

Amsterdam, April 26. The last Letters from Antwerp positively assure, that Port Perle was taken, and that Lillo was invested; and also that the French were preparing for a general Action as well as the Allies.

*Extract of a Letter from the Quarters of the Allied Army at Tilbourg, April 19.*

The duke and the other General Officers have frequent conferences about settling the Operations; and the Men are impatient to have them settled, that they may revenge themselves on those Fellows, the French, whom they look upon with sufficient disdain. Our Train is numerous and good; so that we are in no Apprehension from being overcome by the Monsieur, by that Article only; and if I have any Skill in determining Events by the present Temper of our Men, and if the Enemy do not exercise the most intrepid courage, I plainly discover their Artillery will avail them little. A rumour runs through the Army, that we shall make a beginning by falling upon Antwerp; but this is contradicted by another, of drawing the French to engage with us, in hopes of a battle at the Opening of the Campaign: This latter design, if practicable and successful, will be worth taking Pén Towns. The Troops are disposed in an equecrural Triangle, so that a Line, let our March be which Way it will, may be easily formed, and the Army soon assembled; which, for Number and Goodness, far exceed the Enemy. We are composed of 57,000 Imperialists, 16,000 English, 18,000 Hanoverians, 6000 Hessians, and 30,000 Dutch: In all 127,000. These are all estimated at the very lowest, and the Dutch are certainly more than I have called them. The whole makes such an Army that the Allies never faced the Enemy with before, and doubt not but the French will find them terrible in Action. I cannot conclude, without saying, that Troops daily arrive in the Quarters, so that our Numbers are continually encreasing.

Amsterdam, April 24. The last Letters from Zealand import, that there were 6 English men of war upon that coast, and that the province was every where putting itself into the best posture of defence, and chiefly in the isle of Walcheren, all the inhabitants thereof offering to serve in person in case of need, and to sacrifice every thing for the religion and liberty of their country.

*The last letters which the minister from Genoa at the Hague received from thence, dated April 21, 1747, relate what follows; viz.*

That general Schulemberg had made fresh propositions to the revolters, which they had absolutely rejected; the purport of which was, that if they would lay down their arms, and submit to the clemency of the empress-queen, without putting themselves under the guaranty and protection of the crowns of Great Britain and Sardinia, the republic would have much more easy terms granted, and would be treated a thousand times more favourably than it could reasonably hope for by a capitulation, or than it can probably procure itself by way of arms: That to these propositions the heads of the revolters made the following Answer; *We have already, to our very great misfortune, too severely felt the fatal effects of Austrian clemency, to be ever weak enough to trust it again. If count Sebulemberg has, as to intimidate us we are told, an army of 30,000 chosen troops, and a large train of artillery ready, to make us feel the resentment of the empress-queen; we say, in answer to this, that the republic has 54,000 men in arms, 9000 of whom are regular troops, 260 pieces of cannon, and 34 mortars; together with ammunition and provisions in abundance; and what is still more, we are resolutely determined to defend our city, and preserve our Liberty, to the last drop of our blood, and will suffer ourselves to be buried in the ruins of our Capital, rather than ask for quarter, and submit to the clemency of the court of Vienna; unless we can obtain it by an honourable capitulation well guaranteed by the kings of Great-Britain and Sardinia, and the republic of Venice, and the United Provinces.*

Flushing, May 4. N. S. It is reported that Saas van Ghent was taken on Sunday night, tho' as yet no person is arrived here from that place. At 7 this evening two boats arrived here from Hulst. The passengers bring an account, that the French having made an attempt to cut off the communication between the garrison and Welforden, where the English troops under major general Buller landed yesterday morning, a very bloody action ensued, wherein the French were repulsed, and are said to have lost upwards of 1000 men. The English came up time enough to have a Share in the action, and are at present encamped at a place called Stoppeldyk. We also hear, that general la Roque has cut a dyke, where he has a great number of the Enemy's cannon, and laid under water a large

body of the besiegers had been obliged to retire, and it was thought the besieged were in a condition to oblige the French to abandon the place. We are assured, that a great number of the French troops which were about Sluys and Yssendyke, and in the isle of Cadant, are sailing off towards Ghent.

L O N D O N.

April 22. The French in going from Madras having had all their ships dismasted, except two, besides the three that were lost in the storm, a man of war was sent to Bengal in order to get masts for them, but was in her passage also lost.

It is said that some men of war will soon sail to the East-Indies, to reinforce commodore Peyton.

It is reported that his royal highness the duke of Cumberland has by a forced march got the Allied army into such an advantageous situation, that it has obliged count Saxe to call in all his detachments, being apprehensive of a battle much sooner than he expected.

The Warren G. lley and Saltash privateers have taken, and carried into Falmouth, a French privateer of 16 guns, and 130 men.

April 25. Late on Wednesday Night last arrived an Express from the British admiral to the Lords of the Admiralty, we hear has brought an Account, that the French were collecting together on the Schelde all the Brats they possibly could, for an Expedition into some Part of Zealand; and that they were pushing with great Vigour the Sieges of Hulst and Sas van Ghent, but that both the said Places continued to make a most gallant Defence; and that his Cruizers had taken and brought in several of the said Brats, and did not doubt but that he should be able to frustrate all their Attempts.

And by an intercepted Letter, which M. Saxe was sending to M. Lowendahl, we learn, that being well informed the Duke was pushing Things on with great Diligence to march and attack him, he laid aside all Thoughts of besieging Luxemburg, and had sent Expresses even to Paris, to hasten the March of the Life-guards; and had likewise sent Orders to M. Lowendahl immediately to collect his Forces together, and that tho' he would have him push his Operations with Vigour, yet in such a Manner as that his whole Detachment may be always ready to march to his Assistance.

By a person just arrived from the Allied army, we have an account, that when he came away, a French spy was taken in the camp at Alphen, who was directly carried to the quarters of the duke to be examined, and met with his reward.

It is likewise assured, that there were two French spies taken by the Dutch sounding the Schelde, who were immediately made a public sacrifice to the resentment of the populace.

*The following Circumstances are what we have collected concerning the taking of Fort St. George; by the French in the East Indies.*

The Bribe was 75,000l. The Garrison was composed of Natives, under the Influence of the Nabob, who would not defend it against the French. The loss to the Company is not 100,000l. there being but two Ships that take in their Lading at this Place, and the Ship that brought the Advice, has touched at the Cape, and every other Place, where the outward Ships touch, which will prevent any falling into the French Hands by proceeding to Fort St. George. After mentioning the French Loss in retreating, the Affair in short is not so considerable; the loss to the Company being much less than has been supposed, and the French being no Gainers by it; on the contrary, the loss of these Ships will so greatly impair their Force in the East-Indies, that we may reasonably hope; after the two Men of War that went from hence with the last Outward-bound Indiamen, have join'd our Naval Force, that we shall be sufficiently enabled to make Reprisals.

General Churchill, who now commands in Scotland, has received orders to form a camp at Fort Augustus, by which means he will have the command of the whole Highlands, and effectually prevent the junction of the Highlanders if any attempt should be made.

Several Men of War are ordered for the North, to prevent any further Insults of the French Privateers on the English in those Parts.

The Neptune, capt. Dennis, from Maryland to London, is taken and carried into Port-Passage.

On Saturday Morning came certain Advice, that the French have laid Siege to Axel, Philippine Fort, and Hulst, which last Place has near 3000 English in it, besides other Troops, and is well provided with Necessaries for a long and vigorous Defence. By this Account it should seem that Sas Van Ghent is taken, though the Dutch Gazettees leave the Matter doubtful.