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From **Monday** April 29. to **Thursday** May 2. 1678.

Naples, April 5.

THE Viceroy of *Sicily*, and the Duke of *Bourbonville*, General of the Forces of that Kingdom, who repaired to *Messina* immediately after the French had abandoned it, to restore things into its former Channel, continued still there, having published a Placet, by which a years time is allowed to all persons who have fled from their Country, to return; with an assurance in the Kings name of a free pardon for all that is past, and that they shall enjoy their Goods and Estates with the same freedom as if nothing had happened. But as for the Forts which were raised by the French, they are for the future to be guarded by such Spanish Troops, as the Viceroy shall appoint. The Regiment of *Don Marino Cavassa*, is at present at *Messina*; but strict orders are given to the Soldiers not to molest any of the Burgers; and to prevent all ill accidents, they are not to be abroad after such an hour in the evening. The two Italian Regiments which our Viceroy had designed to send to *Sicily*, are ordered to be transported to *Barcelona*, to reinforce the Kings Army in *Catalonia*, and the Vessels are preparing to carry them.

Milan, April 12. We are at present without any apprehensions of War in this Country. The Dutches Regent of *Savoy*, having, as is said, absolutely refused to contribute in any manner to the bringing a War into *Italy*; and since we had the news of the French having abandoned *Sicily*, several Troops that were designed thither, will be sent to *Catalonia*, to serve in the Kings Army on that side this Summer.

Venice, April 22. From *Messina* we have Letters; which gives us an account of the arrival there of the Viceroy of *Sicily*; That he had caused new Jurats, such of whose fidelity and affection to the Crown of *Spain*, he was most certain, to be chosen, had in like manner disposed of all Offices and Places of Trust; That he had caused a general Pardon to be published to all persons that have quitted their Country, and retired with the French, provided they return within a year; That several persons, who had fled, finding that none were molested for what was past, were come back thither; and that it was discoursed as if his Excellency intended to demolish some of those Forts which had been raised by the French, for the sowing that City. Several of the *Messinens* that fled thither, are likewise preparing to return home with the first opportunity. The Senate hath made choice, of Cavalier *Agredo* to go in quality of their Ambassador to *Constantinople*, their Ambassador at present there, having desired leave to return home. From *Bologna* we have an account of the Death of Cardinal *Bonaccorsi*.

Vienna, April 24. We are told, that the Emperor, for the putting an end to the troubles of *Hungary*, hath granted to the States of that Kingdom, at present assembled, to choose a Palatine, who is to have the Government of that Country, upon condition that that Kingdom do raise a yearly Sum, under the name of a Voluntary Contribution, to be

employed for the defence and security of the same, Which Concession of his Imperial Majesty, who besides, seems disposed to do whatever may contribute to the re-establishing the Peace of that Country, gives us great hopes that we shall suddenly see matters fairly accommodated. The 28 instant their Imperial Majesties go to *Luxemburg*.

Katshonne, April 26. The Dyet having taken notice, that in several places of the Empire, there is still Money, wanting both in weight and fineness coined, notwithstanding the Emperors Edict, published the last year, have desired the Bishop of *Aichstadt*, the Emperors Commissioner, that seeing the present War and difficulties of the time do not suffer a perfect regulation to be made for the calling in all Bad Money, and reducing it to a certain value; yet that in the mean time, care may be taken, that the Emperors Edict above mentioned, may be sent to the several Circles, and strictly observed, for the preventing the Coining any Bad Money for the future. Letters from *Vienna* of the 14th instant, make mention, that a Marriage was proposed between the Elector of *Bavaria*, and the Archduchess *Mariana*, the Emperors Sister; and if that succeeded, the Prince of *Neuburg* should marry the Princess of *Bavaria*; that the Duke of *Neuburg* was expected these the 27 instant, and that it was believed his Highness would continue there some time.

Frankfort, April 26. From *Esslingen* we have account, that the Duke of *Lorraine* hath held the a Council of War, with all the general Officers of the Army, to take the resolutions necessary for the opening the Campaign; that a Body of 16000 Men will Rendezvous the beginning of the next month between *Offenburg* and *Hochburg*; the beginning of the next month, being intended, as is thought, for the Siege of *Friburg*, which the French have strongly fortified, and put a very good Garrison into it; considerable Recruits arrive daily at *Brisack*.

Ditto, April 28. The *Switzer* Troops, which have had their Winter-quarters in these parts, being now upon the point of quitting the same, have forced the places where they were quartered, to furnish them with Shoes, Stockings, Shirts, and other necessaries, and besides this, demand a Sum of Money, which the poor people will be obliged to pay, before they get rid of them. The Imperial Army is to Rendezvous near *Offenburg* the fourth of the next-month. The Duke of *Lorraine* is still at *Esslingen*, where he hath been for several days past in the hands of the Chirurgeons, to finish the Cure of his foot, which he hurt the last year in a fall at *Philipsburg*. From *Vienna* they write, that people there had great hopes to see the affairs of *Hungary* settled, so as to compose all the divisions that have for some years past afflicted that Country, the Emperor having restored the States of that Kingdom to the Priviledge of Electing a Palatine, and permitted them to change the name of Subsidie, into that of a Voluntary Contribution. &c. which,

which, it's not doubted, but will have a very good effect.

Strasburg, April 29. The Campaign is going to begin in these quarters. Colonel *Halmil* is come hither; he is to command a flying Camp about a League from *Offenburg*. The 27 arrived in this neighborhood 24 Standards of Horse, drawn out of the Regiments of the Electoral Prince of *Saxony*, of *Capra*, *Galt*, and *Chavaignas*, with 22 pieces of Cannon; and to-morrow they will advance towards *Wilstet* and *Offenburg*, and are to be followed by four Regiments of the Circle of *Franconia*, who have had their quarters for some days in the Bishoprick of *Spire*. These four Regiments bring with them the heavy Artillery, which have been drawn out of the Arsenal at *Philipsburg*. All the Imperial Troops which have had their Winter-quarters in *Suabia* and *Franconia*, are on their march. Prince *Herman* of *Baden* is at present at *Offenburg*. The boats intended for the making a bridge over the *Rhine* for the passage of the Imperial Army, are provided.

Mechelen, May 5. On Monday last, the second instant, the Governour of *Maastricht*, sent out the *Standa Mellac*, with 400 Horse, and 500 Foot, with orders to disperse them into several Parties, which should take different ways, and that they should all join together on Tuesday at midnight, between *St. Trapp* and *Liswever*. On Monday the Governour of *Leeuwe* had notice from the Bores, that the French parties were abroad, and though he could not apprehend any danger as to the place, yet he was so cautious as to double the Guards at night, and himself went the round twice that night, to see that all things were well, because it had been a day of great mirth and jollity among the Soldiers. The next night the Governour, according to his usual care, went the round again, and finding all quiet, and no sign of alarm, went to his repose; but on Wednesday, between two and three in the morning, Monsieur *Mellac*, with his party, was gotten and discovered near the Cittadel behind the great Ballion towards *St. Irenes Gate*. Their Conduccion was an Alliance of *Marquis Darnes* Regiment, who had served in the Cittadel, and deserted some time before, and knew the defects of the Cittadel, and where to lay most open. Their design succeeded so well, that with the help of small Boats they had brought with them, they passed the first and largest Ditch, killed the Centinel, and surprized a small Guard. By this time the Alarm was given, the Garrison takes Arms, and makes resistance; but the Enemy encouraged with their first success, threw themselves into the second Ditch, which they passed, and forced the Bastions, which was defended by some few Soldiers, of which 12 or 18, with a Captain that commanded them, were killed. The Enemy being thus become Masters of the Cittadel, they immediately let down the Draw-bridge, entered the Town, and sound the *St. Irenes Gate* to let in their Cavalry. The Garrison seeing the Enemy within the Town, shot down their Arms, and had quartered most of the Townsmen fled to the Church which was plural and the Governour was presently taken prisoner with a party of Horse from *Maastricht*.

Hague, May 6. The States General having appointed the Heer *Van Loewen*, Burgher-Master of *Frederick*, to go in quality of their Envoy Extraordinary to His Majesty of Great Britain, he sailed from *the Hague* on Friday last. They are likewise sending

the Heer *Boreel* to the Duke de *Villa Hermosa*. His Highness the Prince of Orange is gone back to *Breda*, though it is believed he will return hither before he goes to the Army.

Amstel, May 6. We are much concerned here at the news we receive of the French having surprized *Leeuwe*, being, as it were, the Key of *Brabant*, and situate in the midst of a Country very rich in Corn; by the loss of this place, the greatest part of *Brabant* will be laid open to the Enemy, and even the City of *Louvain* will be forced to pay Contributions to the Enemy. This morning the Count de *Rasch*, our Maistré de Camp General, is gone to *Maastricht*, to consult with Count *Waldock*, and yesterday morning the Sieur *Pickfeldt*, went to *Breda*, to give the Prince of Orange an account of what had happened. This morning *Don Pedro Romquillo* arrived here from *Antwerp*. The French Letters say, that their King will have four Armies in the Field this Campaign, besides that in *Catalonia*; one on the *Rhine*, commanded by the Marechal de *Crequi*; the second between the *Meuse* and the *Moselle*, a third in the Province of *Flanders*, commanded by the Marechal de *Humieres*, and the fourth in *Hainault*, commanded by the King in person, and four Marshals under him, viz. *Luxemburg*, *Vouongne*, *le-Feyllade*, and *de Lorge*. The Letters from *Strasburg*, give us an account, that the Duke of *Lorraine* was going to meet his Queen at *Kempen* in *Suabia*; that having taken his leave of her, he would go to *Offenburg* towards which places all the Imperial Troops are marching, in order to the holding their general Rendezvous there. It is said that if the Imperialists besiege *Kriburg*, which is at present very well fortified, and provided with a very good Garrison, the French at the same time will besiege *Luxemburg*.

Paris, May 7. All we have at present to write you from hence, is, that all things are preparing for the Kings journey, who will certainly part from *St. Germain* the 12 instant. From *Flanders* we have an account, that some Troops sent out from *Maastricht*, had surprized *Leeuwe* in a small Place, but of great importance, and which may be made very strong.

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