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Leghorne, Decemb. 29.

Our Letters from Naples of the 22 inst. tell us, that the factors designed for Sicily are still detained there by bad weather, which may prove very prejudicial to the affairs of Sicily; for we are assured that that Viceroy the Marquis de Castell Rodriges cannot at present draw together above 4 or 5000 men, besides those that must remain in Garrison in the principal places, when on the other side the Duke de Rivonne has an Army, what of French and Messineses, of 15000 men. The French have taken the Town of Spacafoga, with two other places near Melazzo.

Milan, Decemb. 30. Our Governour the Prince of Ligne hath made choice of the Sieur Azele to be Colonel of the Regiment of Foot which is designed for Sicily; as well the said Regiment as the other Troops, that are to be sent thither, will embark very suddenly at Final, in order to their passage to Melazzo, the Government of which place is lately given to Don Louis de Salcedo. We are told that a very considerable Sum of Money will be remitted hither from Spain, to enable our Governour to raise more Troops in this Countrey and the neighbouring parts, for the service of Sicily.

Vienna, Jan. 3. We continue our preparations for the reception of their Imperial Majesties, who are expected here the 14 or 15 of the next month. The 27th past parted hence the Count de Montecuculi, and the Marquis de Grazia on their way to Lintz, according to the orders they had received from thence. It is said that the former will be sent by the Emperor to the Elector of Bavaria, to try once more whether his Electoral Highness can be persuaded to embrace the party of his Imperial Majesty and his Allies. The Sieur Beuilacqua the Popes Nuncio having received his Dispatches from Rome, is preparing for his journey to Nimwegen, or to some place near it, to employ his Offices betwix the Emperor, Spain and France, by whom the Pope is received Mediator for the procuring a Peace. From Hungary they continue to write, that the Rebels give out, that they will take the Field in the Spring with a very considerable Army.

Lintz, Jan. 5. The 3th instant their Imperial Majesties will part hence on their return to Vienna. This day the Deputies of the Elector of Mentz received investiture of the Emperour in the name of that Elector. Prince Adolphus of Deux-pons, Uncle to the King of Sweden, hath not yet been able to obtain Audience of the Emperour.

Hamburg, Jan. 8. This evening we receive Letters from Denmark, which say, that the Swedes, after having burnt the Town of Helsingburg, had by force of Grenadoes and Cannon, obliged the Governour to surrender the Castle, of which we expect to hear farther. From Berlin they write, that the Elector of Brandenburg lies at present veiled of the Govt, but that his Electoral Highness intends, so soon as it has left him, to begin his journey to G. ves, to meet the Prince of Orange there.

Ditto, Jan. 14. In our last we gave you an account that we had received Letters from Denmark, which said that the Swedes were become Masters of the Castle of Helsingburg, since we have not received any advices from those parts, so that we can neither confirm nor discredit that news. The King of Denmark, we hear, has given out Commissions for the raising of 2 Regiments of Foot against Spring, and besides is in expectation of being considerably assisted by his Allies; but in the mean time the Danes, as we are informed, are very much concerned that the States General of the United Provinces have not as yet taken any resolution concerning the fitting out a Squadron of Men of War to join with the Danish Fleet this next Summer, and it was reported that the King of Denmark was resolved to send Admiral Tromp for Holland, to press the States in this matter. The Duke of Holstein Gottorp continues still here, his friends complaining extremely of the ill treatment he receives from the King of Denmark.

Hamburg, Jan. 12. We have seen these Letters from some of the principal Swedish Officers in Schonew, which give their following brief Account of the late Battle between them and the Danes, on the 14 of Decemb^r last, as well as of what hath happened since.

That on the 14th past the King of Sweden decamped with his Army about 3 or 4 a clock in the morning, and having passed the River that was between him and the Danes, advanced at the head of his Army, commanded under his Majesty by Velt-Marshal Heimfeldt, and General Aschenberg; That about 8 a clock the Fight began with the Enemies left Wing, which had the Van, and was totally routed, most of the Infantry being cut in pieces, and the Cavalry retiring in so much disorder that they could never be brought to rally again; That the King commanded his Forces in person, with great resolution and conduct, and charged the Enemy 14 or 15 times at the head of his Regiment of Guards, and afterwards went to the assistance of his left Wings, which was very much pressed by the Enemy, and so continued in the action from the beginning to the end thereof; when the Danes, after having sustained a great loss of Men as well as of their Artillery, found themselves obliged to retire with their remaining Troops towards Landskron, and to leave to the Swedes an entire Victory; That the next day the Town of Wied, and several other places submitted themselves to the King of Sweden, and begged his mercy and pardon; as likewise a great many of the principal Families in Schonew have done, while others are retired into Denmark; That some days after this action the Swedes advanced to Helsingburg, and having caused several pieces of Cannon to be brought thither, they began to fire upon the Castle, and so continued several days without intermission, preparing in the mean time several Mines under the Walls of the Castle, which being ready to be sprung, the Governour of the said Castle was sent to, and desired to send some person to take a view of the said Mines, to the end he might by an

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early surrender prevent the destruction of himself and his Garrison; which the Governor having done, and understanding that the said Mines were so placed, that they could not fail of having the intended effect, and that in such case it would be impossible for him to defend the place any longer, he desired to come to a Capitulation, but that being denied him, he surrendered upon discretion. In the Castle was found many pieces of Cannon, with a great quantity of Ammunition and Provisions, and several of the King of Denmark's best Horses; and it is added, that 48 Danish Vessels great and small which lay at *Helsingburg* have been burnt.

Strasbourg, Jan. 8. The French having assembled a Body of Men together in the *Upper Alsace* are now marching this way, having with them a great number of Carriages and Wagons; what their design may be we know not. We have advice, that since the 6th instant the French at *Haguenaw* have been at work to demolish the Fortifications of that City; and at the same time it is reported here that they likewise intend to demolish *Saverne*, which though we should be glad to see, yet we can hardly believe.

Frankfort, Jan. 9. The Duke of *Neubourg* is returned from *Dantz* to his Residence at *Neubourg*, having changed the intention it is said he had of accompanying their Imperial Majesties to *Vienna*, upon the difficulties that it was foreseen would arise in the matter of ceremony between his Highness and the Ambassadors residing at that Court. The discourse is that the said Duke is to have an interview with the Elector of *Bavaria*, and that the Count de *Montecuculi* is to assist at it on the part of the Emperor, in order to the endeavouring to persuade that Elector to quit the Neutrality he at present professes, and to enter into an engagement with his Imperial Majesty. The Imperialists make Levies in all these parts, to recruit their Army against Spring; and it is said that the Emperor means to have two Armies in the Field, the one to be commanded by General *Montecuculi*, and the other by the Duke of *Lorraine*. The French in *Alsace* are drawn into a Body, and seem to have a design at least to pillage some Towns and Villages, which are not under their Contribution.

Brussels, Jan. 11. The French continue to block up *Cambrai*, *Valenciennes*, and the other Garrisons in the Province of *Hainault*, and have forbid the Countrey people to carry any Provisions to any of the said Places, upon pain of death, and confiscation of their Horses, Wagons &c. The Enemy we hear, has drawn a Body of Men together at *Trepsin* and *Kievrain*, which gives us an apprehension that they have a design upon *St Ghislain*, the execution of which will be made much more easy through the Frost, the great strength of that place being the Waters and Marshes that environ it, which are now frozen. Our Governor General will make a step to *Antwerp* the next week, to hasten the payment of the million of Crowns which was remitted hither from *Spain* by the last Ordinary. We are told from *Liege*, that the Dutch Troops of *Hussell*, do miserably harass the Neighbouring Countrey, and exact so great Contributions from the people, that they do not only quit the Villages, but likewise many Towns, and retire to *Liege* and other places. The greatest part of the Walls and Fortifications of *Limborg* are blown up, and three Bataillons of Foot that were in Garrison there, are marched with the Cannon, Ammunition, and Provisions to *Maestricht*, and it is believed that by this time the place is totally demolished, and the rest of the Garrison likewise retired. From *Germany* they write, that the French are demolishing *Montbeliard*, having already

conveyed the Cannon and Ammunition from thence to *Bezfors*. The Letters we receive this day from *Paris*, tell us, That Tents are distributed to all the Troups of the Kings Household; That his Majesty has given orders for their being ready to march the 15 of the next month; That the Prince of *Conde* hath filled up the Company of his Guards, in order to his going into the Field; That all things necessary for the Campagne are taken out of the Arsenal, and that nothing can hinder his Majesties opening the Campagne at the time appointed, but the severity of this Season, which we therefore desire may continue. The same Letters add, That the King has ordered a reinforcement of 4000 men to be sent for *Italy*.

Ditto, Jan. 14. The Most Christian King has caused a Placet to be published within these few days by which he requires all persons who have any Estate within his Conquests, to repair forthwith to the same, upon pain of confiscation, which will oblige several Gentlemen to quit this service. His Excellency continues his resolution of going for *Antwerp* the next Week, to remove the difficulties that are made by the Merchants about paying the Moneys lately remitted from *Spain*. We had yesterday advice, that the French Troops are marching from several parts to the Rendezvous at *Arras*, and that Marquis de *Louvois* was come privately to *Peronne*, as is believed for the carrying on some great design; which however will we hope be prevented by the great thaw we have had since the last night, insomuch that his Excellency having ordered a Regiment of Foot to march hence yesterday in the afternoon towards *Mons*, they are returned again this morning, not being able to continue their march by reason of the illness of the ways, occasioned by the said thaw. Our Letters from *Strasbourg* inform us, that the French are likewise drawn together in a Body in *Alsace*, and that they were marched with a great many Carriages towards *Haguenaw*, which place they are demolishing, and, as is said, intend to do the like to *Saverne*. By the way of *France* we have advice from *Spain* that *Don Juan of Austria* was come to *Madrid*, which it was believed would occasion a great change in affairs there.

Antwerp, Jan. 15. The Enemy has not only blocked up all our Places in the Province of *Hainault*, but we have likewise advice that they have lately possessed themselves of 3 or 4 Castles in the Neighborhood of *St Omer*, by which means that place is likewise blocked up. We receive advice from all parts, that the French Troops are every where leaving their Winter-quarters, and advancing towards these Countreys, their design in all probability being to take the advantage of an early Campaign, knowing that our Allies cannot be so soon in the Field as they. The French at *Maestricht* being reinforced with the Troops that were in Garrison at *Limborg*, have had a design as we are told upon the City of *Lecuwe*, but did not succeed; and we believe they will be obliged to defer the other enterprises they may have intended, through the suddain thaw, accompanied with much rain, which hath set these Countreys almost under water.

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