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Vienna, Dec. 27.

THe 21 instant eyed here the young Arch-Duchefs, to the great affliction of their Imperial Majesties, Monsieur *Souches* is arrived here, and has had Audience of the Emperor, but we are not as yet told, how he was received. The Count *Oxenstern*, the Swedish Ambassador, hath declared, he has received Orders to continue here all this Winter, and begins to promise himself a good issue of his Negotiation, for the promoting a general Peace; and we are told, that his Imperial Majesty has accepted the Mediation of the Crown of *Sweden*, provided, his Majesty do not engage himself against any of the Emperors Allies; and particularly, the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, who, it is said, has lately written to his Imperial Majesty, giving him an account of the apprehensions he seems justly to have of the designs of the Swedes against him.

Stralsund, Dec. 28. Three or four days since the Swedish Troops began to march to *Paswald*; where is appointed to be held the general Rendezvous; Yesterday and this day the Artillery, consisting in 38 pieces of Cannon, marched from hence thither; and yesterday General *Wrangel*, together with Monsieur *de Vitry* the French Envoye, parted likewise from hence towards the said place of Rendezvous; so that now we may suddenly expect to hear of some action in these parts.

Schlestadt, Dec. 28. The Lunenburgh Troops that had their Quarters here, are marched out to join with the rest of the Confederates, who will endeavour to keep all relief from coming to *Brisac*. The Duke of *Zell* is in person with his Troops, and some persons which came hither yesterday from his Camp, seem to assure us, that in a day or two we shall hear of a Batrel.

Strasbourg, Dec. 28. The Confederate Troops are now drawn together again out of their several Quarters, and make up together an Army of about 24000 Men; they march towards *Bisfort*, to oppose Monsieur *de Turenne*, who comes that way with a great force, to bring relief to *Brisac*; Major-General *Schutz* commands in chief the Troops that invest that place; it is said, that he hath given the Elector of *Brandenburgh* an account, that a Woman had been taken by his Soldiers, as she was endeavouring to get into the Town, being charged with Letters from Monsieur *de Turenne*, to the Governour, and that in those Letters Monsieur *de Turenne* assures him, that he would come and relieve him, whatever it cost him; In the mean time Monsieur *Schutz* is making great preparation of all things necessary for the assaulting the place, he has already planted two pieces of Canon, and 20 Pieces more which were left here by the *Lunenburghs*, are to be removed thither, to be employed against the Town; on the other hand, the French within the place are not at all sparing of their Powder, but fire continually, where they perceive the Enemy makes any approach, though hitherto without any great success. On Friday last the Governour sent out of the Town, all the Women,

Children, and other unnecessary persons, who reported, that they within are in great want of Provisions; and that if they are not suddenly relieved, they will be forced to surrender. We have just now advice by an Express from the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, that Monsieur *de Turenne* having drawn all the Forces he could together, was advanced with an Army of 25, or 26000 Men, as far as *Besfort*, and that the Confederate Forces were likewise not far from thence, so that it was impossible, but there must be a Battle in a day or two between them.

Francfort, Dec. 30. The Elector of *Mayence* is at present very much indisposed, insomuch, that an eminent Physician, that lives here, was some days since sent for in great diligence, and he still continues at *Mayence*, which makes it thought, his Electoral Highness is not yet out of danger. Notwithstanding all the earnestness of the Elector Palatine, to dispose the Marquis of *Baden*, to go about the blocking up of *Philipsburg* with the Troops of the Empire commanded by him, that Matter meets still with many difficulties, and nothing is yet taken in hand which looks towards it.

Liege, Jan. 1. Three days since we had advice, that 3 or 4000 French, both Horse and Foot, were marched out from *Maestricht*, having with them three pieces of Cannon, the Imperialists immediately apprehended that their designe was to attack *Huy*, which place is none of the strongest; but it seems they marched to *Tongres*, and there continued one night, since which we have not any account of them. The Imperialists exact great Contributions of this Diocess, notwithstanding it hath already so greatly suffered, during this War.

Colmar, Jan. 1. The French Army, under the Command of Monsieur *de Turenne*, advances still this way; and the Confederates are in a Body to oppose him; and besides, have so well beset all the Passages, that we here persuade our selves, Monsieur *de Turenne* will not be able to effect his designe of relieving *Brisack*, and consequently, that that place will suddenly fall into the Confederates hands. The Elector of *Brandenburgh* parted from hence some days since, and is at present in the Field at the head of his Forces. This morning we receive advice, that on the 29th past, Monsieur *de Turenne* Commanded out a Body of Horse, some say, composed of 8000, others onely of 4000, under the Command of Monsieur *Montal*, who fell upon certain Imperial and Munster Troops that guarded a Passage near *Than*; that the skirmish lasted several hours, and was obstinately maintained by both Parties; but that at last the French, as is reported here, were forced to give ground, 6 or 700 of them having been killed upon the place, and Monsieur *Montal* himself killed, or taken prisoner; but this account being as yet reported at random, we deferre giving any absolute credit to it, till we have it from some of the Generals, or other persons of quality amongst the Confederates.

Cologne, Jan. 4. The Imperialists in these parts demand every where such great Contributions, that it seems impossible for the Countreys to raise them which makes many of the poor Inhabitants quit their Houses,