

Hague, June 3. We talk of sending out our Fleet in three or four days, in order whereunto, the Pensionary *de Witte*, is with the Squadron of the *Maes* gone from the *Texel*, where the rest of the Fleet attends him, which they intend to reinforce with a Regiment of 28 Companies, each company consisting of 86 Men, under the command of Colonel *Dolman*, but their design is uncertainly discoursed of. We are much concerned at a report which has been for some time blown about, that the English have taken from us several Islands in *Africa*. The French are pressing hard for an assistance of 6000 Men to be sent them for the carrying on the War against the *Netherlands*, the States are accordingly convened to consider what answer to return: The Province of *Groeninge*, having hitherto been very forwards in contributing their Quota's, which they usually advanced beforehand, for the carrying on of the War, have of late refused to make any farther payment, till the other richer, and more considerable Provinces, who are far behind in arrears, shall have first paid off their proportions.

The Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries at *Breda*, have not as yet had any Session about the Treaty, the time hitherto being only passed in Visits, and perusing their several Letters of Credence.

By our last Letters we are told, That the Fleet is put to Sea, and have Rendezvoused off the *Texel*, where they as yet continue: Several Merchant ships from 2, to 400 tons are hired, and Victuall'd by the owners for a month, and are to take in Souldiers.

Hague, June 5. The Pensionary *de Witte*, with other persons of Quality that went from hence, we suppose are before this arrived at the *Texell*; and, although we have not heard any late news from them, we suppose we may suddenly hear that the Fleet is put to Sea: The *Brandenburg* Ministers *Roomswinkel* and *Bluspill* went hence yesterday for *Aechlyn*: From *Breda* we are inform'd, That the Treaty began the third Instant in the Castle, where the first business they fell upon, was, The Examination and Approbation of the Credential Letters; that first Conference continuing from nine in the Morning till Noon.

Brussels, June 4. The French are scorching *Charles-Roy* which though in part blown up by the *Spaniards*, yet a considerable part of the Fortifications being left standing, the French are like in little time to repair, to which purpose they call in the Country people, whom they encourage by well paying them, 15 or 16 Sols a day. The 31st past, the King of France lay at *Binche*, the first instant, at *Mariemont*; the second at *Trefigny*; the Army taking up their Posts in the adjacent Towns, being in number about 22000 Foot, and 10000 Horse: Another body of Men about 18000 being commanded to march for *Luxembourg*, under the command of *Marschal de la Ferte*.

Upon the approach of the French Army, the *Marquis de Castel Rodrigo* had some intentions of removing the larger quantity of Corne, which the Country had brought into *Leovaine*, for which purpose he sent his Orders to the Magistrates of that City, reserving only a proportionable Provision for a month or six weeks, which was opposed by the people, who seditiously threatened the Burgmaster with death, in case he suffered any of their Corne to be removed. Since this upon new debate a thousand Spanish Souldiers with eight pieces of Cannon are ordered into that Town, which they are resolved to defend, in case the French shall attempt it. The *Marquis* omits not any thing that can be done for the security of the Country, and 'tis believed will in short time have a very considerable Army in the field, having by his late Declaration commanded all Gentlemen that are possessors of any Fields to appear, with what number of men they are obliged to by their Tenure: and that all persons of any condition whatsoever, having either Lands or beneficial employments, entertain upon their own expences a proportionable number of men, according to their Revenues. The *Covents* and *Jesuits* not exempted: *Antwerp* has already upon this Account raised 2000 men, who are to be commanded by the Count *de Cruickenburgh*, the same methods being taken in all the other Cities whose Souldiers will be assured of good pay.

Paris, June 8. By Letters bearing date the 2d. instant, from the Army, we are inform'd, that the 31st past the King arrived in person at the Fort of *Charles-Roy*, where he is taking effectual care for the rebuilding, and repairing the Bastions that were blown up by the Enemy; and in making new fortifications for the better strengthening of the place, in which he daily employes at least 20000 Men; intending to make it a very considerable Post: After about 10 days stay there for the perfecting that work, his Majesty intends to march farther into the Country: Those of *Nivelle* have already desired his Protection, to whom his Majesty has thought fit to send some of his Guards, two of whom falling into the Enemies hands, have been used as Prisoners of war, which his Majesty is much displeas'd at, as being an incivility to his Prisoners, against the Custom of War.

Piloy with his Brigade is return'd, having been 52 hours on horse-back, but without any considerable adventures having only met with 50 of the Enemies horse, whereof they killed 2. and brought away a Reformed Officer Prisoner.

The late ill-weather, and the want of the Baggage which was left at *Quefnoy*, and could not be expected till 3. days after the date of this Letter, have much incommodated the Army, which his Majesty encourages by his presence, having lodged 2. nights with them in his Coach.

The Enemy make as yet but a small appearance in the field, having not above 7000 men in a body, which they betwixt *Brussels* and *Namures*, having disposed of the rest of their men into the most considerable Towns, and particularly drawn two Flemish Regiments into *Namures*, commanded by two Lords of that County, upon a suspicion they had, that the King intended to lay siege to that place.

The *Marschal D'Aumont* is march'd from *Bouloumois* with his Army, and has pass'd by *Ayre*, intending for *Dunkerke*, and from thence towards *Ostend* and *Mieuport*, that Army being well stored with Provisions; carrying with them 18 pieces of Cannon for Battery, and two field pieces at the head of each Regiment.

Monseigneur de Crequy is yet upon the *Meuse*, between *Sirick* and *Treves*, having made an incursion into *Luxembourg* and appeared very near the Town, having commanded the people to give obedience to him as Lieutenant General for his Majesty in that Duchy. The *Marschal de la Ferte* who was designed for that service, being detained by sickness at *Paris*.

The Duke of *Lorraine* is gone from *Nancy*, intending for *Espinal*, to which place he has transported the best of his Moveables; having left the Inhabitants of *Nancy* in a great fear, by telling them, They must now consult their own safety, the place being not like to prove a place of security for them, since the King of France had oblig'd him to deliver up his Forces, which otherwise might have defended them.

The Queen is to go suddenly to *Guise*, and from thence to *Avenes*, where she is to meet His Majesty: Yesterday pass'd by this place a Spanish Courier, who is hastning forwards with all imaginable speed to attend His Majesty.

Portsmouth, May 31. Yesterday the *Glocester* meeting with a Swede, and an *Hamburgher* off the *Ile of Wight*, was inform'd, that on the Tuesday before they parted from the French Fleet consisting of 20 Men of War, and 4 Fire-ships off the *Start*, who were then making up the Channel.

Whitehal, June 1. His Majesty having thought fit, by His Commission under the Great Seal of England, to constitute his Grace the Duke of *Albemarle*, Lord General; the Right Honourable the Lord *Ashly*, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir *Thomas Clifford* Comptroller of the Household; Sir *William Coventry*, and Sir *John Duncombe* Knights, and of His Majesties most Honourable Privy Council; His Commissioners for executing the Office of the Lord High Treasurer of England; lately void by the Death of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Southampton*: Their Lordships have accordingly opened their Commission, and fix'd their Constant Session to be at the late Lord Treasurers Lodgings in *Whitehal*; where they have already by frequent meetings, entered upon the discharge of that important trust, with great application and exactness.