

pieces of Canon to be planted, with all proportionable necessities; Their want of Provisions are very great, and the Country-men, who are grown very numerous, and begin to be well armed and modelled, have so well lined the Highways, as well as filed the Woods, that the French find all places unsafe for them. On Saturday last a party of 200. French, that had a design to have fallen upon a place near Villers, not far from *Charle-Roy*, were suddenly encountered by the Peasants, who killed 40 of them upon the place, and took all the rest of them prisoners, whom they immediately strip, leaving them only some tattered garments to cover their nakedness; and in that posture brought them prisoners into this place. Yesterday 13 of our Horse having been sent out upon a party, accidentally meeting with a party of 27 French, fell in with them so stoutly, that they presently defeated them, and with 17 of their prisoners returned hither: Every day we have prisoners brought in by the Peasants, and amongst others about 3 or 400 *Switzers*, that have been taken occasionally by them: our Towns begin to fill with Soldiers, and are so well furnisht and stored, that they fear not a Siege.

*Disco*, 17. The French Army began yesterday to march, and the King expected to lodg this Night at *Nivelle*, it being at yet uncertain whether he intends forwards towards this place or *Louvaïne*, or else to take the way of *Flanders*, and joyn with the *Marschal d'Aumont*, to which their way of marching seems rather inclined.

*Offend*, June 19. The 16 instant, about 11 at night a Windmill standing upon the wall of this Town, fell on fire, we know not by what accident, which gave a warm alarm to the Town, being sup'to fancy some design, but after an hours burning, the fire was extinguish't, without any farther hurt done, but only the burning of the Mill. The late great storm on Wednesday very much endamaged the Dutch Fleet, which it drove from an Anchor to Sea, and afterwards much scattert; their damage we know not, only two of their Fireships are since returned to *Ulushing*, one of them having lost her Boltspirit, and the other much disabled, the Vice-Admiral of *Zeland* having also received considerable injury against the head of *Ulushing*.

*Hague*, June 17. The States General have ordered 12 Regiments of Foot, and 10 of horse, to be formed into a Flying Army, and to march towards East *Friesland* to have an Eye upon the motion of the *Swedes*, whose forces are still in the Increase. Major General *Hurtz* is privately here, and 'tis suppos'd may be thought a fit person to command them, though others discourse of the Count de *Waldeck*.

'Tis said the Commanders of the six Vessels built for the service of the King of France, have sharply reprehended the Dutches that were to have taken the care of their building, which they suspect to be made of such unsound Timber, that the Vessels are not like to prove of that service as was expected.

*Paris*, June 17. Since the taking of *Bergue*, the *Sieur Damilly*, Colonel of the Regiment of *Normandy*, is made Governor of that place, and the *Sieur Boncault* a Captain in the *Navarre* Regiment, Lieutenant Governor, with a Garrison of a Thousand men, drawn part out of the Army of the *Marschal d'Aumont*, and the rest out of the Garrisons of *Dunkirk* and *Gravelin*, after which the Army marched away from *Furnes*, leaving only some of the Guards to hinder provisions from entering into the *Fort St. Francis*, which was already in great want: The *Sieur d'Aragnan* has Orders given him to march to *Verdun*, with a Bregade of 800 horse, amongst whom are the Musqueteer Guards on horseback, and 'tis believ'd this Bregade is to pass forwards for *Luxembourg*, to joyn with the Army commanded by the *Marquis de Crequi*.

'Tis said the Army is commanded to obey the Duke of *Orleans*, a Generalissimo in absence of the King, but with an injunction that he do nothing without the advice of *Marschal de Turenne*.

The Dauphin has been ill of the Measles, with which he has had some returns of a Feavor, and 'tis said has some signs of the small Pox, but they have great hopes of his Recovery. The Queen came yesterday to *Compiègne*.

*Monfieur de Louvois* in a Letter from the Camp at *Charle-Roy*, of the 14th instant tells us, that the Army is marching upon a design of great importance, of which we may have farther information, by the 21 or 22. every man being orderd to provide himself with Victuals for five daies; 'tis believ'd they syme at *Louvaïne*.

The Queen of Spain's Answer to the King of France Letter, bearing date the 8. of May. 1667.

THE Archbishop of *Ambrun* your Majesty's Ambassador in this Court, has deliver'd me your Letter bearing date the eight instant, accompanied with a Book, and a Memorial together, with a large representation and recital of the Motives alledged by your Majesty, for the motion of your Forces, upon a pretended Right to some Provinces in the *Low-Countries*. Whilst we apply our selves to the answer of yours in all the particulars required, I thought it not fit to defer the giving an answer to your Letter, although I am very much surpris'd with the unexpected news of such a design. And although your Majesty is pleas'd to insinuate, that the most Christian Queen my good sister, (whom God hath taken to his glory) had communicated those pretensions to the *Marquis de la Fayette*, and that I cannot but remember that he inform'd me of it by his Letter; yet in truth I always lookt upon that discourse as a thing only of private familiarity and confidence, since it pass'd not in the forms of an Ambassador, nor as a Minister from your Majesty, nor yet in your Majesty's name. And I have been the rather confirm'd in the Truth of this opinion, since having given the said *Marquis* a very succinct answer, to all that could be said upon that point, nothing was farther said in that matter: So that the silence which hath been kept, since the *Marquis* had his answer, could not leave any other impression on me, but that your Court being inform'd of the just Rights of the King my son, and sufficiently satisfied of the sincerity of my proceedings, all further pursuit of these pretensions had been wholly laid aside. It being farther to be considered, that this Insinuation which has been made, is quite contrary to those formalities, which the Articles of Peace made in the *Pyrénées* require, before it can be lawful to proceed to the Rupture; It being also certain upon the 90 Article, that if the Renunciation it self had not been made, it ought not to have been pursued by the way of Arms, but by that of Sweetness and Justice. And since your Majesty doth now declare your willingness to enter into an amicable Treaty, I am also willing to conform my self to it; and am content that the Rights be seasonably examined, that Justice may take its place by the way and means most proper for that purpose. To which end some persons ought to be nominated, and a place agreed on convenient for such a Treaty. And as 'tis necessary that both parties do in the mean time abstain from all further proceedings by the way of armes, I hope your Majesty will condescend to it: which if denied, I shall be forced as I am oblig'd in conscience, and as Guardian Royal to the King my Son, to make use of the same ways and means to defend the justice of his Cause. Given at *Madrid*, May 21. 1667.

*Whitchall*, June 12. The 8. instant the Dutch Fleet appeared at the back of the *Longsands*, standing Northwards till the Flood turned, at which time they stood into the Kings Channel, and near the *Gunfleet* about 50. of them came to an Anchor; the rest, being about 26. Sail, standing directly up the Channel. The 10. in the morning they appeared at the lower end of the *Hops*, but at the turn of the Tide fell down again. Yesterday, they with some others fell upon the Platform at *Steerness*, which being a place of small strength, and unable to resist the force of their Artillery, after a stout Resistance made by *Sir Edward Spragg*, and some few men with him, they were constrained to quit it.

'Tis say news was brought to his Majesty of the sad loss of some of his Ships at *Chatham*, by the desperate attempt of the Enemy, prevailing above all the Care that could be taken for the prevention of it; but the particulars not brought so distinctly to us, that we can as yet be able to give any other account of them.