

Wests farther, having first swam over a River, and return'd with one Officer and 12 Soldiers Prisoners.

The 12th we built a Bridge, and having had Intelligence, that in the common Road to Helsingfors we had another River to cross, the Bridges over which were burnt, and that the Swedes had several small armed Vessels and Galeys lying upon an Arm of the Sea near to the said River, from which we might be incommoded on our March, we thereupon chose to take another Route.

The 13th we cross'd the Road of Abo, and one of our Parties of Hussars fell upon 100 Swedish Foragers, killed a great many of them in their Flight, and took a Subaltern Officer Prisoner, and brought with them 20 Horses, which they had taken near the Enemy's Camp.

The 14th two Deserters reported, that the Swedish Army was encamped under the Walls of Helsingfors, consisting of 14 Regiments, which one of the Deserters made amount to the Number of 15000 Men, and the other to 20,000, amongst which there were great Numbers Sick: That their whole Army had been in the greatest Consternation since they were blocked up in their Camp by ours and had come to the Resolution, in case of their being beat, to kill their Horses, abandon all the Artillery and Baggage, and to embark on board their Ships to return to Sweden.

The 16th the Detachment which was sent from Kexholm the 22d of July to Nyssodt, under the Command of Colonel Prince Meichersky, having summoned the Commandant of that Fortrefs to surrender, he at first made some Difficulties to comply therewith, upon Pretence of waiting for Orders from his General, but capitulated a few Days after; and the Garrison, consisting of 235 Men, laid their Arms down. The whole Country have submitted with great Zeal to the Protection of her Imperial Majesty, and have promised to supply us with all Necessaries. Colonel Meichersky, after having put 200 Men into Garrison there, dispatch'd a Lieutenant with a Standard, and a List of what he found in the said Fortrefs.

*Stockholm, August 31, O. S.*

*The King of Sweden's Speech, at the opening of the Diet the 25th of August 1742, to the States of the Kingdom, made in the Hall of the States, by Count Charles Gyllenborg, Senator and President of his Majesty's College of Chancery, and of the Kingdom.*

*Gentlemen and good Swedes,*

WHEN his Majesty had last the Pleasure of seeing all the States of the Kingdom, his faithful Subjects, assembled here, before the Royal Throne, and gave them Permission to

separate and return to their respective Homes, his Majesty could not apprehend there would so soon be a Necessity for a new Convocation. Affairs in all their Circumstances seem'd to be settled as well as could be wish'd; his Majesty, and his late Spouse our most gracious Queen, were both in so good a Condition of Health, as not to apprehend any unhappy Change. The States of the Kingdom had unanimously resolved the present War, for which Purpose a powerful Army and Fleet were set out, and such good Orders were given both for the Entertainment of the Army and other Necessaries of War, that, with the Almighty's Assistance, a happy Progress, and in Consequence of it, a well-founded and lasting Peace for the present and future Security of the Kingdom was to be expected: But it has pleased the Almighty since, by an unhappy and unexpected Change to sink our Hopes, which, according to all human Wisdom, were so well founded, by calling suddenly to himself out of this World, at a Time it was least thought of, his Majesty's most beloved Spouse, our incomparable Queen, which is an irreparable Loss to his Majesty, as well as to the whole Kingdom, and all his faithful Subjects.

His Majesty need not remind all the States of the Kingdom, his faithful Subjects, of the just Cause they have, from the Bottom of their Hearts, and with bitter Tears, to regret a Death, which whensoever it had happened, must have been very unhappy for them, but which in the present Circumstances we have still greater Cause to lament. We lose in her a pious Queen, a true Mother of our Country, who never ceased praying for the Preservation of the Kingdom, and of her Subjects. It did indeed seem as if Divine Providence was, immediately after so deep and painful a Wound, willing, in some Degree, to comfort his Majesty and his faithful Subjects with the Hopes of a glorious and honourable Peace; but these having vanished almost as soon as conceived, his Majesty found himself under a Necessity of making other Dispositions for continuing a just War with Vigour.

Besides, Affairs have altered very much both in the North and elsewhere; they have been subject to great Revolutions from the Conjunction of the Time, and still are, for the most Part, fluctuating in Uncertainty; wherefore his Majesty has been obliged again to convoke his faithful Subjects the States of the Kingdom, as well to receive their faithful Advice, as to be conducted and supported by them, and for their deliberating upon all Affairs in such Manner as the Safety and Honour of the Kingdom and Country require.

Upon which his Majesty hopes the States of the Kingdom will, immediately, and in God's Name, enter, referring himself further to the faithful and paternal Exhortations he has, in all their Diets, made