

# The London Gazette.

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Palermo, Feb. 18.

**W**E 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