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Naples, Jan. 28.

WE are here not a little concerned to find the news we had of a Victory obtained by Lieutenant Admiral de Ruyter, over the French Fleet, so much changed, for the advices we now receive from *Sicily* not onely inform us that the French were arrived at *Messina*, and had relieved that City, which before was very much straitned through the want of Provisions, but that the Heer de Ruyter, declaring that the six Months during which he was according to the Agreement made between the King of *Spain* and the States General his Masters, to assist the Spaniards in order to the reducing of *Messina*, were expired, was returning home with his Squadron, not altogether satisfied with the Conduct of matters. Our Viceroy the Marquis de los Velez, having an account hereof immediately, sent for the Dutch Consul that is here, and desired him to go off in a Felucca if possible to meet with de Ruyter, and to advise him that orders were come from *Holland*, commanding his continuing some time longer in these parts; as yet the Consul is not returned, and it is much feared he hath not been able to overtake the Lieutenant Admiral, and therefore Messengers have been sent both by Sea and Land to *Leghorne* on the same Brand.

Dino, Febr. 4. Since our last, we arrived here three Spanish Men of War, from *Melazzo* to Carcen, they confirm what we formerly wrote concerning the Fight, and add, That the reason that the French took their course round the Island of *Sicily*, was, that the Wind would not permit them to enter the Fare on this side. This morning arrived four Gallies from *Melazzo*, who give us an account, that the French Fleet is returned homwards again, having left 10 or twelve Men of War at *Messina*. Several Troops of Horse have been lately raised by our Viceroy, and will be transported to *Melazzo* very suddenly.

Florence, Febr. 3. We have seen so many different Relations of the success of the late Engagement between the French and the Dutch Fleets on the 28th past, near the Fare of *Messina*, that we have hardly known what to credit; This is certain, that for several hours the Fight was pretty sharp, and that both sides sustained much damage in their Masts, Sayles, and Rigging, but we do not hear of any great number of Men slain, they having contented themselves to fight at a pretty distance. The Dutch add, that they sunk two Men of War, and 2 Fireships of the Enemies, and that they themselves lost one Man of War but the first the French do not own. Thus we were taken up with giving the one or the other side the Victory, when our Letters from *Rome* and *Naples* informed us, that the French were entred into *Messina*, having, as is said, the third day after the fight, got clear of the Dutch, and taken their course round the Island of *Sicily*, and so entred *Messina*, on the other side of the Fare, to the great trouble of the Spaniards; That thereupon, Lieutenant Admiral de Ruyter (the term appointed for his stay in those parts being expired) had taken his leave of the Prince of *Montefarchio*, who joined him the day after the Fight

with 8 Men of War, in order to his return home. And yesterday arrived at *Leghorne* five Dutch Men of War, sent in by Lieutenant Admiral de Ruyter, to fetch out what Dutch ships should happen to be in that Port, that so they might return home together, but they found orders there from the States to their Admiral for his continuing some time longer in these parts.

Pisa, Febr. 10. The Master of an English Ketch lately arrived at *Leghorne* from *Malta* reports, that he had met with Lieutenant Admiral de Ruyter near *Monte Christo*, with 25 sail under his command, returning towards *Sicily*, according to the new orders he had received from *Holland*. The Master adds, that Sir John Narborough was departed for *Tripoli*, with the Squadron under his command.

Warsaw, Febr. 7. We cannot at present give an account of all the particulars of the solemnity of the Interment of the late Kings *Casimire* and *Michael*, and the Coronation of their present Majesties at *Cracow* the week past, but must onely tell you in general, that it was performed with great Pomp and Magnificence, and with an extraordinary concourse of Nobility.

Madrid, Febr. 12. From *Cadix* we are told, that an Advice-boat was arrived there in 61 days from the *Havana*; at his departure from thence, they had not any news of the Galeons, so that they are not now expected till the next Month. We are now certainly informed, that the Spanish ships lost some time since in the Fare of *Messina* by bad weather, were the *Almirante of Flanders*, *la Almudena*, *St. Francisco*, and the *Conception of Naples*, all ships of good Force, and two Fireships, but that in all there were not above 200 Men drowned. The Marquis d' *Astorgas*, late Viceroy of *Naples*, is arrived at *Barcelona*, and is suddenly expected at Court.

Vienna, Febr. 9. The Count de la *Tour* is parted hence for *Venice*, where he is to reside Ambassador from this Court. The Elector of *Bavaria* has sent hither the Count of *Lewenstein*, to complain of the Imperialists having taken their quarters in some of his Territories, appertaining to the Circle of *Suabia*. The Empress it is said begins to recover, to the great joy of this Court: General *Montecuculi* will certainly part hence to the Army towards the latter end of this Month, from *Cracow* we have advice of the second instant, that the Coronation of their Majesties of *Poland* had been performed there the 2d instant, with great solemnity. The Turks of *Newhauset*, to the number of 300 were lately as far as *Scheda*, with design to have demolished a certain Fort lately built by the Imperialists, who received them so well, that they were forced to retire without effecting their purpose.

Cofogne, Febr. 21. We have little to write from hence at present, on all sides Parties are preparing for the Campaign with so much earnestness, that it plainly appears they have as yet no disposition to a Peace. The Duke of *Newburg* continues his Levies, with good success. The Garrisons of *Philipsburgh* and *Brisac* set all the neighbouring Countreys under Contribution and