

kle, the Extraordinary Minister from the States General to the French Court, set out this Day for Paris. There is a flying Report here To-day, that Marshal Coigni has passed the Rhine at Germersheim with a considerable Army, and Battering Train of Artillery, to lay Siege to Mentz; and that the Elector was retired to Erfurt.

Copy of a Letter sent by the Count de Taxis, Grand Master of the Posts, by an Estafette from Insprugh, on the 28th of April, N. S. to the Count de Goss at Munich.

I Acquaint your Excellency, in the greatest Hurry, that on the 20th Instant, the French and Spaniards made a sudden Attack upon the Intrenchments under Villa Franca. The Beginning of the Assault was very hot, so that they penetrated as far as the Post where the Marquis de Suze stood, with three Colonels, encouraging his Troops; but he was taken Prisoner. After which, another Piedmontese Officer, having got together seven Battalions, assaulted the Enemy with such Fury, that, after a bloody Engagement with Bayonets fixed, he put them to Flight. Upwards of 30 French and Spanish Officers, and 1200 Soldiers, were made Prisoners. Among the Killed, on the Side of the Enemy, are Major General de Maillebois, and other Officers of the First Rank. The Spanish General de las Minas is said to have retired, wounded, to Nice. The Loss of the French and Spaniards is reckoned to amount to 10,000, and the Deserters confirm it; but in this, it is imagined there must be some Exaggeration. The Piedmontese might have been able to retake the Marquis de Suze from the French and Spaniards, as they fled; but, for Fear of killing him, they abstained from attacking that Troop of the Enemy, which was carrying him off. The Loss of the Piedmontese is computed at about 1700; but we are not yet acquainted with the exact Number of the Officers killed and wounded.

Whitehall, May 1.

This Day arrived a Messenger from his Majesty's Minister at Turin, with Letters of the 26th past, N. S. containing an Account of what passed in the Attacks made on the 20th past, N. S. by the French and Spaniards, upon the King of Sardinia's Intrenchments near Villa Franca, in one of which they were repulsed with the Loss of 6 or 7000 Men, (the Loss on the Side of the King of Sardinia being only of 1500) but in the other obliged the Piedmontese Troops to abandon their Posts and to retire into Villa Franca, where they embarked to set sail for Oneglia. The Particulars of these Actions, as given by the Court of Turin, will be published To-morrow Noon in a Supplement to the present Gazette.

Whitehall, May 1.

The following is a Translation of the Answer returned by the States General, to his Majesty's Letter to their High Mightinesses of the 13th of last Month, published in the last Gazette.

S I R,

AS soon as the Arrival of the eldest Son of the Pretender in France, and the Preparations that were making there for invading your Majesty's Kingdoms, came to our Knowledge,

we did not fail to make very serious Reflections upon those Proceedings, and how contrary they were to the most solemn Treaties, and how much they tended to overturn your Majesty's Government, and the Laws, the Liberty, and the Religion of the British Nation, with the Maintenance whereof the Preservation of those of our Republick is inseparably connected. We therefore, upon the first Requisition made by your Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary, did not hesitate to grant immediately, and to send into England, with all the Expedition possible, the first Succour of Six Thousand Foot, stipulated in the Treaties. It is a great Satisfaction to us, to have first learnt, by your Majesty's said Minister Plenipotentiary, and to see afterwards, by the Letter of the 11th Instant, which your Majesty hath just honoured us with, that our good Faith, and the fulfilling of our Engagement, were agreeable to your Majesty. France having afterwards thought fit to declare War against your Majesty, we hesitated no more than in the former Case, upon the Requisition which was made to us on the Part of your Majesty, to give you likewise the Succour of Twenty Men of War conformably to the Treaties; and we are causing them to be equipped with all the Diligence possible, not doubting, but that the Effect of our good Will, in this Point, will be as agreeable to your Majesty, as was our first Resolution. And since it has pleased your Majesty to demand, in your Letter, the entire Execution of the Treaties, and to require us, by Virtue of that of 1678, to enter into open Rupture with France, we hope, that your Majesty will not take it amiss, that, before we explain ourselves thereupon, we take the Method pointed out by that same Treaty, and endeavouring, by our Offices, to bring about an equitable Accommodation between the Parties at War, before we proceed farther. To this End, we have resolved to send forthwith a Minister to the Court of France, whom we have already named, and whom we will dispatch without Loss of Time. And as the Order and Constitution of our Government, does not permit us to come to a final Resolution, in an Affair of this Importance, without consulting the States of the Provinces which compose our Republick, we will not delay a Moment to inform them of the Contents of your Majesty's Letter, and to press them to explain themselves thereupon. In the mean while, we desire your Majesty to be persuaded, that we lay this great Affair, and the Consequences it may be attended with, to Heart; that we will give all the Attention to it that we are capable of, and that we will endeavour to give your Majesty Proofs of our Attachment to your Interests, as far as the Situation and the Forces of the Republick will permit; desiring nothing more ardently, than to convince your Majesty of the Sincerity of our respectful Sentiments, and of the high Esteem with which we are,

S I R,

Your Majesty's

very humble Servants,

The States General of
the United Provinces of
the Low Countries.

R. B. R. Compté de
Rechteren.

By Order of the States,
F. Fagel.

*Hdque, Ap. 30,
N. S. 1744.*

*Superscribed
To the King of
Great Britain.*