

TUESDAY, March 10, 1747.

VIENNA, October 26.

THE empress is now resolved to exert herself in promoting the execution of the enterprize against Provence, that which was projected against the kingdom of Naples being deferred 'till the success of the propositions, which count Rosenberg, who is gone to Portugal, in order to cause them to be transmitted thence to the court of Madrid, is known. These propositions are of the utmost importance, and will be seconded by the British minister at Lisbon.

Peterburg, October 16. By the lists which the colonels of the several regiments have sent to court, according to annual custom, it appears that the regular troops of this empire, without including the militia or marines, amount to 145,000 men.

Extract of a private Letter from Paris, October 23.

"At a time when the greatest part of this kingdom is in the deepest distress possible; when the husbandman knows not how to maintain his poor family by his labour; when the mechanic knows not where to find employment, and if he could, is afraid of being forced to draw amongst the militia; when the seaman is compelled to attend the king's service, without being actually in it; when provisions are scarce, trade dead, and money not to be seen; our ministry at Versailles are forming projects, that would have astonished the council of Louis XIV., when his flatterers here filled him immortal and invincible. What I tell you is literally truth; and you will confess as much, when you have heard what is come to my knowledge from madame de T——, from whom one who knows every thing can conceal nothing. The true state of politics here then, at this juncture, is as follows:

The king himself is inclined to peace, and is persuaded that the only way to procure it is, by taking vigorous methods. At the great council held some time ago, it was proposed to draw 100,000 men out of the militia, against the next campaign, which the duke de —— made no scruple of saying was impossible, without driving as many more able men out of the kingdom; but that made no impression. Marshal ——, who was present, interposed indeed, and prevented any resolution being taken, 'till, as he said, it was considered whether even this number was sufficient. The king took notice of this, and said he was afraid this war would depopulate his dominions: The marshal replied, that smaller armies might answer the ends of war as well, or better; but by bringing many numerous corps into the field early in the Spring, they might be sure of making a good peace. The cardinal confirmed this, by saying, it would convince the enemies of France, she was still able to make prodigious efforts, instead of being exhausted and undone.

After some debate, it was resolved to bring four armies into the field by the month of April: The largest, and most numerous, in the Low Countries; another on the Moselle; a third, consisting of 70,000 men, on the Rhine; and a fourth, of 60,000, in Provence, to act in conjunction with the Spaniards. In order to accomplish this, it was thought necessary to draw from the militia 160,000 men, in reinforcements, and as recruits; for which the king has actually directed the necessary instructions to be sent to all the provinces, where no doubt they will occasion a general consternation; and after all, it is judged not possible to carry them into execution. The two schemes of the comptroller of the finances will, by the close of the month of April, bring into the king's coffers 92 millions, and 18 millions of livres: The first is a tax on houses, the easiest, and therefore the most pernicious that ever was invented; it takes all from the palace to the shepherd's hut: The other is a kind of excise, which reaches all estates; so that there is no esca-

ping these taxes, if one does not go without victuals, or lie in the street. Indeed the comptroller may well value himself on an imposition which reaches even to beggars, since, if his administration continues, it is what we must all come to, and that in a few years.

Upon the taking this resolution, orders were given for communicating it to the court of Spain, in order to have the necessary measures concerted for opening very early the next campaign on the side of Piedmont. With this view the count de Noailles is speedily to set out from hence, and is to carry with him a compleat detail of all that is still in the power of his most Christian majesty to furnish, for accomplishing, in spite of all opposition, the establishment of Don Philip in Italy. Until this can be done, the bishop of Rennes is directed to give his Catholic majesty the strongest assurances on this head, in order to keep him firm to our alliance, in spite of all the offers of England, and all the persuasions of Portugal. The cardinal on this occasion, took the opportunity to magnify the abilities and zeal of M. Chavigni, who, in passing through Madrid, had done as much or more than could be expected even from an ambassador extraordinary; and this without any previous instructions, but from his own extensive knowledge of things, and happy talent of bringing over such as converse with him to his own opinions, how strongly soever prejudiced against him, or prepossessed against them. He concluded with saying, That the danger was over on this side, and Spain as strongly united to France as ever.

The marshal ——, who is no admirer of Chavigni, nor perhaps of the cardinal, threw out upon this, what has made a very strong impression upon some of our ablest politicians. I will endeavour, as far as possible, to give you his own words: I am very far from admiring these forward ministers, who venture the fate of kingdoms upon an ill-grounded notion of their own sufficiency.—I do not mean to blame without producing my reasons, and when produced, let censure fall where it ought.—We owe our misfortunes in Italy, and our war with England, the most troublesome things we have to struggle with, to our alliance with Spain.—But for these, Bavaria had been recovered by force of arms, and we had never seen the Grand duke emperor.—Why, then, make a point of maintaining this alliance?—What could have been more fortunate for us, than Spain's making a separate peace?—She might have made good terms for herself, but in that case she would not have made them at our expence; which, if we make peace for her, she will.—In that case the heavy burthen of the Italian war had been taken off our shoulders, and we might have had a very useful friend, instead of a very useless ally.—Besides, we should then have had the conquests in the Low Countries to have gone to market with; and whoever is acquainted with those goods, will agree that they might have been employed in purchasing a glorious peace for France.—But M. Chavigni has prevented this; he has secured to us the burthen of Spain, which we cannot bear with patience, nor get rid of with honour. Admirable sagacity truly! I do not however wonder so much at what he has done, as at hearing men of much greater abilities applaud him. For my part, *erit mihi magnus Apollo*; who shall undo what he has been doing."

Hague, November 8. The earl of Sandwich returned to Bredda on Sunday last, and the pensionary intends to follow tomorrow or next day. The freshest advices of the operations in Italy, are of the 21st inst, from the king of Sardinia's quarters at Nice; when the enemy had no troops left on the Italian side of the Varo, save a handful of men in the castle of Ventimiglia and Villafranca.