, be ready to demonstrate the great Regard and Consideration He has for this Republick, and to do whatever may tend to the maintaining and improving a strict Harmony between Himself and this State, and a good Correspondence between the respective Subjects of both Nations.

I am persuaded, your Serenity and Excellencies will set the true Value upon the Friendship of a great King, ruling over the Hearts of a flourishing free People; a faithful Defender of his distressed Allies, a zealous Supporter of the Balance and Liberties of Europe.

The Wisdom, Conduct, and great Actions of this State, raise in me the highest Veneration and Respect towards it; and sure I am, that whenever this Republick shall think proper to exert itself, none of the great Qualities of her renowned Ancestors are wanting to equal or even out-do the greatest of her Predecessors, her Friendship will always be courted, her Displeasure will always be feared.

For my own Particular, I shall ever look upon it as the greatest Mark of my Royal Master's Goodness towards me, that he has entrusted me with this Declaration of his Sentiments, and I shall constantly make it my Study to promote the best Understanding, and to contribute all that in me lies to the Prosperity and Welfare of this powerful State.

*Naples, March 9.* The Clergy in this Kingdom, and especially the Orders of Fryars, are extremely uneasy at the Opinion which prevails in this City, that the King, in the present Situation of Affairs, proposes to make use of the Plate and rich Furniture of the Churches and Convents to support the great Expences which the Maintenance of his Troops abroad occasions to him at present. The King, by Advice of the Spanish and French Courts, is not to stir this Summer from Naples. M. de la Vieu Ville is charg-

ed, it is said, with the Command of the Neapolitan Troops at the opening of the Campaign. The Train of 40 large Cannon and 20 Mortars, which the King furnishes to the Spanish Army, is getting ready with great Diligence, and several Transports have already been hired for transporting it to Ancona.

*Rome, March 13.* The latest Advices from Spoleti bring the melancholy Accounts, that that City had been terrified for many Hours with dreadful Shocks of an Earthquake, by which many Steeples were thrown down, and the Buildings and Houses in general had received great Damage. On the 7th the Cardinals Oddi and Lanti had their first private Audience of the Pope, when they both were presented with the Cardinal's Cap; and on the 10th they received, with the usual publick Formality, the Hat.

*Florence, March 16.* M. de Gages has moved his Head Quarters from Viterbo to Foligno, between which Place and Perugia all his Troops are situated at present. The Artillery, consisting of 18 large Pieces of Cannon, and 23 small, are on the Road thither. The Neapolitan Troops are likewise in March to join the Spaniards, which it was supposed they would do by the 20th Instant; and that then the whole Army would move. It is still publickly said in the Spanish Camp, that they are to march directly towards Prince Lobcowitz's Army. The Spanish Troops desert very considerably, but there are so many People employed all over the Papal State to seize them, that it is with great Difficulty any escape. They publickly raise Recruits in Rome, and in the Neighbourhood. The Pope having made a second Diminution of his Troops, most of them, as the others were some Months ago, have been engaged in the Spanish Service, and no Body doubts but that this has been done by the Connivance of the Pope's Ministers. Prince Lobcowitz is assembling his Troops together, in order to have them ready at hand on any Occasions. Recruits from Germany and Lombardy daily reinforce his Army: But General Bathiani is said to be on his Journey to Italy, to succeed him in the Command, and that the Prince is to repair to his Government of Milan. Regimentals and Arms are sending from this City to the different Towns and Villages of Tuscany, to cloath and put in Order the Militia; and the necessary Provisions and Forage are sending to St. Piero, a Sieve in the Mugello, for the Subsistence of the Tuscan Troops there. In Consequence of these Dispositions, and the extraordinary Expence attending the same, on the 11th Instant an Imposition of 6 per Cent. was fixed by the Regency on the Revenues of the Tuscan Subjects. On the 25th past M. de Braitwitz returned hither from Leghorn, after he had reviewed the Fortifications, and ordered that Place to be provided with all Necessaries. This General having asked his Dis-

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