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Naples, March 5.

From *Sicily* they write, that the *Messineses* are greatly encouraged since the arrival of the sutors, brought them by the Duke de *Vivonne*; and the rather, for that they observe, the Spaniards are daily forced to leave the Posts they possessed near the City, as now lately they have quitted the Posts they had at *St. Placido*, and at the *Scaletta*, on pretence, that they kept their Forces too much divided. The Marquis d' *Astorgas*, our Viceroy, though he is much concerned to see things succeed so ill, yet omits nothing on his part, which may contribute to the reducing that City to its former Obedience, and the ridding the Crown of *Spain* of an affair, which gives it so much pain and trouble.

Vicna, March 17. The four Millions of Livres, demanded by the Count de *Montecuculi*, for the defraying the charges of this next Campagne, will be now suddenly put into his hands, and in that view he has resolved to part hence the 28 instant towards the Army. The Count of *Hofkirken*, who was sent by the Emperor to take an account of the posture of the Imperial Troops, Commanded the last Summer, by the Duke of *Bourbonville*, and to inform himself of the behaviour of the several Officers, during the late actions in *Alsatia*, has returned his Imperial Majesty an ample relation, by which, several miscarriages, and the faults of not a few are laid open; Whereupon the Commissary-General parted hence on Friday last, by the Emperors Order, to make Process against all those that are found guilty, in order to their punishment, before the Army draws into the Field again. The Count of *Waldack* purposes to part hence in 3 or 4 days, on his return for *Holland*. We are told, that there will be a most exact Discipline observed in the Imperial Army this next Campagne, and that the Count de *Montecuculi* has taken it upon him, to be answerable for all the disorders and violences that shall be committed by his Soldiers for want thereof.

Strasburg, March 22. On Tuesday last arrived here the Marquis of *Baden Dourlach*, General of the Artillery of the Imperial Army, though he was very much indisposed of an Apoplexy. The French continue to exact vast Contributions of all the Villages in the Marquis of *Baden*, and upon failure of payment thereof, they pillage and burn them. It is said that they are demolishing the Castle of *Dachstein*, and that to that end, they have undermined the Walls thereof, in order to the blowing them up. From *Vienna* they write, that the Count de *Montecuculi*, will certainly begin his journey from thence, the 28 of this month, for that by that time, the Moneys which have onely retarded it, will be ready; it is generally expected, that his Excellency will take better care than has been hitherto, to keep the Soldiers within an exact Order and Discipline, and to prevent the like disorders, that were committed the last Summer.

Coblentz, March 24. The seizing of *Germshelm* by the Elector Palatine, some days since, hath afforded great matter of dissatisfaction to the Elector of *Mayence*, to whom that place belongs; on the other side, we are told, that the Elector Palatine answers, he was

forced to it, for the preventing that places falling into the hands of the French, as some others have, which likewise belong to his Electoral Highness of *Mayence*, so that it is feared this matter may create some difference between them.

Cologne, March 29. The Imperial Troops that are lodged in this Diocess, and in the Countrey of *Fuljers* begin to move nearer to the *Meuse*, on what designe we know not, unless it be to convoy the Cardinal of *Baden*, who is coming thither from *Liege*. The Imperialists have removed the Magazine they had at *Mayence* to *Bonne*; and they speak likewise of erecting one here. Our Letters from *Strasburg* bring us not anything of news, but continue to tell us of the French preparations in *Lorraine* and *Alsatia*, of which they fear, they shall ere long see the effect. On Tuesday last the Heer *Fischer*, the Emperors Ambassador parted again from thence for *Munster*, whither he is gone to hasten the Levies that Bishop is making for the service of the Emperor; and some hours after his departure, arrived here two Deputies from the Bishop, who missing the said Ambassador, are gone to *Bonne*, to confer with the Imperial Generals there, upon the Matters they came about.

Liege, March 29. Things are at present here in much disorder and confusion, occasioned by the French being lett into the Citadel by the Governor of it. Yesterday about two in the morning 2500 French Foot, convoyed by several Squadrons of Horse, approached the Suburb of this City, called *St. Walburg*, and presently after were received into the Castle, which was no sooner known there, but all was in an allarm, the Inhabitants run to Arms, and marched up and down the streets in Troops, who meeting on the Market place a French Major and his Men, discharged their Muskets and killed them. Yesterday and this day the Shops and Houses, as well as the Gates, have been kept shut, except this afternoon, when the Gates were opened, to receive into the City 1200 Peasants, of the Countrey of *Franchimont*, all compleatly armed. This morning early was held a Chapter, where several persons were deputed, to go and desire the French to retire again out of the Castle, which if they do not, it is thought the Imperialists will come and help us to remove them. But after all, it is said, that though the ordinary People are so violent, yet, that most of the Magistrates are not much troubled at what has happened.

Brussels, March 29. This morning his Excellency received advice by an Express from the Count de *Chavignack*, who commands the Imperial Troops, quartered in the Countrey of *Liege*, that yesterday the French possessed themselves of the Castle of *Liege*, having been lett in by the Inhabitants, to the number of 3000; his Excellency is much concerned at it, as being a thing of great importance, and which will make easy the further designs the French may have in those quarters. In the mean time we prepare here in good earnest for the Campagne; his Excellency has Commanded the several Officers to make all the diligence possible in the raising their recruits, and care is taken to put things every where in the best posture, the present