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Palermo, Feb. 18.

WE have Letters from *Messina* of the 13 instant, which give us an account of the Duke de *Vivonne's* arrival there with the Ships under his Command, having forced his passage through the Spanish Fleet, the Generals of which, upon advice of his approach, caused the whole Fleet, which lay all along the coast of *Calabria*, to weigh Anchor, and with a gentle Southerly wind, sailed towards the French, with whom they came up about a League from the *Fare's* Mouth, they had a very sharp dispute, which lasted several hours; but the Chevalier de *Valbelle* putting himself, upon the first news, under sail, with his Squadron of 6 Men of War, and 5 Fireships from *Messina*, fell upon the back of the Spaniards, who being very much torn and shattered in their Rigging, were forced to retire towards *Naples*, leaving to the French, a free entrance into *Messina*, who after their Conjunction with Monsieur de *Valbelle*, had 16 or 17 stout Men of War, beside Fireships and Victualers; the latter have supplied the *Messineses* with great quantities of Provisions, of which they were before in so great want, that they had been forced to feed on Horses, Mules, Cats and Dogs, and which is more, upon Hides, even after they had laid a considerable time in the Tan Fat, which were accommodated and distributed to the poorer sort gratis, at an ounce and halfe a Head per day. That the 9 instant the Gunner of the Castle, called *Castelazzo*, being corrupted by the Spaniards, gave entrance to 30 into the Castle, and 1000 more were come hard by to secure the designe, but the French having got knowledge of it, prevented the execution, and caused the Gunner to be hanged, which hath occasioned the removal of the *Messineses* out of all the Castles and Forts of the City, and the Garrisoning them wholly with French. On the other hand the Spaniards tell us, that they are preparing with a great Army to besiege the place, and that in a month or 6 weeks, they shall be in a posture to set down before it.

Marseilles, March 5 Here is arrived a Vessel from *Messina*, and among other Letters, we receive one from an Officer on board the French Fleet, dated the 13 of Feb. the Contents of which follows; The 11 instant being within sight of the *Fare*, we discovered 20 Spanish men of War, and 16 Gallies, making towards us with a fair wind, with thoughts of utterly destroying us; but Monsieur de *Vivonne* soon ranged his small Fleet in order, dividing it into three Squadrons, each composed of three Men of War: The Spanish Admiral fell upon us with great fury, not doubting but to put us into confusion, which he found was not in his power to do, all our Ships behaving themselves very bravely; the Fight began about 8 in the morning, and continued till almost an hour after Sun set; at Noon the Chevalier de *Valbelle* came in with 5 Men of War to our assistance, from *Messina*, and about 3 a clock we got the weather-gage of the Spaniards, who after that

gave ground, and retired towards *Naples*; we pursued them fighting till the night separated us, and Monsieur de *Vivonne* being informed, that the *Messineses* had been already several days without Bread, left off the pursuit, and made haste to relieve them. Our arrival at *Messina* could not be but extream welcome to the People, who had been reduced to feed upon Mules Flesh and Hides, and even that was become so scarce, that only two Ounces was allowed a man a day. The number of our slain is not considerable. Monsieur de *Vivonne* received three bruises, though without any danger; and we have taken one of the Enemies Ships mounted with 44 Guns, of which our General has made Monsieur *Palle*, Captain.

Ratisbonne, February 18. The Swedish Minister who resides here on account of the Countreys which that Crown possesses in the Empire, hath presented a Letter to the Dyet from the King his Master, containing the reasons that have moved his Majesty to act against the Elector of *Brandenburg* as he has done, and a request of his Majesty, that they will believe, his only aim in it, is to procure the quiet of the Empire, and maintain the Peace of *Westphalia*. The Count de *Solme* is arrived here, and to morrow he will before the Diet take the Oath of Fidelity, as General of Battalia of the Army of the Empire. The Elector Palatine by his Minister here, presses that speedy care may be taken to secure his Territories against the invasions of the French, to which they are so greatly exposed, and will be more, when Monsieur de *Turenne* takes the Field again.

Strasbourg, March 2. The French we hear are about quitting *Dachstein*, and *Haburg*, after having demolished them. Monsieur de *Turenne* is now very suddenly expected again in these parts in order to the beginning of the Campagne, which it is not doubted but he will do much sooner then the Confederates; several thousand Men, are, its said, on their march from the *Franche Comte*, towards *Befort*, being designed to reinforce Monsieur de *Turenne's* Army. Our Letters arrived yesterday from *Basel*, speak as if that Canton had taken it ill, that the Marquis de *Faubrun* had lodged some Troops within its Territory, and demanded Contributions, because they had been paid the Imperialists.

Hanover, March 3. Our Duke is gone from hence to *Zell*. where will be held a Conference between the three Brothers, the Dukes of *Lunenbourg Zell*, *Hanover*, and *Osnabrug*, at which will assist, the Imperial and Dutch Ministers. It is said, that towards the latter end of this month the Duke of *Zell* will return to his Army, which is quartered in *Suabia*.

Hamburg, March 5. The Swedes continue still their Quarters in the *Binder Pomeran*, and some of their Troops are drawn so near to the frontiers of *Poland* and *Silesia*, that they are only two miles from them. Passengers come from those parts assure us, that they live with the greatest Order and Discipline possible, and that the Countrey people receive not in the least any ill Treatment of them.

Cologne

Cologne, March 8. The Prince of *Lorrain* and the Marquis de *Grana*, who, we said in our last, were gone towards *Liege*, are returned to *Bon* again, having only been at a place called *Monvau* in the *Eyffel*, to confer with the Count of *Charaignac*, who repaired to that purpose there from *Huy*. On Tuesday last the Count of *Rabat* decamped from *Berchem*, with several Troops of Horse, and took his march towards the *Meuse*, whither it is thought, they will be followed by other Troops. From *Bransfort* they write, that part of the Elector of *Brandenburghs* Army, is gone to quarter in the Country of *Fuida*; that the French, amongst other Contributions, have demanded 10000 Crowns of the City of *Warms*. Its said the French fortify *Treves* with great diligence.

Brussels, March 12. On Wednesday last the Marschal de *Crequi* marched from *Philipville*, with a Body of 10 or 12000 Men, and several pieces of Cannon, the next day he quartered at *Beaumont*, and on Friday arrived at *Charleroy*, into which place he put 30000 Sacks of Corn, and then retired again with his Troops between the *Sambre* and the *Meuse*; The making so great Provision at *Charleroy*, gives us cause to believe, the Campaign will be opened by the French on that Frontier. What Monsieur de *Crequi* will further attempt, we are yet to learn, but it is generally thought, that he expects the Conjunction of more Troops, which are at present drawing together on the French Frontiers, and that then he will attack the Imperialists, quartered in the Country of *Liege*. The Duke de *Villa Hermosa* our Governor, being alarmed at the early motions of the French, has sent into *Holland* the Marquis of *Westerlo*, to desire a speedy assistance from thence. His Excellency has quitted his intention of raising any new Regiments of Infantry, desiring to consult first, with our new Maitre de Camp General, Don *Feronimo de Quignones*, in the Matter, who is suddenly expected to arrive here from *Spain*; but in the mean time his Excellency has resolved to recruit all the old Regiments of Horse. The French continue to demolish *Maseyck*, in order to the leaving it. The States of *Liege* have prayed the Governor of *Maastricht* to spare the Walls and Gates of that place, and upon his answer, that it depended upon the Orders he received from Court, they have written a Letter to his most Christian Majesty on that subject. Our Letters from *Vienna* assure us, that the Emperor will have 40000 Men effective in the Field this Summer, and that General *Montecuculi* would in few days begin his journey towards the Army, and in his way would call in at the Elector of *Bavaria's* Court.

Hague, March 12. Here is arrived the Marquis of *Westerlo* from *Brussels*, on the part of the Duke de *Villa Hermosa*, to desire that some Regiments of Foot may be immediately sent from hence, to reinforce the Spanish Garrison, which are at present not strong enough to oppose the French, in case they should be attacked by them, which by their early march, they give reason to apprehend, they having already appeared in considerable Bodies, near *Nivelles*, and *Nostre Dame de Han*. The Deputies of the Admiralties are appointed to meet here the 18 instant, to consult with those of the States, about fitting out a Squadron of Men of War, to be employed in the *Baltique* this Summer. Two days since was held a Conference by the Ministers of the several Allies, at which, the Ambassador of *Denmark* was likewise present; and amongst other things, it was resolved, that the King of *Denmark* should by his said Ambassador, be summoned to break with the King of *Sweden*, according to the obligation of the Treaty of Alliance between his Majesty and the other Allies, in which case they promise that

the Subsidies stipulated, shall be forthwith paid. Two days since arrived here Monsieur *Bluspyl*, in quality of Envoye from the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, he assures, as we are told, that his Electoral Highness will be suddenly at *Cleves*, in order to the holding there a Conference with the Prince of *Orange*. Here are arrived Deputies from *Boisleduc*, and other Towns within the Dominion of this State in *Brabant*, to desire that they may be received into the Union, as an Eighth Province, which it is thought, the other Provinces will oppose. From *Maastricht* they write, that that Governor has sent 16 Squadrons of Horse, and 2000 Foot to *Maseyck*, for the security of those that are at work there, about the demolishing of that place, and when that is done, that the French will endeavour to remove the Imperialists out of that Country, and to put it in a condition, to maintain the Neutrality for the future. The Sieur de *Ehrenstein*, Ambassador Extraordinary from *Sweden*, hath lately presented a Memorial to the States General, about the continuing his Function of Mediator, as heretofore. This morning the Heer *Van Muhlens* Envoye from the Bishop of *Munster*, had Audience of the Prince of *Orange*, and to morrow will have a Conference with the Deputies of this State.

Paris, March 13. Our advices, not only confirm the arrival of Monsieur de *Vivonne* at *Messina*, but assure us of a great advantage obtained by him, over the Spanish Fleet, which (according to the particulars related, after an Engagement of several hours, and the loss of one of its number, being a Ship mounted with 44 Guns, was forced to retire in the night towards *Naples*. It seems, the relief Monsieur de *Vivonne* brought the *Messineses*, was so seasonable, that without it, they would not have been able to have subsisted many days longer, through want of Victuals. It is added that those Inhabitants have taken an Oath of fidelity to the most Christian King. What is said above, concerning the taking a Spanish Man of War, is by several doubted. On Thursday evening the King removes from *St. Germain*, to *Verailles*, and after having staid there 15 days, his Majesty will begin his journey towards *Flanders*, to put himself at the Head of his Army. Orders have, as we are told, been sent to hasten the Men of War and Gallies that are fitting out at *Marseilles* and *Toulon*, designed for *Messina*, and it is thought they will be ready to sail before the end of this month.

Advertisements.

☞ The accomplish'd Ladies Delight: containing, 1. The Art of Preserving and Candyng Fruits and Flowers, &c. 2. The Physical Cabinet: Or, Excellent Receipts in Physick and Chyrurgery; Together, with some rare beautifying Wares to adorn the Face and Body &c. 3. The Compleat Cooks Guide: Or, Directions for Dressing all sorts of Flesh, Fowl, and Fish, &c. Sold by B Harris at the Stationers Arms in *Swinsins* Rents by the Royal Exchange.

Plate stolen from Sir *Thomas Wolstenholme*, the 6 instant, Two great Flagons, 2 pair of Candlesticks, 3 Tankards, 2 great Cups with Ears, a great Salver, 8 Dishes, 4 dozen and a half of Plates, 6 Porringers, 2 covered Porringers, 2 Chafin-dishes, 4 Sugar-boxes, 1 great Salt, 18 small Salts, 42 Spoons, one great Ladle, 6 Forks, 2 great Basons, 1 small Bason, 1 Tobacco Candlestick, 1 Hand Candlestick, 2 Pepper boxes, 2 Mustard Boxes, 6 Sancers, all of Silver, and marked with one of these Coats of Arms, a Lion Passant Guardant between three broad Arrow Heads, the other a Salter mounted on another, and the other a Cheveron, with an Annulet in the Dexter Corner. 2 pair of Horsemans Pistols, made at *Brescia*. If these, or any of these be offered to be pawn'd, sold, or valued, pray stay them and the Party, and give speedy notice to M. *Scrimshire*, Goldsmith in *Fleetstreet*, and you shall have Twenty pounds for your pains.

Lost or strayed out of *Comb Park* near *Kington* upon *Thames*, the 1 of this instant *March*, one dark Iron Gray Gelding, with strong Limbs, short Neck, and small Eyes, about 15 hands high, all his paces. One light Iron Gray Gelding, with good and strong Limbs, a little hog-backed, with Saddle spots, his Head ill set on, has all his paces, is 15 hands high. One Light Gray Gelding, goes very narrow behind, full 15 hands high, has all his paces very well. If any one has taken them up, or can give notice of them to Mr. Edward King of *Comb* aforesaid, or to Mr. Henry Baker, at his House in *Leech Fields*, *London*, he shall have 15 l. for his reward, and so proportionably for any one of them,