

of *Maestricht*. Yesterday he encamped at a Village called *Scarbecke*, about half a League from hence, and this morning has passed the Canal, and continues his march towards *Opent*, where the Duke de *Villa Hermosa* has been encamped two or three days in expectation of him, that so they might march with their joint Forces to the relief of *Aire*; but we very much fear the place will be taken before his Excellency can arrive there, the French having already possessed themselves of the Fort *St Francis*: it seems the Commander in chief in the said Fort, having withstood two Attacks of the Besiegers, and finding he had not men enough to defend it much longer, abandoned it in the night, and retired into the Town. The Siege of *Maestricht*, according to our advices from thence of the 26 instant, was so well advanced, that the Besiegers had hopes to be Masters of it in 8 or 10 days.

*Ditto*, July 31. We have Letters from *Naples* of the 7th instant, which confirm the ill News we had by the preceding Post, of the Revolt of *Palermo*, yet so, as that the *Spaniards* continue to keep the Castles. The Inhabitants, it is said, had planted several pieces of Cannon, and would not permit the *Dutch* or *Spaniards* to come ashore from their ships. The Letters add, That the French of *Messina* had made an attempt upon the Fort *Scaletta*, but that they had been repulsed with the loss of 200 men killed and taken Prisoners. This evening we receive Letters from *Ghent*, which say, That on the 29, the Duke de *Villa Hermosa* removed from *Marackirke* to *Neuvelnear Deynse* on the River *Lie*, where he expected the Count of *Waldeck*, who was to pass the *Schelde* yesterday at a place called *Gaure*. From the Camp before *Maestricht*, we are told, that they continue to batter the Town very furiously; That the Trenches advance very well; That the 29, at night, Monsieur de *Louvigny* had taken by Assault one of the Redoubts which covers the Counterscarp; and that this night the Prince intended to make a general Assault upon the Outworks. It is said that his Highness had intercepted a Letter from the Governor of *Maestricht*, wherein he presses for speedy relief.

*Bruges*, July 29. Yesterday morning the Regiment of Foot that was in Garrison here, marched out towards *Ipres*, leaving the guard of this place to the Burghers. Yesterday in the evening arrived here two Regiments, and this night we expect two *Dutch* Regiments from *Sluys*, who are all to march to *Ipres*, to expect the Duke de *Villa Hermosa* there in his march to the relief of *Aire*; his Excellency has been encamped these two days at *Marickirke* on this side *Ghent*, in expectation of Count *Waldeck* with the *Dutch* Troops. Just now we have a report, that his Excellency decamped this morning, and is marching towards *Thiel* in the way to *Ipres*. Since the Siege of *Aire*, 180 Musketeers got into the place from *St Omer*; so more attempted to do the like, but could not effect it. The French, we hear, have taken the Fort *St Francis*, that is, the *Spaniards* quit it, and retired into the Town, not being strong enough to defend it.

*Ditto*, August 1. The Duke de *Villa Hermosa* is at present encamped at *Neuvel*, three Leagues from *Ghent*; and yesterday Count *Waldeck* passed the *Schelde* near *Gaure*, and encamped last night between the *Schelde* and the *Lie*. We do not know what resolution they will now take, seeing they cannot hope to take *Aire*, we having advice that the French had already taken the Counterscarp, and the other Outworks, expecting every hour to hear that the place is surrendered. The Regiments that marched from hence to *Ipres*, will, it is thought, be countermanded.

*Haague*, July 31. The Equipage for the *Medistrombean*, is, it is said, finally resolved, and the Captains ad-

med for the Men of War, which will be fitted out with all possible diligence. Our last advices from the Camp before *Maestricht*, are of the 29 past; They say, that the Siege advanced very well; That the Cannon of the Besiegers, had dismounted almost all the Cannon in the Town, and had made great breaches in two or three Bastions; That that night, viz. of the 29, an Attack was intended on a Ravelin, and that in a day or two a general Assault would be made upon the Counterscarp; That the 26, a great Fire was seen in the Town, and lasted two hours, burning, as is believed, some Magazine of Corn or Hay; whether the Fire was accidental, or occasioned by a shot, we know not. The 27 at night, the Besieged made a sally, but were repulsed with considerable loss; the Besiegers continue to batter the place without the least intermission. The *States Gene* have written a Letter to the Prince of *Orange*, to this effect; That they were very much troubled at the wound his Highness had received; but more, to perceive that his Highness exposed his illustrious Person every hour to such imminent danger, and prayed him to be more sparing of himself for the future, considering his Person was of such importance to the State, that, next to the mercy and assistance of God, it was altogether necessary to its preservation and happiness. Here is a report in Town, as it *saie* was to have been delivered up as this day, to the Duke of *Zell*.

*Paris*, August 1. The King has by an Express received advice from his Ambassador at *Rome*, that the Pope dyed the 23 past, at one in the afternoon; upon which, all the Cardinals that are here, are hastening away with all diligence to assist at the new Election. The Letters we have from *Marseilles* of the 26 past, when the Duke of *Luxembourg* was still encamped at *Salix*, having caused a great many Boats and Carpenters to be provided, as if he designed to pass the *Rhine*; The Duke of *Lorraine* had very strongly fortified his Camp so that it would be a difficult matter to attack him. We expect every day to hear that *Aire* is taken.

*Calais*, August 2. Yesterday we had News, that *Aire* was surrendered to *Marchisil d'Humerys* on Friday last; of which you must expect the Particulars in our next.

#### Advertisements.

Two short Discourses against the Romanists. 1. An Account of the Fundamental Principle of Popery, and of the Insufficiency of the Proofs they have for it. 2. An Answer to six Queries proposed by an Embassy of the Church of *Rome*. By H. Dodwell M. A. Sold by Benj. Took at the Ship in *St Pauls Church-yard*.

These are to give Notice, That upon Friday, the 25 of August next, in the Forenoon, my Lord Treasurer will be ready at the Treasury Chambers in *Whitball*, to receive all such Proposals as shall be then tendered for Farming of the whole Excise for Three years, to Commence from the Expiration of the present Farm in being, viz. from *Midsummer 1677*.

*Daniel Pettifer*, about 18 years of age, long-visaged, having a sad-coloured cloth Coat and Breeches, a white Hat, a reddish coloured Perriwig, Run away 5 on Sunday last, from Mrs *Omer Lawrensis* Widow, living in *East-Smithfield*, next door to the *Golden Stile*. Whoever brings the aforesaid person to the said Mrs *Omer Lawrence*, or to Mr *Thos. Wilkin* at the *Golden Ball* in *New-street* in *Cloth fair*, shall be well Rewarded.

Taken out of the Grounds of *Sir Edw. Aubrey of Willesley* in the County of *Derby* Knight, on the 6th instant, A white Mare, and a black Nag 10 years old; 14 Hands high, both Bob-tails and Trotters. The Nag hath two obscure flesh brands on his buttocks. One of the men who is supposed to have stolen them, goes by the name of *Henry Vaughan*, a tall man with a light Peruke, and a gray Stuff Coat lined with Red. Whoever shall apprehend the said *Vaughan*, or bring notice of the said Mare and Nag to *William Chudwell* of *Willesley* aforesaid, or to *Thos. Worsley* in *Lincolns Inn Fields* London, shall have 40 s. Reward.

Taken the 11 instant, from *Simon Rotherham* of *Arleham* near *Northwich* A Bay Mare 15 hands high, with white spots on her back, a creamish bay harness (shoulder straps) and hath been tumbled, trotswell. Whoever gives notice of her to Mr *John* well in *Abchurch-lane*, London, or *Adams* of *Northwich* Rotherham, shall be well rewarded.