

the News that we were marching towards him, he changed his Resolution and waited for us at Campo-Santo. In these Circumstances it was thought conducive to the Service of our Royal Mistress that we should attack the Enemy, and use our utmost Efforts to oblige him to repass the Panaro, his own Intention in that Respect being unknown to us. Hereupon we set forward, and arrived the 6th Instant with the whole Army, within a small Hour of the Enemy's Camp; here we lost no Time in preparing to give the Attack, which accordingly was given on the 8th. The Badness of the Roads very much retarded us in our last Approaches, and we could not therefore make that necessary Use of our Time which our Situation demanded: It was near Four of the Clock in the Afternoon when we put ourselves in Order of Battle to begin the Engagement; the Ground on our Right Wing was so uneven, that we were obliged to put all our Cavalry upon the Left, excepting four Squadrons and 300 Light Horse. When we were at a small Distance, and while we were yet in March, the Enemy advanced to meet us; a smart Firing immediately begun on both Sides, and continued till above an Hour after Day-light. Our Left Wing making an untimely Motion, and without Order, was extremely annoyed by the Fire of the Spanish Infantry, and even forced to retire; but by the brave Conduct of their Commanding Officer they rallied, and came back to the Charge about Six of the Clock, yet very much broke, and having most of their General Officers killed, wounded, or taken Prisoners. In the mean Time our Infantry pressed on with a continual Fire upon the Enemy, and by their Intrepidity suffered greatly. This bloody Battle lasted near two Hours in the Night, yet as we drove the Enemy before us, we kept in tolerable good Order; and when at last he retreated, or I may say, run away in earnest, I easily prevented any inconsiderable Pursuit of him; for I thought it not advisable to be undertaken in the Dark, when we could not know what advantageous Posts he might get into, or whether he would go over the River. The next Day we found, that he had continued his Retreat the whole Night, having planted, as he went along, some Infantry and Miquelets in several Places; of these last a whole Battalion, with several Commanding Officers, and some Colours, were taken by the Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment of Savoy. General Apremont, with many other Officers, is wounded: I cannot say enough in Praise of their Conduct in General, and of the Bravery of the Soldiers. Our Loss is not so considerable in Private Men as in Officers. About Midnight the Enemy began to repass the Panaro with his whole Army, and excepting a few Miquelets, which our Parties soon drove after him, had got over before Day both his Infantry and Cavalry, and what Field Pieces he had brought along with him. This Affair has much discountenanced the Spaniards, and it is generally reported that they retreated with the utmost Precipitation towards Bologna, leaving every where more or less of the Wounded, that they carried with them. I am moreover inform'd that his second Line had begun to pass the River, while the first was yet in Action. The next Morning we found many Officers and private Men that the Enemy had left on our Side of the River; and as we learnt, the Spaniards had thrown many of their dead and some

Prisoners into the Water. Colonel Foro was dispatch'd the said Morning with his Party over the River, to see if any wounded were to be found in the Neighbouring Villages, and Colonel Tallian is gone after him To-day with our Light Horse to observe the Enemy, whose Loss I cannot as yet exactly affirm, tho' it must amount to above 4000, among which may be reckoned 300 Officers. The Loss her Majesty's Troops have sustained in this Action, does not exceed a Thousand Men, and it is to be hoped, that many who are yet missing, will still be found: On the other Hand, the Enemy's Loss will daily increase, since it is certain that he has still a great Number of Wounded along with him. I was informed that some Field Pieces had been thrown into the Panaro, whereupon I ordered a Search to be made after them, but none have yet been found. Yesterday the 11th Instant, the Enemy marched into his old Quarters at Bologna, and according to all Accounts has already begun to add to the Fortifications there, and to reinforce his Post at the Bridge of Ponte Reno; from whence it may be judg'd that his Loss is so great as to oblige him to turn all his Thoughts to the Preservation of the small Remains of his Army. As to the Three Colours that were taken from the Enemy, I have left them to the King of Sardinia's Officer that commanded the Left Wing, as it was he who concluded the Capitulation with the Spanish Battallion they belong to. Count Schulemberg behaved with great Bravery and Conduct, as did Count Coloredo, who is the Bearer of this, and will give an Account by Word of Mouth of the undaunted Courage with which every Soldier fought.

*From the Head Quarters at Campo Santo, Feb. 12, 1743.*

*Geneva, Feb. 25.* The late Action between the Spaniards and the Austrians was very hot. The Spaniards being well posted, and under the Advantage of the Cassines, defended themselves very well, so that all the Bravery of the Austrian and Piedmontese Infantry was necessary to drive them from thence. The Spaniards are at Bologna, and the Austrians and Piedmontese in their former Quarters. The Spaniards in these Parts continue to file off a great Part of their Troops towards Chablais, where they have given Orders for the Preparation of 5000 Beds, and they reckon to have 10000 Men there. That Province is in so miserable a Condition, that they must send thither all the Corn they shall want. The Report of the Spaniards having demanded a Passage for their Troops through the Valais is not confirm'd: If they should do it, it is thought it would be refused. That Passage is very difficult and dangerous, and the Valesans have 4000 Men to guard it. The Marquis de Prie, Ambassador from the Queen of Hungary, has presented a Memorial to the Helvetick Body, wherein he puts them in Mind of their Treaties with the House of Austria, complains of the Levies which some Cantons have permitted the Spaniards to make, exhorts them to a Neutrality, and to be upon their Guard against them. We do not hear that any Answer has as yet been given thereto. M. Turretin, our Deputy at Chambery, meets with no Success, the Spaniards continuing to harass the Inhabitants of our Estates of St. Victor and the Chapter. The 300 Men from Zurich arrived on Thursday. They mount Guard for