

to be *Valenciennes*; on Monday the *Mareschals de Luxembourg* and *de Humieres* took their several Posts about the place, and gave the necessary Orders for making the Line of Contravallation. On Thursday the King, who parted from *St. Germain* on Sunday last, arrived in the Camp, and this day the Trenches were intended to be opened. From *Mons* they write, that there was arrived a certain person, who had seen the French Army before *Valenciennes*, and reports it to consist in about 60000 Combatants, besides 6000 Pioneers, who are all armed; and adds, that they have 80 pieces of Cannon for Battery, and 30 great Mortar-pieces. In the Town is a very good Garrison, viz. five Regiments of Foot, besides a sixth formed of those Inhabitants, and 10 or 1200 Horse, not reckoning a Regiment of Horse and four Companies of Dragoons, which we are told got into the place from *Cambray*; and it's not doubted but the Burghers, who are very numerous, and very well disciplin'd, will likewise do their parts for the defence of their City, notwithstanding the endeavors that have been used to the contrary by *Quincy*, who had caused several Papers to be dispersed in the Town, exhorting them to an early submission to the King. From *Holland* we understand, that all the Troops that are to compose the Princes Army, are on their march to the place appointed for their Rendezvous. And from *Germany* we have an account by the hands of the Count *de Caprara*, who resides here on the part of the Emperor, that his Imperial Majesty had sent Orders to the Count *de Charvignac*, to pass the *Rhine* with a Body of Men composed of Horse, Foot, and Dragoons, and to march towards the French Frontiers, to take such Posts, as may be convenient for the facilitating the designs of the Imperial Army this Campaign, which will consist of above 60000 men, besides the *Newburg*, *Lunenburg*, and *Onzbrug* Troops, and will take the Field about the middle of the next month. From *Lille* they write; that great preparations are making there for the Siege of *St. Omer*, which will be begun so soon as that of *Valenciennes* is ended, or rather before. We expect three millions of Crowns by the next Ordinary from *Spain*, which will enable our Governor to discharge the arrears of Subsidies at present owing to the Allies, and to make the necessary provision for the security of these Provinces. We hear that the Elector of *Brandenburg* is by a Fit of the Gout detained at *Ham*, which is about 15 Leagues from *Wesel*, which may hinder the intended Conference there.

Antwerp, March 6. After having been entertained with several reports concerning the Enemies designs, and the places they would besiege at the opening of the Campaign, we have at present certain advice, that on Monday last the French Army, which is said to be composed of 45000 Foot, besides Horse, and commanded by *Monsieur de Louvois*, and the two *Mareschals Luxembourg* and *Humieres*, set down before *Valenciennes*, and having taken their several Posts, prepared all matters against the Kings arrival in the Camp, which was on Thursday last towards the evening; and that his Majesty having informed himself of the posture things were in, commanded the Trenches should be opened the next day. The Enemy we hear, pretend to be Masters of *Valenciennes*, by the 10 of this month at farthest, but much will depend upon the Burghers, who, if they do their part, may perhaps give them work enough. The Governor of the place is a brave Commander, being a person of great experience and knowledge in Military matters. As for *St. Omer*, which the general report says will be likewise besieged, we cannot as yet write any thing with

certainty farther than that at *Lille* and other places in the French Conquest, great preparations are making for another Siege besides *Valenciennes*, but whether it be *St. Omer*, *Ipres*, or any other place the French pretend to attack, we are yet to learn. We hope to hear in few days that the Prince of *Orange* is marched at the head of his Army, we having a certain account, that the Troops which are to compose it, are marching with all diligence to the place appointed for the general Rendezvous.

Amsterdam, March 5. By the last Italian Post we have advice from *Legorn*, that on the 12 past there arrived a French Man of War in 14 days from *Messina*, the Captain whereof reported, that the *Sieur Valbelle* was parted with five Men of War from *Messina* for *Thoulon*, and that the *Sieur de Quesne* was abroad with five Men of War more, and three Fireships, with design to attempt the burning the Spanish ships that are put into *Portolongone*, after having sold two of their company. There are arrived Letters from the *Sieur Binches*, who commands the Dutch Squadron of Men of War in the West Indies, dated the 10 of December at *Tobago*, in which he gives an account, that he had raised a Fort there, and had put things into a good posture, having had notice that the Count *d'Estrees* was coming with a Squadron of French Men of War into those parts.

Hague, March 5. The last Letters we received from *Groningen* told us, that the Prince of *Orange* proposed to part from thence the day following on his return hither. In the mean time Count *Waldecke* hastens the march of the Troops towards the Rendezvous, and the more, for that by an Express, we have an account from *Flanders*, that on Monday last the French begun the Siege of *Valenciennes* and that the King was expected in the Camp as on yesterday. From *Liege* we are told, that those Magistrates had once resolved to raise several Troops for their own security, but that they were hindered from executing the same, by a dispute between their Prince, the Elector of *Cologne*, and them, concerning the command of them: This State hath lately made a demand of 100000 Crowns from the Clergy of that Diocess, by way of Contribution.

Ditto, March 9. Yesterday the Prince of *Orange* returned to this place from *Groningen*, and was this day in the Assembly of the States General, to give them an account of what he had done there. This day were mustered the two Regiments of Guards of Horse and Foot, in order to their beginning their march to-morrow towards the Rendezvous, whether his Highness will himself follow in few days, having, as is said, laid aside his intended journey to *Wesel*. From *Nimeguen* they write, that the several Ambassadors had finally given in their Propositions, on which their respective Masters are content to make a Peace, to the English Ambassadors as Mediators, to be by them communicated to their adverse Parties.

Advertisements.

PLate to the value of Twenty pounds, is to be Run for by Footmen at *Preston* Course in *Lancashire*, upon Tuesday in Easter Week, being the 17 day of April next: For Person to be excepted against, putting in his Name ten days before the Course, to the Mayor of *Preston*, with Ten Shillings, and to give one Heat over the Course before the day of Running.

LOst Febr. 28. in *Bishopsgate street* near *Berlim*, 32 pair of Woven Silk Stockings, Dyed black, most of them melted on the top with a large Rose Point, and some with a Pomegranate Point. Whoever brings the said parcel of Stockings to the *Widow Kemps* Coffee-house in *Exchange Alley*, *London*, shall have Five pounds Reward.