

convey home the Merchant Ships, which, with two Men of War, are there lading; upon which information they consulted, whether the putting together all the ships that are ready in the *Texel*, might not be a proper way to hinder their return; but finding after all, that onely eight ships of War of their Colledge can be yet brought to Sea; or possibly twelve, if four of their ships, of the Winter Fleet, can be timely remanded; they despair of effecting their design, unless the Ships in the *Mæs* and *Weilengen* could forthwith be brought together into a Body, which is scarce possible, though the matter is yet in deliberation.

In the mean time they are labouring to take away the discontent of the Commonalty, who do not a little murmur that such considerable fleets should be daily upon their Coasts, even after their Winter Fleet was at Sea, yet no attempts made upon them; all this while wanting money, and means to furnish out their Fleet to action, which that service requires, and the season of the year so far advancing seems to call for: To this purpose, the States have required their Deputies for Maritime affaires to consult with the Colledge of the Admiralty, and to make reports accordingly; and the Admiralty of *Rotterdam* and *Zealand*, are to be written to, that without any loss of time, they send Deputies with full Instruction and Power, to consult upon this subject.

The Duke of *Lunenburg* hath wrote to the States, declaring that the League intends to bring out all that Army into action towards the beginning of the next month, desiring the States to joyn 4000 foot, and 2000 horse with them.

*Mague*, March 19. We are frequent here in Consultation with the Sea Commanders, about our preparations for the Spring. In order to which, the Principal Officers have been in the first place put to take an Oath for the observation of that Rule and Form, that the Fleet shall by Order of the States be now put into.

The Sieur *Beverning* intends to part for *Cleve* in two days, where his business is as well to eye the Electors motion in this Overture of Accommodation with the Bishop, as to clear and conclude with him those other points yet remaining undetermined: between him and us; of which, we hope a good issue, though they are such as want not great difficulties, however we take them.

The Bishops forces are not yet warned at the late disgraces they suffered from ours on *Brabant* side. They have now freshly fallen into a small Village of ours, where finding the Sieur *Overbeck*, they spoiled and pillaged him to a considerable loss; however the States have ordered the Village to repair him, for not having rung the Bells; or by some other means, called out for more help.

*Beverning* hath received from the Council of State his Instructions for the Accommodation with *Munster*, which are no other then the terms heretofore declared to the Sieur *Friquet*; where he in the Emperors name made the like overture of Mediation, onely we our selves are not agreed upon the main. Some would eye the Bishop, out of hand, to quit our places; others think it an unreasonable demand, and would be glad it might be onely upon the Ratification of the Treaty aimed at.

The Dispute continues between the States of *Holland*, and the Town of *Harlem*, for the arrears of its contribution upon the 200 penny, which is a considerable sum; and its believed, we must be forced to send a Deputation of the Nobles, and of five Towns, to incline them to a compliance, if yet that be sufficient to do it.

And after this example, other Members of *Holland* withhold their Quota's to several publick Taxes, to those of *Brandenburg*, *Denmark*, and the present Equipage for Sea. The second we had hoped to have satisfied out of what is due to us from *France*; but we are plainly told there, they cannot at present finde the sum, and so the necessities of the *Dane*, which are very craving, return upon us again.

The Sieur *Bosman* hath had Audience here, to which he was conducted by the Agent *de Heyde*. His discourse was soft and gentle, pleading from the Innocence of a Neutrality; he touched a little upon his Masters Pretention of *Rbineberg*, and what endeavors he had used for a good Accommodation of this war which he still advised as the safest for our interests. All

which is referred to a Committee, who are to treat with him.

They persist here to press the Marquess *Castel Rodrigo* to declare in Writing upon the late complaints from hence, or otherwise, that they must take further resolutions here.

This morning the two *East-India* ships belonging to this City, came into this place.

*Zurich*, Feb. 28. The King sent formerly for the levying of several Regiments amongst the *Switzers*, but has failed of his expectation, the *Cantons* returning, that they expected first of all, the payment of all Arrears due to them; and that according to the Alliance formerly made with them, they should have the choice of Officers, and the King to pay them; when those things were observed, they would not fail in the performance of their promises to him.

The States of *Holland* having made them the same demand, viz. for the raising a Regiment of 3000 *Swisses*, received a downright refusal, in their Conference with the four *Cantons* of the Religion at *Arauw*.

The Elector of *Heidleburg* has been more kindly treated by the *Cantons* of *Zurich*, who have promised him what assistance they are able to give him, against the Bishop of *Mayence*, in case that quartel continue.

*Paris*, March 14. The King hath prohibited all persons upon pain of death without mercy, to speak any thing, or to discourse any wayes either of Peace, or Warr with *England*.

The Taxes in this Kingdome are very high and excessive, inso much that several Persons, Merchants and others, are come out of their Provinces, to Petition for an exemption, they having no rule in imposing, but use several pretexs to load them, according as the Officers see occasion: but though the Complaints be just and importunate, they have not yet thought themselves paid for their Voyage.

*Downs*: From aboard the *Fairfax*, March 16. On Saturday February 24. Sir *Christopher Minnes* came to an Anchor at the mouth of the *Elve*, intending in three or four days to have returned with his charge; but contrary winds forced him to a fortnights stay. After which, he set sail with several Ships well fraught with Naval Provisions, and is now in the *Downs*, having convoyed the Merchants safe to their Port. During his stay at *Cooks-Haven* in the *Elve*, he was complemented in the name of the Senate of *Hamburg*, by their Governor of *Rixbytle*, who at the same time made him a present of Wines.

On Monday the fifth instant, General *Wrangle* having notice of his stay, came from *Stoadt* thirty miles distant, to give him a visit; which Sir *Christopher* received as became him, entertained him and his company at an elegant dinner on board. The General was much taken, as well with the sight of his Ships, as the civility of his Treat, expressing great devotion to His Majesty, and a particular inclination and esteem for the English Nation. After which, taking his leave, being saluted by the whole Fleet, as an extraordinary respect to His Majesties Flag, he came with his Yacht under the Stern of the *Fairfax*, and fired four Guns; which Sir *Christopher* returned with twenty one from his own Ship, this being accompanied with a general shout and acclamation of the Seamen of the whole Fleet; which as it sent away the General infinitely satisfied, so there have not wanted on shore several reflections upon this complement of the Swedish General.

*Falmouth*, March 11. The 9 Instant arrived at *Mount-Bay*, the *Dolphin* of *London*, of 70 Tuns, laden with Tobacco, Sugars, and Indigo, Captain *Stamford* Commander, bound for this Harbor or *Plymouth*, by a stiff Easterly Wind forced in there. They came from *St. Christophers* the beginning of *January* last, and report that Island to be in a very good condition and posture. They have lately taken three Islands from the *Dutch*, viz. *Estacia*, *Sabia*, and *S. Martins*, being very ready and forward to action, and able to make 10000 Men, besides what the other Islands can help them with. The Privateers there are grown rich. As yet there have appeared no *Dutch* Capers upon those Coasts. This Vessel saw two Fleets by the way, but could not discover what they were.

The tenth here arrived a Prize with Wine and Salt, sent in by the *Elizabeth*.