

quarters of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland is at Liche, and that of Marshal Bathiani at Eyiden. General Trips is still in the neighbourhood of the Charreufe, and his troops continue to make incursions with great success.

The French army encamp at Harcourt, Flex, Slang, and Nerdern, and extend beyond Tongres. The body of Count Clermont, prince of the blood, reaches as far as Hasselt. The French entrench themselves in all these places, which looks as if they designed to stay there some time.

One of the bridges which his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland had thrown over the river under the city, has been removed to Viter. The communication with Holland by the Maerle is at present quite free, so that several boats, laden with forage, provisions, &c. have arrived from thence.

*Oudnefsch, August 10. O. S.* The body under the command of Gen. Baron, frequently intercepts the convoys from Awerp to the enemy's camp, and daily send thither many prisoners, and great booty. The garrison of Bergen op Zoom still continues to defend itself so well, that the enemy gains no ground without purchasing it with the blood of their best officers and soldiers. Deserters assure us, that they are preparing to make in a few days a general attack upon the works of the town, and upon its tower.

*Antwerp, Aug. 11. O. S.* Great numbers of wounded are daily brought here from the siege of Bergen op Zoom, and several of our engineers are killed. In short it may be said, that few sieges have proved more bloody than this.

*Amsterdam, Aug. 12. O. S.* The master of a ship arriv'd here reports, that he met off Cape Finisterre an English man of war, and two privateers of the same nation, which had taken a Spanish ship, laden with gold and silver, and off Goodstaart ten other English men of war, having with them two French men of war, two French India ships, and a ship from Martinico.

*An Extract of a Letter from the HAGUE, dated Aug. 15.*

"We are told that we shall have peace, but God knows when, a good one will scarcely be obtained, unless France be reduced to it by the progress of the arms of the allies upon her territories, until she be obliged to give up the Low Countries, and to desist from forming an establishment for Don Philip; in short, until she renounces the crown and all her works, the pomps and vanities, &c.

As it seems the publick finds its hopes of peace upon some discourse which the English General, Sir John Ligonier had at the king's quarters, and the distinguished manner with which the king treated him, 'tis believed it will not be unacceptable or improper to relate the substance of some letters from the French army, wrote from one minister to another upon that subject.

The bravery and general character of Sir John Ligonier, interested themselves so strongly in his favour, as to have obtained him the esteem of the king, and friendship of all the generals and lords who saw him during the short time he was our prisoner. The king's ministers had several conferences with him, which turn'd altogether upon the affairs of the times, and the present war. Marshal de Noailles particularly said to him,

"Sir, I cannot help rejoicing, with all those who sincerely desire peace, that the fate of arms has thrown you into the hands of the king, because no body is more capable, nor I believe more ready than you are to lay a foundation for it. The king is really inclin'd to it, and will very willingly hearken to reasonable terms; if your court is in the same good disposition, the thing may be effected, without any longer trusting to the fate of arms, which, as you are sensible, has hitherto not been very favourable to the allies. You know the sentiments of the court of London thereupon, and are acquainted with the intentions of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland; you consequently, will say are with us, may have the honour of conducting so important an affair." To which speech of Marshal de Noailles, and to those of the other ministers, General Ligonier answer'd in the affirmative, and gave them the strongest assurances of the good dispositions of the King his master in regard to peace, adding, that as all the conferences which had hitherto been set on foot for that purpose, had been unsuccessfully broken off, by reason of the preliminary difficulties, and the articles which were to be the basis, not being settled; the re-establishment therefore of a new congress, and even of a peace itself, depended almost entirely upon his most christian majesty. One may form a Judgment from what is above related, whether any thing essential has been done, and if there be any grounds to give out so emphatically as has been publish'd, that peace is as good as concluded.

*Extract of a Letter from the HAGUE, dated August 15.*

A foreign minister has receiv'd advice from Paris, importing in substance, that besides the augmentation which the most christian king has given orders to be made of some regiments, great diligence is us'd in raising 24000 men to be sent to garrison the strong places, to the end that the old troops and exercis'd militia may be drawn from thence, in order to be employ'd in the armies of his majesty. The levy of the militia, which will be made after the harvest, will amount, according to the returns made, to near 80,000, which will be employ'd with arms and half cloathing, and exercis'd all the winter in military business.

*Extract of a Letter from a foreign Minister at the Hague, dated August 22.*

"The Most Christian King is, 'tis said, resolv'd to see Bergen op Zoom in his possession, even at the expence of 60,000 men. 'Tis pretended, that he has already lost more than a fourth part of that number. Rotterdam, Amsterdam, and Le Zealand, are full of French deserters, who for the most part engage themselves for the Indies, or on board the men of war. Count Lowendahl finding so much more trouble in taking this place than he expected, grows sick of the undertaking, and he does make some small advances. He is expecting the renewal of his artillery, which has been render'd unserviceable by that of the town, which is serv'd beyond all imagination, particularly by the English gunners, &c.

The journey which the Baron de Reickach, the Imperial minister here, has made to the grand army near Maestricht, was occasion'd by some private dispatches which this minister receiv'd from the court of Vienna, and upon which he confer'd several days with his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland and Marshal Bathiani. Notwithstanding the endeavours that have been used to keep the subject of this message a secret, we have been inform'd from good hands, that his imperial majesty has sent orders to Count Bathiani to act in subordination to the Duke of Cumberland, and to exactly conform himself to the marches and enterprises which that Prince shall of himself think proper to enter upon.

'Tis assur'd, that his Excellency the Earl of Sandwich has yet declar'd in form the subject of the commission with which that ambassador is charged; however, it's known beforehand, that it is no less an undertaking than to cut the Gordian's knot. The courier which M. Ammon the minister from Prussia, has lately receiv'd, has, we are assur'd, brought propositions for a suspension of arms, but upon certain conditions; concerning which that minister was both Friday and Saturday in conference with the deputies of the States General, and has presented a memorial."

*Extract of a Letter from Bergen op Zoom, dated August 23, Four in the Morning.*

The progress made by the French has oblig'd us for these two days past to barricade the principal streets, and put all the sluices and flood-gates in order, tho' we have orders not to open them till the last extremity, which seems near at hand; two of the principal streets being now all in flames, besides some cross streets and lanes, and consequently the inhabitants in the greatest confusion. The firing on both sides has been all this night and yesterday more severe than ever, by which the French have at last disabled most of our cannon. 'Tis hop'd, however, the opening of the flood-gates will retard their progress for at least ten days.

**L O N D O N, August 7.**

We hear that Capt. Hildesly an old Officer in the Navy, is appointed an Admiral.

*August 12.* It was Yesterday reported that the King of Portugal was dead.

We hear that most of the Fireships in His Majesty's Navy are order'd to be converted into Sloops of War.

*August 18.* His Majesty's Ship the Ambuscade, Capt. Gwyth, has taken a French Privateer of 12 Guns, belonging to Cherbourg, and carried her into Kinsale.

Last Friday Admiral Cotterell kiss'd His Majesty's Hand on that Promotion, and last Sunday kiss'd the Princess Amelia's Hand on the same Occasion.

Sir Peter Warren, Knight of the Bath, is set out for Bath, to drink the Waters for the Benefit of his Health.

Orders are given for the Payment of Messengers the Charges they have disburs'd for the Maintenance of the Evidences, and Rebel Prisoners; which will amount to above 10,000*l.*

*August 22.* They continue to work extraordinary Hours in His Majesty's Yards, in order to get the Ships ready that are to form the Channel Service.

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