

Military Memoirs



GEORGE II.

D. 925 Military Memoirs
O F

GREAT BRITAIN:

O R,

A HISTORY OF THE WAR,

1755 — 1763.

WITH ELEGANT COPPERPLATES.

BY DAVID RAMSAY.

— Talibus viris non labor insolitus, non locus ullus asper, aut arduus erat, non armatus hostis formidolosus: virtus omnia domuerat. Sed glorie maximum certamen inter ipsos erat: nisi quisque hostem ferire, narium ascendere, conficere, dum tale facinus faceret, properabat. SALLUST.



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TO

HIS GRACE

THE DUKE OF,

DUKE OF BUCCLEUGH,

AND

EARL OF DONCASTER,

COLONEL of the SOUTH FENCIBLES of SCOTLAND,

THE FOLLOWING

MILITARY MEMOIRS

ARE

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS GRACE'S VERY OBEDIENT,

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

DAVID RAMSAY.

P R E F A C E.

OF all the various branches of literature, which convey instruction or amusement to mankind, none afford so great a proportion of both, upon such easy terms, as History. Every step we proceed in it, encreases our ardour; and the pleasure we receive, makes us consider it as an agreeable relaxation.

THE intervals of peace, however much they may be esteemed the seasons of happiness, furnish few events deserving the attention of an historian. The animated exertions of war, can alone give full scope to all the nobler passions. They call forth into action, the elevated virtues of courage, generosity, and disinterestedness; and produce deeds, worthy of being transmitted to posterity.

WHEN a people are insulted by enemies they have long been accustomed to conquer, and their existence as a nation is endangered, it is then too late to enquire, minutely, into the causes which have brought them into this situation. The conjuncture calls for the immediate exertion of whatever

wisdom or vigour is left among them ; and the man who with-holds his assistance, on any pretence, is an enemy to his country. It is a common cause ; in which every one is interested, and in which all should be engaged : the blunders of administration, and the violence of opposition, ought to be forgotten ; and the gratification of personal animosities, should give way to the general good of the community.

SUCH, now, is the situation of Britain. A destructive war, begun on principles, at best, of a doubtful nature, and prosecuted, hitherto, with little success, has apparently reduced us to a very low ebb. Taking advantage of the unhappy contention with our American colonies, the perfidious house of Bourbon, without the shadow of provocation, has interposed ; and is endeavouring to crush, in this moment of adversity, the nation, which, in better times, was wont to make her tremble. Our domestic dissensions have likewise contributed to the general distress, by depriving us of that strength, which is ever the attendant of national union.

AT such a crisis, to rouse the drooping spirit of the people, to encourage the timid,

to revive the desponding, and to animate the brave, is the indispensable duty of every friend to his country; for, by vigorously resenting an injury, and avenging an insult, we lay the most solid foundation of peace, independence, and safety.

THE history of a war, somewhat similar in its commencement to the present; unfortunate in its beginning; but, in which, by spirited measures, the transition from despondency to exultation, was both sudden and extraordinary; must have an obvious tendency to excite the spirit of a people, whose characteristics are fortitude and a love of their country—Upon this principle, the following pages are offered to the Public.

THE author would have little to dread from the severity of criticism, if the execution of the work was in any degree proportionable to the importance of the subject.—To place the momentous occurrences of the last war in the most striking light, to retrench the superfluity of trifling anecdotes, to avoid the extremes of exuberance and abridgment, and to give every object the due proportion it ought to maintain in the picture, without crowding the canvas, was

his intention : how far he has succeeded, must be left to the judicious to determine. —Uninfluenced by party, and unawed by power, he has endeavoured to place men and measures in their proper light ; and has attempted, wherever it was practicable, to point out those motives of action, which lead to the true developement of character. Conjecture, however, has never been wantonly or licentiously indulged ; and, where the subject was intricate, facts, related without prejudice, are left to speak for themselves.

PERHAPS no period ever produced more copious or minute accounts of public transactions. From the most authentic of these, he has derived his materials.* But as they were frequently the vehicle of party, prejudice, and personal animosity, the representing facts in their just light, was attended with no small degree of difficulty.

* The gazettes published by both nations---Most of the periodical publications---Smollet's history of England---Entick's general history of the late war---Molyncux's conjunct expeditions--Lloyd's history of the German war 1756 and 1757---Orme's military transactions of the British nation in Indostan---Annual Register, &c. &c.

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Military Memoirs

O F

GREAT BRITAIN.

:

CHAP. I.

Origin of the dispute between Great Britain and France—Warlike preparations—Two French ships taken—Operations in America—Braddock's unfortunate expedition—General Johnson defeats the French—An invasion threatened—Fort St Philip's taken—Fate of Byng.

THE exhausted situation of the contending powers at the conclusion of the war in 1748, and the equality of their remaining force, gave just grounds of expectation, that the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle would prove happy and lasting. Each nation still continued in a state of defence. The fear with which the one inspired the other made them cautious of offending; and the inhabitants of Europe indulged themselves in the pleasing hope of enjoying, for many years, the blessings of ease and tranquillity.

THE turbulent ambition of the French, desirous of recovering, by underhand encroachments,

1753 what they had given up by treaty, renewed once more those scenes of blood and devastation, which already had exhausted the strength, and depopulated the principal kingdoms of Europe.

To investigate, with a tedious exactness, the remote causes which gave rise to the war; to dwell, with minute prolixity, on skirmishes and engagements, neither important in themselves, nor interesting in their consequences, is not our intention: nor would the limits, to which we have confined ourselves, permit us to exhibit so unentertaining a detail. The brevity, however, with which matters of little moment are passed over, will be compensated by a full and particular relation, wherever the dignity of the object seems to require it.

Dispute
about Nova
Scotia.

THE dispute between Great Britain and France originated from the uncertainty of the limits of their American territories. Partly from the inattention, and partly from the ignorance, of the negotiators of both courts, at the peaces of Utrecht and Aix-la-Chapelle, the boundaries of Acadia or Nova Scotia were never distinctly ascertained. Succeeding negotiations, equally tedious and ineffectual, served only to increase the confusion; and it became obvious, from the steady inflexibility of both parties, that the sword alone could terminate the contest.

French en-
croach-
ments on
the Ohio.

ANOTHER source of contention arose from a cause, which, though it had hitherto escaped observation, was equally intricate with the former, and tended to produce the same consequences. The French, from a claim of prior discovery, had

taken possession of the country adjacent to the rivers Mississippi and Ohio, to which they had given the name of Louisiana. They intended, by a regular chain of forts, to join those settlements with their Canadian possessions. By these means, the English would have been effectually excluded from any share in the Indian trade; and would also, in case of a war, have been exposed to continual inroads and alarms. Upon the execution of this plan, however, the prosperity, if not the existence, of the French colonies in North America depended; and it was equally evident, if Britain suffered it to take place, that the consequences would prove fatal and destructive to her own settlements.

WHILE France was endeavouring to amuse the British court with idle negotiations and insincere declarations, she was secretly preparing to support her encroachments by force of arms. Accustomed to French duplicity, and not deceived by her professions, Britain was equally assiduous in warlike preparations; and particularly in putting her navy on the most respectable footing*. Troops had,

1754.

Duplicity of
the French.

* The English navy, at this period, consisted of

<i>Ships.</i>		<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>		<i>Guns.</i>
One	of	110	Twenty-eight	of	50
Five	-	100	Four	-	44
Thirteen	-	90	Thirty-five	-	40
Eight	-	80	Forty-two	-	20
Five	-	74	Four	-	18
Twenty-nine	-	70	Two	-	16
Four	-	66	Eleven	-	14
One	-	64	Thirteen	-	12
Thirty-three	-	60	One	-	10
Three	-	54			

Besides a number of bomb-ketches, fire-ships, and tenders,

1755.
AMERICA.

in the mean time, been secretly sent off by both nations to America. The British colonies had instructions to use their utmost endeavours to repel the incursions of the enemy; and they were given to understand, that they would be supported by a body of British troops, under Major-General Braddock, who was appointed commander in chief in America.

THE conduct of the American provinces, on this occasion, was neither suitable to their own danger, nor to the interest of the mother-country. Conscious of their services during the preceding war, they were offended at an English general's being appointed to command them. The dispositions they made therefore for assisting and co-operating with the troops from Britain were feeble and dissipated; and, in every measure adopted for that purpose, there was an evident want of unanimity.

THE character of the general himself was by no means calculated to remove these disaffections. However unexceptionable as a man of courage, he was in every other respect unfit for the employment. Haughtiness of temper, and austerity of manners, were qualities but ill suited to make a favourable impression on those amongst whom he was destined to act. Unacquainted with the nature of the country, the genius of the people, and their peculiar mode of fighting, he treated with contempt the half-disciplined but brave troops of the Provinces. Accustomed to the minute service of the parade, he exerted the most severe discipline amongst his own soldiers; but he wanted that affability of temper which makes soldiers submit with

cheerfulness. They dreaded him as a commander, they disliked him as a man.

THE expedition, in which the British and Provincial troops, amounting to about 2200, were to act in conjunction, was against Fort du Quesne, which commanded the entrance into the countries on the Ohio and Mississippi.

HAD General Braddock possessed every qualification requisite for such an enterprise, it must be acknowledged that he laboured under innumerable difficulties, and was, in a great measure, destitute of the necessaries which alone could enable him to perfect it. By the negligence of the Virginian contractors, a sufficient quantity of provisions and carriages were not prepared; and the supplying of those necessary articles occasioned a delay of some weeks.

THESE difficulties were at last surmounted. He marched from Fort Cumberland in Virginia on the 10th of June; and encamped, on the 8th of July, within ten miles of Fort du Quesne, with an army of 1400 men; having left the remainder of his troops to bring up the stores and heavy baggage. He continued his march next day. Advancing carelessly, unmindful of those precautions so necessary in a country abounding with woods and thickets, he was saluted, about mid-day, with a severe and heavy fire, full in his front, and all along his left flank. This sudden and unexpected attack, from an enemy who could not be seen, was accompanied with the horrid shouts of Indians, which excited the greatest terror amongst the troops, especially the regulars, who were entirely

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AMERICA.

Braddock's
unfortunate
expedition.Marches for
Fort du
Quesne.Falls into
an ambu-
cade.

1755.

AMERICA.

Defeated
and slain.

unacquainted with it.—The whole army was thrown into confusion; they fled with precipitation, and all the efforts of their gallant officers proved ineffectual to stop them. In this moment of difficulty and danger, it was hard to say whether the intrepidity or imprudence of the general were most conspicuous. Instead of endeavouring to retreat, till he could make use of his artillery, and by that means clear the bushes of the enemy, he gave orders to form regularly, and to advance. In the mean time, his officers and men fell thick around him. Every fire from the enemy did dreadful execution, and increased the flight and disorder. Braddock himself, after having had five horses killed under him, received a musket-shot through his lungs, of which he died in a few days; atoning, by an honourable death, for the errors of his conduct.—The Provincial troops, so much despised, proved now essentially useful. They bravely formed, and advanced against the Indians; and to their gallant behaviour was it owing, that the whole army was not cut off.—The loss, in this unfortunate affair, amounted to near 700 men; and the officers, who were singled out by the enemy, fell in a much greater proportion than is usual. The number of the enemy is said to have been 900 men, mostly Indians; and their loss quite inconsiderable. The remainder of the army retreated with precipitation to Fort Cumberland, leaving behind them all the artillery, baggage, &c.*

* The scene of this disaster had been peculiarly unfortunate to the English.—In the year 1754, Colonel Washington, with a body of 400 Provincials, having erected a temporary fort on the Ohio, was attacked, defeated, and taken prisoner, by the French.

THOUGH the progress of the British arms, in the northern provinces, was neither marked by any decisive events, nor attended with important consequences, it derived a lustre from being contrasted with the unfortunate enterprise against Fort du Quesne.—Three expeditions were resolved upon; one against Crown Point, another against the fort at Niagara, and a third to reduce the French forts in Acadia.

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AMERICA.

THE first of these was planned under the direction, and executed under the command, of General Johnson, a gentleman of Ireland, who had lived, from his earliest youth, in the Indian country adjacent to the Mohawk river. By adopting the customs, and learning the language of that people; by redressing their wrongs, and alleviating their distresses; he acquired a degree of influence over them which no European had ever possessed. They revered him as a father, they obeyed him as a sovereign. By a noble disinterestedness, he made use of the power he had over them for the service of his country.—Having, for many years, dignified the character of a merchant by the extensiveness and liberality of his dealings, the love of his country prompted him to adopt the less tranquil but more honourable employment of a soldier.

Expedition
against
Crown
Point.

AT the head of about five thousand men, General Johnson encamped at Lake George, on the 6th of September, in a very strong situation. Receiving intelligence that a considerable number of the enemy were advancing from Ticonderoga, he detached a thousand men, besides Indians, to intercept them. These were repulsed with considerable

General
Johnson
encamps at
Lake
George.

1755.

AMERICA.

Attacked
by the
French.Defeats
them.

loss; and, in a few hours, the enemy, more numerous than imagined, appeared marching towards the camp, in the most perfect order. By beginning their attack at too great a distance, the fire of the French was partly ineffectual, and gave time to the English to recover the confusion which the sudden appearance of so numerous an enemy had occasioned. No sooner did the English artillery begin to play upon the enemy, than their Canadians and Indians fled, as usual, to the bushes. Unsupported by these auxiliaries, the French general still kept up his fire against the camp, which did very little execution; while his own troops suffered greatly. At last, General Johnson, perceiving the enemy in some confusion, left his intrenchments, attacked them on all sides, and obtained a complete victory. The loss of the French amounted to near 800 men, and that of the English to about 200.—As the season was now deemed to be too far advanced to proceed to the attack of Crown Point, the army returned to Albany.—The general, as a reward for his gallant behaviour, was created a baronet, and presented with 5000*l.* by the parliament.

THE attempt upon Niagara, from the slowness of the preparations, and the lateness of the season, proved altogether abortive.—General Shirley, who commanded in this expedition, after having traversed an immense tract of country, and reinforced the garrison of Oswego with about 700 men, returned without having achieved any thing worthy of being related.

THE expedition against the French in Nova Scotia was successful, and fully answered the end proposed. The fort of Beau-sejour was taken by a body of Provincial troops, under the command of Colonel Monckton; who, after having destroyed the forts on St. John's river, and disarmed the French Indians and Acadians, effectually established the tranquillity of Nova Scotia.

1755-
AMERICA.

AFFAIRS were in this situation, when intelligence was received, that a powerful armament was ready to sail from Brest. A squadron was immediately fitted out, and the command given to Admiral Boscawen, an experienced seaman, and a brave officer, who had orders to intercept and attack the French fleet, wherever he should meet them. He sailed immediately for the banks of Newfoundland, and arrived there a few days before the French squadron. The thick fogs, which prevail on those coasts, prevented the two armaments from seeing each other; and, by that means, the French fleet reached its destination in the river St. Lawrence. Two sixty-four gun ships, however, the Alcide and Lys, having been separated from the rest of the fleet, were taken, after a smart resistance, by two ships of the British squadron. In this engagement, the good conduct and intrepidity of Captain (afterwards Lord) Howe were eminently distinguished.

EUROPE.

Admiral
Boscawen
sails for
Newfound-
land.

Takes two
French
ships.

THE taking of those ships, though complained of and represented by the French as a breach of national faith, was sufficiently justified by their encroachments in America. It contributed, in a great

1755.
EUROPE.

measure, to bring matters to a crisis. No longer under a necessity of disguising their intentions, both nations avowedly declared their resolution of supporting their respective claims, and redoubled their preparations for war.

THOUGH the ceremony of denouncing war was delayed from political reasons, orders had been given for the British ships to take all the French vessels they met with ; and, during the course of the year, upwards of 300, many of them with rich cargoes, were carried into the ports of Great Britain.

THE inactivity and tameness of the French, on this occasion, astonished all Europe. Instead of attempting reprisals, they contented themselves with complaining loudly of the injustice of Britain, and represented these acts of hostility as a violation of the law of nations. They carried this affected aversion to hostilities so far, as to return an English ship of war which they had taken.

At last their mask of moderation was removed. They formed two designs ; the one the conquest of Minorca, the other an attempt upon Hanover. The first of these owed the success with which it was attended, more to the supineness and inattention of the English ministry, than to the wisdom and dexterity with which it was planned and executed.—To draw off the attention of the English from their real designs, they brought down troops to the coasts of Picardy, Normandy, and Britany, under a shew of invading Great Britain. This produced the desired effect. The English nation was seized with the utmost consternation. The

French
threaten
an invasion.

ministry hesitated, and seemed conscious of their neglect. The army was known to be insufficient to defend a wide-extended sea-coast from invasion; and the establishment of a national militia, though often proposed, had not yet taken place.

It was on her navy alone that Britain could depend for protection. From a just sense of its importance, she considers it as the sole support of the national dignity. It is the center of all her hopes, it is the source of all her riches. A numerous fleet is equipped and manned with the same expedition as the raising of a single battalion.—On the other hand, an increase of the standing army is ever looked upon with a jealous eye, as inimical to liberty. Whenever, therefore, Britain, unhappily for herself, requires a powerful land-force, she is obliged to apply for assistance to other states. In her present situation, such an application was deemed necessary. Her treacherous allies denied their aid. The Dutch, in particular, though indebted to Britain for their very being, refused to perform their stipulated engagements, upon pretences equally shallow and evasive. Accordingly, a body of 8000 Hessians was engaged to be employed, if required, upon the continent, or in Britain or Ireland. A treaty similar to this, but much more extensive, was begun with Russia, of which we shall have occasion to speak more fully afterwards.

WHILE the apprehensions of an immediate invasion had pervaded all ranks of people in Britain; while the ministry were endeavouring to guard, with an almost childish timidity, against such at-

1756.
EUROPE.

1756.

EUROPE.

Port St.
Philip's be-
sieged.

tacks as were threatened but to amuse, and were not intended, a French squadron of twelve ships of the line, commanded by the Admiral Gallissou-niere, with 12,000 troops on board, under the Duke de Richlieu, sailed from Toulon; and, landing in Minorca, opened trenches before the fortrefs of St. Philip's, on the 25th of April. The ministry had been repeatedly apprised of the design of the French against Minorca; but, such was their negligence and inattention, that not the least precaution was taken to prevent it. The representations of the English consuls in the Mediterranean, respecting the French naval preparations at Toulon, and the remonstrances of General Blakeney, deputy-governor of Minorca, setting forth the weakness of the garrison of the fortrefs of St. Philip, were treated with the same indifference and disregard.—It was naturally expected, that the ministry, roused at last from their lethargy, would endeavour to compensate for their former inactivity by the vigour and importance of their measures. Ten ships of the line, poorly manned, and badly accommodated in every respect, were destined for an expedition, on the success of which the safety of one of the most valuable possessions of Britain depended. The command of this squadron was vested in Admiral Byng, an officer little distinguished in the navy, and whose courage and activity, from want of opportunity to signalize himself, were at best but of a doubtful nature.

Admiral
Byng fails
for its re-
lief.

The admiral sailed from Spithead on the 7th of April, and arrived at Gibraltar, after a tedious passage, on the 2d of May. Being reinforced by several other ships, and a detachment from the gar-

rison, he sailed from Gibraltar on the 8th of the same month, and arrived off Minorca on the 19th. About six o'clock in the evening, the enemy, to the number of seventeen sail, appeared advancing in order of battle. The evening was spent by both fleets in endeavouring to get the advantage of the weather-gage.

AT day-light, on the 20th, the French fleet could not be descried ; but, soon re-appearing, the line of battle was formed on both sides, and, about two, Admiral Byng, made the signal to engage. Rear-admiral West, an officer of approved ability and resolution, bore down with his division upon the enemy, and attacked them with such impetuosity, that the ships opposed to his were driven out of the line. Instead of supporting the rear-admiral, Mr Byng, either from a desire strictly to preserve the line, or from an inexcusable timidity, kept at the greatest distance, and made little or no use of his artillery. By this means, in all probability, the British fleet lost an opportunity of gaining a capital advantage over the enemy. The French admiral discovered the same disinclination to continue the engagement ; he edged away with an easy sail, while Mr Byng made a show of giving chase. Both fleets were out of sight of each other next morning.—Thus ended this doubtful engagement, in which the wonted superiority of the English by sea was by no means conspicuous. The French laid claim to the victory ; and indeed the retreat of Admiral Byng was productive of all the consequences of a defeat. Under a pretext of providing for the safety of Gibraltar, he repaired thither with the utmost expedition.

1756.

EUROPE.

Engage-
ment with
the French
fleet.

1756.

EUROPE.

Fort St.
Philip's
surrendered
to the
French.

THE garrison of St. Philip's, thus shamefully abandoned to the enemy, instead of giving themselves up to despair, resolved to behave with spirit, and to defend the place to the last extremity. From the 20th of May to the 27th of June, they sustained and retorted the enemy's fire with the most undaunted resolution. At last, the works being in many places demolished, the guns dismounted, the garrison exhausted with hard duty and incessant watching, and the little probability there remained of being relieved, a capitulation was demanded, and granted upon honourable terms.—The fortress was accordingly delivered up to the French on the 28th of June. §

§ Though the general design of this work precludes a minute relation of the actions of individuals, yet, amidst the misconduct and miscarriages of this inauspicious period, there is a pleasure in exhibiting a character worthy of imitation, and deserving of the highest praise.—Captain Cunningham (of Enterkine), a Scots gentleman, who acted as second engineer at Minorca, being preferred to a majority at home, had repaired to Nice in Italy, in order to take his passage in a ship for England. Having received certain intelligence that the French armament was destined for the place he had quitted, and recollecting that the chief engineer at Minorca was disabled by the gout, and that a number of things were wanting for the defence of the fortress; notwithstanding his lady, whom he tenderly loved, was just delivered, and two of his children were dangerously ill of the small-pox, he hesitated not a moment, but sacrificed the calls of conjugal and parental affection to the honour and service of his country. He purchased timber for the platforms, and other necessaries for the garrison, hired a vessel to transport them thither; and, tearing himself from his wife and children, sailed directly for Minorca. In the course of the siege, he acquitted himself with the greatest vigilance, skill, and activity; when, towards the end of it, in an assault, mixing with the enemy sword in hand, he was disabled in the right arm by the shot of a musket, and the thrust of a bayonet. In the capitulation he was honoured with a particular article in his favour.—On his return to England, he was preferred to the rank of colonel in the guards; and afterwards acted as chief engineer in the attempts and descents that were made on the French coast. He accepted of the same office in the expedition to Guadaloupe, where he died universally regretted.

111.D.225

MINORCA, thus dismembered from the British empire, was the object of universal regret. Its importance was sensibly felt, and its loss sincerely lamented. The fears of an imaginary invasion gave way to indignation and resentment against the ministry, and the delinquent admiral. Addresses were presented to the throne, petitioning, in the strongest terms, for a change of men and measures; and the people, rendered dissident and distrustful, and soured by misfortunes, already imagined themselves on the brink of ruin, and destitute both of treasure and of strength. The first fury of their resentment was directed against the unfortunate Byng. The ministry used every endeavour to foment this animosity, and to avert the danger which threatened themselves. They aggravated his misconduct, exposed his folly, and expatiated on his cowardice. The public prints abounded with the most virulent invectives against him, and mobs were hired to hang and burn him in effigy, at different parts of the capital. Even majesty itself is said to have taken part in the cruel persecution against this unhappy man.—He was superseded in his command by Sir Edward Hawke, and sent home under an arrest.

For the sake of perspicuity, we shall proceed to give an account of Admiral Byng's trial and fate; following rather the natural course of events, than adhering strictly to the order of chronology.

ON the 28th of December, he was brought before a court-martial; and, after a long trial, was condemned as falling under part of the 12th article of war. The severity of this article, which

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EUROPE.

Trial of
Admiral
Byng.

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EUROPE.

admitted of no mitigation*, induced his judges to recommend him as a proper object of his majesty's mercy. The distinguished merit and services of his ancestors, the recommendations of his judges, and the testimony of the French general, who had been a spectator of the whole engagement, proved ineffectual to save him; and his death was cruelly represented to the king as the only means of pacifying the populace. Thus devoted, he prepared to meet his fate with steadiness and resolution. He was shot at Portsmouth on the 14th of March.—

Condemned
and shot.

1757.

The firm, composed, and undaunted manner, in which he died, wiped away every imputation on his personal courage. Immediately before his death, he delivered a paper to the marshal of the admiralty, in which he declared his innocence, and that he considered himself as a victim destined to divert the indignation and resentment of an injured and deluded people from their proper objects.---We decline to dwell long on this melancholy transaction; a transaction which reflects no little disgrace on the period when it happened.---While we lament the misfortunes, we cannot but condemn the backwardness of the unhappy admiral. But we are at a loss to discover any capital offence; and, whatever idea we may entertain of the cruelty and injustice of the ministry, and the violent animosity of the people, it still remains matter of surprise and concern, that they were not contented with a mode of punishment less ignominious and severe.

* The 12th article of war runs thus, "Every person in the fleet, who, thro' cowardice, negligence, or disaffection, shall, in time of action, keep back, &c.—and, being convicted thereof, shall suffer death."

C H A P. II.

State of Europe at the beginning of the war—King of Prussia invades Saxony—Battle of Lowoschutz—Surrender of the Saxon army—Oswego taken by the French.

WHILE the people of England were regretting the last languid and unfortunate campaign, and execrating those to whom they ascribed all their losses and disappointments, the flames of discord and dissention, which already had been lighted up in the new world, began to burst out among the principal powers of Europe.*-----To form a just notion of this dispute, it will be necessary to look back a little, and to trace concisely the steps which gave rise to it.

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THE rich and fertile province of Silesia had been wrested from Austria by the King of Prussia, and solemnly confirmed to him by two different treaties. This very important conquest, reluctantly given up, had excited an antipathy between the Empress-Queen and that monarch; and the former only waited for a favourable opportunity to attempt the recovery of it.

Austria.

1744.

RUSSIA was allied to Austria by ancient treaties, by their united wars against the Turks, and by the reciprocal affection of their respective sovereigns. There subsisted between the Czarina and

Russia.

* "So complicated," says Voltaire, "are the political interests of the present times, that a shot fired in America shall be the signal for setting all Europe together by the ears."

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EUROPE.

the King of Prussia several personal subjects of complaint; and all methods had been used to embroil that monarch's affairs in the north. They succeeded so far as to render Russia his implacable enemy, and ready to enter into any schemes proposed for his ruin.

Poland.

AUGUSTUS III. King of Poland, and Elector of Saxony, independent of his close connections with Russia and Austria, to the former of whom he owed his crown, was anxious to have an opportunity of renewing his demands on the King of Prussia, for an indemnification of the depredations committed by him in Saxony in 1741.---But the dominions of this monarch were in no condition to support a war with so formidable a neighbour as the King of Prussia. Poland was without troops, without fortifications, and without finances; exposed to incursions, and considerable only by her extent and fertility. Saxony was in the like defenceless situation; her army mouldering away, and her coffers empty.

As the views of those powers were exactly similar, a treaty was entered into by them, apparently harmless and innocent; but several private articles were added, the tendency of which were inimical to his Prussian Majesty: and it was particularly stipulated, in case he should attack either of their territories, that they should mutually furnish an army of 60,000 men to re-invest the Empress-Queen with the duchy of Silesia.

Prussia.

THE monarch against whom these three powers were united was at once the dread and admiration of Europe.---The house of Brandenburg, from the

1756.

EUROPE.

most humble situation, had risen imperceptibly, in the course of a century, to a considerable degree of affluence and power. The late King was extravagantly fond of a numerous army; and had converted a great part of his subjects into soldiers. Though quarrellsome and turbulent in his temper, by a singular good fortune, he had no opportunity of diminishing that army which he had been so careful in collecting. He delighted in reviews and bloodless skirmishes, and trained one of the most numerous armies in Europe to the completest and most exact discipline.* At his death, he delivered this powerful palladium to his son Frederic III. together with a sum in the treasury sufficient to uphold them. From the moment the young monarch ascended the throne, it became obvious, that there was an end to that inactivity which had characterised the former reign.* The extensiveness and variety of his talents were soon conspicuous in his actions. The boldness of his designs could only be equalled by the impenetrable secrecy observed in the execution of them. To the most lively imagination, and a fortitude scarcely to be paralleled, were added the strongest propensity for

* This prince, in his younger years, says a celebrated author, wisely preferred the advantage of treasuring up knowledge, to the usual pleasures of his age, and the luxurious idleness of courts. An intercourse with the greatest men of his time, joined to the spirit of observation, insensibly ripened his genius, which was naturally active and eager for employment. Neither flattery nor opposition could ever divert him from the deep reflections he was engaged in. He formed the plan of his future conduct and reign in the early part of his life. It was foretold, on his accession to the crown, that his ministers would be no more than his secretaries; the managers of his finances no more than his clerks; and his generals no more than his aids-de-camp.

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EUROPE.

an active life, and a constitution capable of supporting the fatigues of it. He invented a new method of disciplining armies, and of heading battles. By the rapidity of his evolutions, and the celerity of his marches, he may be said to have totally changed the principles of war. In fine, he possessed the intrepidity of a warrior, the profound sagacity of a statesman, and the intuitive penetration of a philosopher.—He saw the storm which was gathering around him, and prepared to meet it. He had studied the states thus leagued against him, the men of the cabinet they had to oppose him, and the genius and abilities of their respective generals.—All his forces were ordered to be completed, and held in readiness to march at the shortest notice.

WE have already taken notice of the treaty which his Britannic Majesty had begun with Russia. The King of Prussia had been for some time secretly discontented with the court of Versailles; but they continued to all appearance to be so closely connected, that his Britannic Majesty was not a little apprehensive that France had brought him into her views. To obviate this, had been the great end of the treaty we have mentioned. It was stipulated, that her Russian Majesty should furnish a body of troops to the amount of 55,000, and 40 or 50 galleys, with the necessary crews, to be employed in the service of Britain, wherever required.—No sooner was this treaty made public, than his Prussian Majesty, perceiving at once the motives which had induced Russia to accede to it, declared, in the strongest manner, that he would

Treaty with
Russia.



FREDERIC III. KING OF PRUSSIA.

oppose to the utmost the introduction of all foreign troops whatsoever into the empire.†—This declaration, while it stopped the treaty with Russia, plainly evinced, that the views of their Britannic and Prussian Majesties were precisely the same. The former was apprehensive of the French, the latter of the Russians; and this coincidence of sentiments, with some eclairsissements as to the views of the court of Vienna, brought on the treaty of London, by which his Prussian Majesty obtained a subsidy from Great Britain of 750,000*l.* sterling, for services which were exceedingly obvious; and the two potentates agreed, not to make a peace without the consent of each other.—The publication of this treaty produced that of Vienna, between the Empress-Queen and his most Christian Majesty. Present interest predominated over ancient animosity; and one hour's deliberation annihilated the arguments of more than two centuries. The accession of Russia and Sweden, to this alliance, was natural and obvious.

THOSE treaties, however, were certainly sufficient to preserve the peace of Europe; and probably they would have had that effect, if France and Austria had taken, with that dispatch which characterises resolution, proper measures to seem capable of sustaining the shock, or of preventing it. The

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Treaty
with Prus-
sia.Treaty be-
tween Au-
stria and
France.

† Among other articles, it was stipulated, “ That the court of Petersburg should be contented with an annual subsidy of 500,000*l.* sterling, though insufficient for the support of the army which she promised; because, the Russian army entering on action, would immediately find itself in an enemy's country, where its subsistence would cost it nothing.”—This was, in pretty plain terms, threatening the King of Prussia with an invasion.

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EUROPE.

two parties were restrained by fear; and what the power of the four allied courts threw into the scale, was counter-balanced by the British opulence, and by the actual state of the Prussian forces. The King of Prussia could alone enter into action, and strike the greatest blows whenever he pleased. The allied courts, on the other hand, were obliged to concert and combine their operations. The Empress-Queen had not collected together 30,000 regular troops; the Russians had all Poland to traverse; and France, tho' always ready to receive her enemy on her frontier, was by no means prepared to go in quest of him at a hundred leagues distance, through mountainous and barren countries.—The court of Vienna, however, made great progress in augmenting her forces. She brooded over an old hatred, and former resentments; but would not begin the war, tho' giving proofs that she should not be attacked with impunity. But she could no longer impose on a prince who knew her as well as he knew his own court.—The neutrality of the few remaining powers in Europe, proceeded from interest, inability or fear.

United
Provinces.

THE United Provinces, confirmed in their taste for peace by the fear of the expences of war, were unwilling to let slip the advantages of the neutrality, which would throw the greatest part of the commerce into the hands of their subjects.

Spain.

SPAIN had equally neglected her finances and her forces. Her settlements abroad, and her dominions at home, were in the same defenceless situation; and the court was without ambition, and

without views. The monarch, without any greatness of mind, and without children, gave himself up to amusements quite foreign to his rank, and paid no attention whatever to public affairs.

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EUROPE.

DENMARK, attentive to commerce and arts, Denmark. had little to dread from the consequences of the war. From experience, she had reason to avoid all interference with the princes of the empire; and was willing, in case of misfortunes, to be a mediatrix and a peace-maker.

If we except Sardinia, Italy had little concern in Italy. the affairs of Europe. That monarch was ready, in case of an emergency, to assist Britain and Prussia.

THE threatenings of his enemies only contributed to make the Prussian monarch more ready to take the field: He thought it better to begin with them, than that they should begin with him. Accordingly he marched with a numerous army into Saxony, proposing to penetrate through that country into Bohemia. His declarations of friendship to the King of Poland, were specious; but that monarch chose rather to rely on the valour and attachment of his troops, whom he assembled in a strong camp between Pirna and Konigstein, which was intrenched, provided with a numerous train of artillery, and deemed impregnable. Frederic, offended at this proceeding, demanded, as a proof of his neutrality, that the King of Poland should disembody his troops immediately. On the refusal of this demand, he instantly surrounded the Saxon army, intercepted their convoys of provision, and cut them off from all communication with the adjacent country. In the mean time, a great part of

King of
Prussia in-
vades
Saxony.

1756.
EUROPE.

his army advanced into Bohemia, under the command of the Field-Marshal Keith*, and encamped within a small distance of the imperial army, amounting to 50,000 men, commanded by Marshal Brown, an officer of Irish extraction.

Battle of
Lowoschutz.

FREDERIC, with his wonted celerity, repaired to Bohemia, assumed in person the command of M. Keith's corps, and advanced to give battle to the enemy. The Austrian general had taken possession of Lowoschutz with a great body of infantry, and placed a battery of cannon in the front of the town; he had formed his cavalry chequerwise, and posted about 2000 Croats and Pandours in the vineyards on his right. The Prussian monarch occupied, with six battalions, a hollow way, and some rising grounds which commanded the town. Early in the morning, on the first day of October, the Prussian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy's horse; they were twice driven back with a very

* Descended from one of the most ancient and noble families in Scotland. He was engaged with his brother, the Earl Marischal, in the rebellion 1715; and being obliged to relinquish his country on this occasion, he went to France, where he studied mathematics under the celebrated M. Maupertuis, and made himself perfect master of the military part of geometry. He was a volunteer in the French army at the storming of Vigo, in the year 1719, where he received a dangerous wound. From Paris he went to Madrid, where he obtained a commission in the Irish brigade. Accompanying the Duke of Liria, in his embassy to Muscovy, he entered into the service of the Czarina, and was appointed a lieutenant-general. In this quality, he performed many signal services in the wars with Turkey and Sweden; and was honoured in time of peace with several embassies. Disgusted at Russia, whose honours are no better than a splendid servitude, he entered into the service of the King of Prussia, who received him in the most gracious manner, made him governor of Berlin, and a field-marshal in his army. His disposition was amiable, and his genius in the art of war will be more fully displayed in the sequel.

Military Memoirs.



Marshal Keith.

considerable loss. The Prussian infantry then advanced to attack the town of Lowoschutz in flank; but met with so warm a reception, that in all probability they would have been repulsed, had not Field-Marshal Keith headed them in person. Drawing his sword, he told them he would lead them on to victory; but being given to understand, that their powder and shot was exhausted,—with an admirable presence of mind, he exclaimed, “That he was happy they had no more ammunition, as he was convinced that the enemy could not withstand them at push of bayonet.” So saying, he advanced at their head, drove the Austrians from Lowoschutz, and set the suburbs on fire. The loss was pretty equal on both sides, and both parties claimed the victory; but the consequences plainly adjudged it to the King of Prussia, as the Austrian general was cut off from all hopes of relieving the Saxon army, which was indeed the principal object of the battle. It is but justice, however, to M. Brown, to acknowledge, that his dispositions for that purpose were masterly, and would probably have succeeded, had he had to contend with any other general than his Prussian Majesty.

By the battle of Lowoschutz, his Prussian Majesty became absolute master of Saxony. Being informed that the original papers relating to the confederacy which had been formed against him, were deposited in the archives of Dresden, he demanded the keys from the Queen of Poland, who still remained in that place, and acted with a dignity becoming her high birth. Upon her refusal,

1756.

EUROPE.

Austrians
repulsed.

1756.
EUROPE.

he ordered the doors to be forced, which was accordingly done; tho' not without some imputation upon his politeness, as the Queen of Poland opposed in person the officer who executed the order. Having thus got possession of these originals, he made no delay in publishing them, as they tended to justify his proceedings in Saxony, and his invasion of Bohemia.

FREDERIC having re-assumed the blockade at Pirna, his Polish Majesty and his troops were reduced to great extremity of want; and it became indispensibly necessary, either to attempt an escape, or surrender to the King of Prussia. The former was attempted, and proved unsuccessful, though assisted by the Austrians, who made a diversion in their favour.—In this deplorable condition, the King of Poland sent a letter*, from the fortress of Konigstein, to the Saxon general, vesting him with full power to surrender, or to take such other measures as he thought proper. A capitulation was

* The letter was as follows: "It is not without extreme sorrow I understand the deplorable situation which a chain of misfortunes has reserved for you, the rest of my generals, and my whole army: but we must acquiesce in the dispensations of Providence, and console ourselves with the rectitude of our sentiments and intentions. They would force me, it seems, as you give me to understand, to submit to conditions the more severe, in proportion as the circumstances are become more necessitous. I cannot hear them mentioned. I am a free monarch; such I will live; such I will die; and I will both live and die with honour. The fate of my army I leave wholly to your discretion. Let your council of war determine, whether you must surrender prisoners of war, fall by the sword, or die by famine. May your resolutions, if possible, be conducted with humanity: whatever they may be, I have no longer any share in them; and I declare you shall not be answerable for aught but one thing, namely, not to carry arms against me or my allies. I pray God may have you, Mr Marshal, in his holy keeping. Given at Konigstein, the 14th of October 1756.

demanded; and the whole army was obliged to surrender at discretion. The soldiers were afterwards compelled to enter into the service of Prussia.—The King of Poland asked no more, than that his own guards should not be made prisoners. Frederic replied, “That he could not listen to his request; that those guards would infallibly serve against him, and that he did not chuse to have the trouble of taking them a second time.”—His Polish Majesty retired to his regal dominions; and the Prussian troops were cantoned in the neighbourhood of Seidlitz, and along the Elbe towards Dresden. The army in Bohemia retired to the confines of the county of Glatz.—The winter was spent in warlike preparations by Austria and Prussia, and in publishing reciprocal accusations; and it must be confessed, that the same superiority which attended his Prussian Majesty’s forces in the field, was equally conspicuous in this paper war.

THE same fatality still continued to direct the measures, and the same misfortune to attend the expeditions of Great Britain. The resentment and discontent occasioned by the loss of Minorca were still predominant, nor had the dread of an invasion altogether subsided. To provide against the latter, a body of 12,000 Hessians and Hanoverians arrived, and encamped in different parts of the kingdom. This step served only to heighten the disgust, and continue the resentment of the public. They execrated the ministry for such a pusillanimous and disgraceful measure; a measure which plainly evinced, that Britain was incapable of defending herself, and could only be secure by the aid of foreign

1756.

EUROPE.

Saxon army
surrenders.

Hanoverians and
Hessians arrive
in England.

1756.

mercenaries. They even carried their animosity so far, as to insult and distress the innocent and inoffensive Germans.

AMERICA.

THE affairs of America were distinguished by the same gloomy aspect with those of Great Britain. Major-General Abercrombie arrived at New-York on the 25th of June, and took upon him the command of the troops there assembled, till such time as the Earl of Loudon (a Scots nobleman of an amiable character, and who already had distinguished himself in the service of his country), should arrive as commander in chief.

THE first action of any consequence was in favour of the English. A body of the enemy had formed an ambuscade to intercept any reinforcement or provisions that might be sent to relieve the garrison of Oswego, which had hitherto been shamefully neglected. A considerable convoy of provisions and stores were however safely conducted thither by Colonel Bradstreet. Returning with his detachment down the river Onondaga, he was saluted with a general discharge of musketry, from a party of Indians secreted amongst the bushes, which killed a considerable number of his men. The colonel expected, and was prepared for such an attack. He immediately landed his men, and, taking possession of a small island, drove the Indians from their lurking places. Proceeding up the river, he attacked and defeated two different parties of the enemy with great slaughter, and returned back to Albany without any further molestation. Certain intelligence being received by the prison-

French repul-
sed by
Colonel
Bradstreet.

ers taken in this engagement, that the French were preparing to besiege Oswego, a regiment of regulars, under the command of Major-General Webb, was detached to its relief, but proved too late to afford any assistance.

1756.
AMERICA.

THE fort of Oswego was situated on the south side of the great lake Ontario, at the mouth of the river Onondaga. On the opposite side was another fort, called Ontario. Both these had been erected in an injudicious and hasty manner, and were incapable of standing out, for any time, against a regular approach. The garrison consisted of about 1400 men, most of them new-raised and inexperienced; they were commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Mercer, an officer of great courage and tried abilities. The attack of the place was formed by M. Montcalm, remarkable for his vigilance and enterprising spirit, with upwards of 2000 men under his command. The fort of Ontario, being deserted in a short time, was taken possession of by the enemy; from whence they kept up an unrelenting fire on the English. Colonel Mercer being killed, and the garrison in the greatest confusion, they were forced to capitulate, and surrender prisoners of war.—Both forts were instantly demolished.—Several inhumanities were committed by the Indians on the English prisoners, which the French commander did not use every endeavour to prevent.* The employing of these savages has

Oswego taken by the French.

* In violation of the articles of capitulation, and of humanity, he not only suffered the British officers and soldiers to be insulted, robbed, and some of them massacred by his Indians, but gave up twenty of the garrison, as an atonement to those barbarians, for the same number of their countrymen who had been killed in the siege, and they were put to death with the most execrable torments.

1756.
AMERICA.

ever been productive of the most cruel and shocking barbarities ;—and their transactions, in the course of the American war, under the direction of the French, have stamped indelible disgrace on a people who assume the character of being the most polite and civilized nation in the universe.

THE Earl of Loudon, who had been unaccountably detained in Britain, did not arrive at Albany till the 29th of May. No settled plan of operations having been fixed on, the season was suffered to slip away ; and the taking of Oswego by the enemy, had disheartened the colonies, and prevented the adoption of any spirited enterprise. His lordship, however, did all in his power to remedy the negligence of his predecessors in command. Every preparation was made for an early campaign in the spring. He secured the frontiers, reinforced the garrisons, and endeavoured to remove that spirit of disaffection and inactivity which had been disseminated amongst the different provinces.

THUS ended the unfortunate campaigns of 1755 and 1756. The operations of both parties were spiritless, blundering, and timid. Britain had particularly degenerated from her former pre-eminence. Her troops were defeated, her navies scattered, and on all sides her affairs carried the most disagreeable and ruinous aspect. A want of wisdom in the measures, and of conduct in the commanders, were every where conspicuous. If the French gained any advantage, it was more owing to the unaccountable fatality which directed the British measures, than to their own merit or activity.

1756.

History finds little worthy of recording in the annals of those inauspicious times ; and hastens with pleasure to the brighter transactions of succeeding years ;—years, in which the integrity and disinterestedness of British statesmen, and the intrepidity and conduct of British commanders, were so eminently illustrious, as not to be equalled in the annals of this, or of any other nation. Their services will ever be remembered with gratitude and admiration ; and their memories transmitted, with esteem and applause, “ to the last syllable of recorded time.”*

* We have comprised the military operations of those two years in so small a compass, that it seems almost necessary to apologize for it.—It is only by retrenching the detail of unimportant occurrences, that we have been enabled to exhibit a circumstantial account of actions of greater celebrity. This has necessarily produced an inequality in the relation, which is expanded or contracted according to the importance of the subject.—The commencement of the war in particular, has been described with rapidity, as affording few actions deserving commemoration ; and little notice has been taken of the negotiations between the different courts, their specious justifications of their conduct, or the declamatory and insincere memorials published on that occasion by both parties.—It was judged necessary to explain the plan of this history so far, lest the omission, or the slight mentioning of any frivolous or unimportant particular, should be ascribed to inattention, or imputed as a defect.

C H A P. III.

*East-India affairs—Angria the pirate defeated—
Calcutta taken—Cruel treatment of the English by
the Nabob of Bengal.*

1756.

ASIA.

HOSTILITIES had been carried on in the East-Indies, for some years before the courts of Britain and France had come to an open rupture. By espousing the quarrels of the princes or nabobs* of that country, a pretence was found to carry on a brisk war between the two nations.—Soon after the death of Aurengzebe, who was the last monarch of distinguished abilities, an universal degeneracy took place in the empire of Indostan; and those provinces which were the most distant from the seat of government, affected an independency on the Emperor; and were little more than nominally subject to the imperial authority, which they acknowledged only because it gave a sanction to their own power.—The Nabob of Arcot, having been deposed by the Emperor, and another appointed in his room, had recourse to the French, who, on certain conditions, engaged to re-instate him in his government. With their assistance, he attacked, defeated, and slew his competitor; re-assumed the government of Arcot, and punctually performed the conditions which had been stipulated by his French allies.

* The nabobs are a species of viceroys or governors of provinces under the Emperor, or, as he is called, the Great Mogul.

MOHAMMED-ALI-KHAN, the son of the deceased nabob, solicited the aid of the English, who assisted him with men, money, and ammunition. Under the colour of being auxiliaries to those princes, the English and French East-India companies endeavoured to ruin each other. Victory, however, for the most part, was on the side of the English; Mohammed-Ali-Khan was placed on the throne of his father; and the French, reduced by repeated defeats, were obliged to act only on the defensive. A mutual agreement was at last entered into by both companies; by which it was stipulated, that they should reciprocally restore the territories taken by the troops of either since the year 1748; and that, for the future, neither should interfere in the differences between the princes of the country.—In this war the extraordinary military talents of Mr. Clive, (who had formerly served in a civil station) were for the first time displayed.

1756.

ASIA.

1755.

THE tranquillity produced by this treaty, was but of short duration. The restless ambition of the French could not brook the superiority which the English maintained in India. Underhand policy took place of open hostility. They endeavoured to foment animosities among the nabobs who favoured or were under the protection of the English; and again assisted their enemies with troops to oppose them.

In consequence of an application from the English East-India company, government had dispatched a small fleet of capital ships, under the command of Rear-Admirals Watson and Pocock, to support their just pretensions, and to protect

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ASIA.

Angria the
pirate,

their commerce. On the arrival of this squadron at Fort St David's*, it was judged advisable that they should proceed to the attack of Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, who was formidable to all the European powers, and had particularly distressed the English, from his vicinity to their settlements. This piratical state had existed for upwards of a century. The name of the founder of it, was Konna Ji Angria. He took possession of the small island of Severndroog, and for some time confined his attacks to the Indian vessels trading on that coast. Grown bolder by success, he undertook the greatest enterprises, and attacked, without distinction, the vessels of all nations. Under his successors, this little nest of robbers flourished and increased; and it became the mutual interest of the European powers, however divided in other respects, to endeavour to extirpate this lawless and universal invader. The Portuguese joined the English in 1722, and attempted to destroy the place of their resort; but their expedition proved disgraceful and abortive. That undertaken by the Dutch, two years after, with seven men of war, met with no better success. At length, the Marattas, a fierce and rapacious people, upon Angria's refusing to pay a tribute which had long been customary, agreed to attack the common

* It was deemed unnecessary to give any description of our American settlements, as they are now familiar to almost every reader; but our Asiatic territories, not being so generally known, a brief account of the principal ones, as they occur, will not be improper.

Fort St. David's, on the Coromandel coast, is situated nearly on the verge of the Indian ocean.—The fort is regular, well provided with cannon, ammunition, and a numerous garrison.

enemy by land, whilst the English attacked them by sea.—Admiral Watfon, accompanied by Colonel Clive, who commanded the land-forces, failed from Bombay * on the 7th of February, and, on the 12th, anchored off the harbour and fort of Geriah, the principal residence of Angria. That chief had quitted the place; but his wife and family remained under the protection of his brother-in-law, who, on being summoned to surrender by a message from the admiral, replied, that he would defend the place to the last extremity. Upon this, about five in the afternoon, the whole English fleet failed into the harbour, and soon silenced the enemy's batteries. Angria's fleet was set on fire by a bomb-shell; and soon after the fort shared the same fate. The besieged still obstinately held out, and defended the place even after the magazine of the fort blew up. At five in the morning the place surrendered, and was taken possession of by the English, who found a great number of cannon, and a large quantity of ammunition, with money and effects to the value of 130,000l.—— Among the prisoners were Angria's wife, children, and mother, whom the Admiral treated with the greatest humanity§.

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ASIA.

His fort of Geriah besieged and destroyed by the English.

* A small island, not more than twenty miles in circumference, with a very convenient harbour. The town is very populous; but the soil is barren, and the climate unhealthy. It is the mart of all the trade with Malabar, Surat, and the Persian and Arabian gulphs.

§ When the admiral entered their apartment, the whole family, shedding floods of tears, fell with their faces to the ground; from which being raised, the mother of Angria told him, in a piteous tone, that the people had no king, she no son, her daughter no husband, their children no father. The admiral replying, that they must look upon him as their father and their friend; the youngest boy, about six years

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IN the mean time, an event took place in another part of India, which cast a gloom on the English affairs; no less than the almost total extirpation of their company from Bengal. — A custom had for some time prevailed in these countries, which was attended with very pernicious consequences. The governors of all the European provinces had taken upon them, to grant an asylum to such of the natives of the country as were afraid of oppression or punishment. As they received very considerable sums in return for this protection, the danger to which they were exposed was overlooked. One of the chief officers of Bengal had taken refuge among the English at Calcutta, in order to avoid punishment. Surajah Dowlah, the Suba or Nabob of Bengal, was greatly incensed at this proceeding; and, being likewise irritated at the refusal of certain duties which he laid claim to, and other practices of the company, he levied a numerous army, marched

of age, seized him by the hand, and, sobbing, exclaimed, "Then you shall be my father!" Mr Watson was so affected with this pathetic address, that the tears trickled down his cheeks, while he assured them, they might depend on his protection and friendship.

† Bengal is the most eastern province of the Mogul's dominions in India, lies upon the mouth of the Ganges, extending near 400 miles in length from E. to W. and 300 in breadth from N. to S. and annually overflowed by the river Ganges, which makes it one of the richest and most fruitful provinces in that quarter of the globe. — The principal settlement of the English is Calcutta, the first town that is met with in passing up the Ganges. The air is unhealthy, the water brackish, and the anchorage not very safe; yet, notwithstanding these inconveniences, great numbers of rich Armenian, Moorish, and Indian merchants, have fixed their residence here. The fortress has this advantage, that the vessels bound to European settlements are obliged to pass under its cannon. — Most of the other European East-India Companies have settlements in this country.

not his father
father!

to Calcutta, and invested the place, which was then in no posture of defence. The governor, under the pretence of being a quaker, took refuge on board a ship in the river, carrying along with him the ladies, and counsellors, together with their most valuable effects, and the books of the company. Mr. Holwell, the second in command, declared he would stay and defend the place to the last extremity, though the party that fled on board had carried 100 soldiers from the garrison with them. With the assistance of a few gallant officers, he defended the fort for three days with uncommon courage and resolution. At last, overpowered by numbers, deserted by his soldiers, and the enemy having forced their way into the castle, he was obliged to submit; the Suba promising, on the word of a soldier, that no injury should be done to him, or to his garrison.

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ASIA.

Calcutta taken by the Nabob of Bengal.

THE scene which followed is perhaps unexampled in history. The garrison, to the amount of 146, were thrown into a small close dungeon, out of which twenty-three only came out alive.*

* This melancholy transaction is described by a respectable author in the following strong and pathetic manner.

“ At five the nabob entered the fort, accompanied by his general Meer Jaffer, and most of the principal officers of his army. He immediately ordered Omichund and Kissendass to be brought before him, and received them with civility; and having bid some officers go and take possession of the company's treasury, he proceeded to the principal apartment of the factory, where he sat in state, and received the compliments of his court and attendants, in magnificent expressions of his prowess and good fortune. Soon after he sent for Mr. Holwell, to whom he expressed much resentment at the presumption of the English in daring to defend the fort, and much dissatisfaction at the smallness of the sum found in the treasury, which did not exceed fifty thousand rupees. Mr. Holwell had two other conferences with him on this

1756. Their cries and lamentations excited the compassion, and the offering of large sums of money

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subject, before seven o'clock, when the nabob dismissed him with repeated assurances, on the word of a soldier, that he should suffer no harm.

“ Mr. Holwell, returning to his unfortunate companions, found them assembled, and surrounded with a strong guard. Several buildings on the north and south sides of the fort were already in flames, which approached with so thick a smoke on either hand, that the prisoners imagined their enemies had caused this conflagration, in order to suffocate them between the two fires. On each side of the eastern gate of the fort, extended a range of chambers adjoining to the curtain; and before the chambers a varanda, or open gallery: it was of arched masonry, and intended to shelter the soldiers from the sun and rain, but, being low, almost totally obstructed the chambers behind from the light and air; and whilst some of the guard were looking into other parts of the factory for proper places to confine the prisoners during the night, the rest ordered them to assemble in ranks under the varanda on the right hand of the gateway, where they remained for some time, with so little suspicion of their impending fate, that they laughed among themselves at the seeming oddity of this disposition, and amused themselves with conjecturing what they should next be ordered to do. About eight o'clock, those who had been sent to examine the rooms reported, that they found none fit for the purpose. On which the principal officer commanded the prisoners to go into one of the rooms which stood behind them along the varanda. It was the common dungeon of the garrison, who used to call it *the black hole*. Many of the prisoners, knowing the place, began to expostulate: upon which the officer ordered his men to cut down those who hesitated; on which the prisoners obeyed. But before all were within, the room was so thronged, that the last entered with difficulty. The guard immediately closed and locked the door; confining one hundred and forty-six persons in a room not twenty feet square, with only two small windows, and these obstructed by the varanda.

“ It was the hottest season of the year, and the night uncommonly sultry even at this season. The excessive pressure of their bodies against one another, and the intolerable heat which prevailed as soon as the door was shut, convinced the prisoners that it was impossible to live through the night in this horrible confinement; and violent attempts were immediately made to force the door; but without effect, for it opened inward: on which many began to give a loose to rage. Mr. Holwell, who had placed himself at one of the windows, exhorted them to remain composed both in body and mind, as the only means of surviving the night, and his remonstrances produced a short interval of quiet; during which he applied to an old jemautdar, who bore

tempted the avarice of the keepers of their prison; but the nabob was asleep; and there was not

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some marks of humanity in his countenance, promising to give him a thousand rupees in the morning, if he would separate the prisoners into two chambers. The old man went to try, but returning in a few minutes, said it was impossible.—Mr. Holwell offered him a larger sum; on which he retired once more, and returned with the fatal sentence, that no relief could be expected because the Nabob was asleep, and no one dared to wake him.

“ In the mean time every minute had increased their sufferings. The first effect of their confinement was a profuse and continued sweat, which soon produced intolerable thirst, succeeded by excruciating pains in the breast, with difficulty of breathing little short of suffocation. Various means were tried to obtain more room and air. Every one stripped off his cloaths; every hat was put in motion; and these methods affording no relief, it was proposed that they should all sit down on their hams at the same time, and after remaining a little while in this posture, rise all together. This fatal expedient was thrice repeated before they had been confined an hour; and every time, several, unable to rear themselves up again, fell, and were trampled to death by their companions. Attempts were again made to force the door, which, failing as before, redoubled their rage: but the thirst increasing, nothing but water! water! became soon after the general cry. The good jemautdar immediately ordered some skins of water to be brought to the windows; but, instead of relief, his benevolence became a more dreadful cause of destruction; for the sight of the water threw every one into such excessive agitation and ravings, that, unable to resist this violent impulse of nature, none could wait to be regularly served, but each, with the utmost ferocity, battled against those who were likely to get it before him; and in these conflicts many were either pressed to death with the efforts of others, or suffocated by their own. This scene, instead of producing compassion in the guard without, only excited their mirth: and they held up lights to the bars, in order to have the diabolical satisfaction of seeing the deplorable contentions of the sufferers within; who, finding it impossible to get any water whilst it was thus furiously disputed, at length suffered those who were nearest to the windows to convey it in their hats to those behind them. It proved no relief either to their thirst or their sufferings; for the fever increased every moment with the increasing depravity of the air in the dungeon, which had been so often respired, and was saturated with the hot and deleterious effluvia of putrifying bodies, of which the stench was little less than mortal. Before midnight, all who were alive, and had not partaken of the air at the windows, were either in a lethargic stupefaction, or raving with delirium.—Every kind of invective and abuse was uttered, in hopes of provoking the guard

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perhaps a single person in Bengal who thought that a despotic tyrant's slumbers should be inter-

to put an end to their miseries, by firing into the dungeon; and whilst some were blaspheming their Creator with the frantic execrations of torment in despair, Heaven was implored by others with wild and incoherent prayers; until the weaker, exhausted by these agitations, at length lay down quietly, and expired on the bodies of their dead or agonizing friends. Those who still survived in the inward part of the dungeon, finding that the water had afforded them no relief, made a last effort to obtain air, by endeavouring to scramble over the heads of those who had stood between them and the windows, where the utmost strength of every one was employed for two hours, either in maintaining his own ground, or endeavouring to get that of which others were in possession. All regards of compassion and affection were lost, and no one would recede or give way for the relief of another. Faintness sometimes gave short pauses of quiet; but the first motion of any one renewed the struggle through all, under which ever and anon some one sunk to rise no more. At two o'clock, not more than fifty remained alive. But even this number were too many to partake of the saving air, the contest for which, and life, continued until the morn, long implored, began to break; and, with the hope of relief, gave the few survivors a view of the dead. The survivors then at the window, finding that their entreaties could not prevail on the guard to open the door, it occurred to Mr. Cook, the secretary of the council, that Mr. Holwell, if alive, might have more influence to obtain their relief; and two of the company undertaking the search, discovered him, having still some signs of life; but when they brought him towards the window, every one refused to quit his place, excepting Captain Mills, who, with rare generosity, offered to resign his; on which the rest likewise agreed to make room. He had scarcely begun to recover his senses, before an officer, sent by the Nabob, came and enquired if the English chief survived; and soon after the same man returned with an order to open the prison. The dead were so thronged, and the survivors had so little strength remaining, that they were employed near half an hour in removing the bodies which lay against the door, before they could clear a passage to go out one at a time; when of one hundred and forty-six who went in, no more but twenty-three came out alive, the ghastliest forms that ever were seen. The Nabob's troops beheld them, and the havoc of death from which they had escaped, with indifference; but did not prevent them from removing to a distance, and were immediately obliged, by the intolerable stench, to clear the dungeon, whilst others dug a ditch on the outside of the fort, into which all the dead bodies were promiscuously thrown."

rupted, even to preserve the lives of so great a number of unhappy men.

1756.

ASIA.

THE deliverance of the few that remained alive, was neither owing to compassion nor regret. The Suba had been informed, that there was a considerable treasure secreted in the fort, and that Mr. Holwell knew where it was deposited. It was in vain that that gentleman solemnly declared his ignorance of such a treasure: the inhuman Suba gave no credit to his protestations; but ordered him, and three of his friends, to be conveyed, loaded with fetters, to the Indian camp. The humane reader would be shocked at the recital of the cruel treatment, which this unhappy gentleman, and his companions, underwent; suffice it to say, that, after a variety of sufferings, at which even the barbarous Suba seemed at last stung with remorse, they were permitted to retire to a neighbouring Dutch settlement.

THIS unfortunate disaster threw a damp on the success attending the expedition against Angria. The exasperated barbarity of the nabob threatened the total destruction of the commerce and settlements on the Ganges. The emergency required dispatch and vigour; and the only hopes of recovery, depended on the uncertain arrival of the fleet which had lately reduced Angria.—The ample revenge taken by the English for the inhuman treatment of their countrymen, and the consequences of this melancholy event, which, far from producing the misfortunes apprehended, was the means of opening a vast field of power and glory to Britain, will be recorded among the transactions of the ensuing year.

C H A P. IV.

Various changes in administration—Character of the different factions—King of Prussia takes the field, and defeats the Austrians near Prague.

1756.

EUROPE.

Mr. Fox resigns.

THE affairs of Britain began now to assume a more promising appearance. Several events took place, which indicated the revival of her pristine importance, and seemed to be the harbingers of better days.—The public dissatisfaction had arrived at that point, beyond which it is dangerous to go; and a change of men and measures became absolutely necessary, to preserve the nation from utter destruction. Those by whose erring conduct these calamities were occasioned, seemed at last conscious that the measure of their iniquity was nearly full, and began to think of retiring from a station which they could no longer maintain. Mr. Fox, the principal prop of the tottering fabric of administration, not chusing any longer to bear the popular odium, for measures in which he had only an inconsiderable share, resigned the office of secretary of state; not, indeed, without hopes of being soon re-instated in his employment, with additional influence and power.—Thus deprived of one of their principal leaders, the remaining feeble band of ministers were unable any longer to support themselves. Destitute of any fixed system of conduct, without the confidence, affection, and purse of the people, and opposed in

their measures by men of the greatest abilities and the most invincible integrity, they were obliged to quit their posts, and abandon the helm of government to the management of abler hands.

IN this critical conjuncture, in this forlorn state of hope, the voice of the nation pointed out, and the necessity of affairs called into action, a set of men in whom the people placed their confidence, and reposed their safety. William Pitt, Esq; was appointed secretary of state on the 4th of December; an appointment which gave joy and satisfaction to the whole nation. Every lover of his country, and every friend to liberty, exulted to see the happy day, when his Majesty, no longer influenced by those who had brought upon him dishonour and disquietude, was determined to listen to the voice, and consult the happiness of his people.

1756.
EUROPE,

Mr. Pitt
appointed
secretary of
state.

So grateful was the new minister's elevation to the nation in general, that all parties (the partizans of the old ministry excepted) united heartily to strengthen the hands of government. The nation was not disappointed in their opinion of his abilities. He diligently provided for the internal defence of the kingdom, and the annoyance of the enemy.—The Highlands of Scotland, so far from contributing to the strength of the nation, had hitherto been a terror to government, and required an army always to be kept in readiness to prevent their rising in favour of a foreign power. A cruel and narrow-minded policy had taken place with respect to the inhabitants of that part of Britain, who were treated with a severity equal.

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ly oppressive and tyrannical.—Mr. Pitt disclaimed those jealous and barbarous tenets of arbitrary power. Convinced that the opposition of that gallant, though rude people, proceeded from a principle of honour, and a mistaken attachment to the unhappy family of Stuart, he conceived that this formidable internal foe might be converted into a generous and serviceable friend. He therefore proposed to his Majesty, to admit, and to invite, by proper encouragements, the suspected part of the Scots Highlanders into his pay. By this adoption, his Majesty recovered a respectable body of subjects, who for many years had withdrawn themselves from his protection, and had been ready, upon all occasions, to join with, or to favour the designs of France upon England. The consequences of this excellent policy have reflected honour on the political abilities of Mr. Pitt. In every service they have been employed in, the Highlanders have signalized themselves in a particular manner. Strength, agility, a capability of enduring the greatest hardships, and a bravery bordering on enthusiasm, are the characteristics of that people; and their very name has now become a terror to the enemies of Great Britain.

In the course of his administration, also, the bill for regulating the militia, which had hitherto been opposed by the principal men in power, was brought into parliament by Colonel (now Lord) Townshend. After a variety of alterations and amendments, in which the supporters of the bill were obliged to acquiesce, or run the risk of its being thrown out altogether, it passed the royal

assent.—The old ministry were restrained, by motives of fear, from opposing a measure, which they had always dreaded as the most effectual bar to arbitrary power; and the new ministers, by thus arming the people for the internal defence of the nation, discovered their intention to execute some distant service with the standing army that required a powerful military force abroad.

THIS pleasing prospect of national felicity was fleeting and evanescent. Though the abilities and disinterestedness of the new ministry were acknowledged even by their enemies, though they were seconded and supported by the bulk of the nation, yet there were other qualifications necessary to support themselves in office, which, it must be confessed, they did not possess. As they had neither bargained for their places, nor delivered up their principles, they were determined to support their integrity and independence; and to consult the true interest and prosperity of the nation, even in opposition to the prejudices of majesty itself. Several propositions, in which the interest of his Majesty's electoral dominions were more consulted than that of Great Britain, were opposed by Mr. Pitt and his adherents; and this opposition was exaggerated by the associates of the old ministry, who still hovered about the throne. The spirit and freedom with which they debated every measure, even in the presence of their sovereign, was construed into a want of respect; and their behaviour in parliament, in which they regarded themselves, not as servants to the crown, but as representatives of the people, and guardians

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EUROPE.

Mr. Pitt re-
signs.

of their liberty and property, was made the pre-
tence of an impeachment of their loyalty. The
consequence of these insinuations was a peremptory
dismissal from their several offices; and Mr.
Pitt, by his Majesty's express command, resigned
the seals on the 5th of April; at a period when
his wisdom, integrity, and firmness, were more
necessary than ever.

View of the
different
parties.

As the politics of this period were complicated
and mysterious, it will be necessary, in order to
form an idea of them, to delineate the characters
of the different parties who laid claim to the di-
rection of state affairs. They consisted of three
different factions. The first, highly respectable as
to rank and fortune, possessed of a considerable
share of parliamentary interest, and the greatest
sway with the monied people, was composed of
those who had grown into place and power under
the old ministry. Their adulation and courtly
compliance had likewise rendered them greatly
respected by the King; but in some very material
points, their weakness was conspicuous: they
were deficient in popularity, and their political
abilities were but indifferent.—The second faction,
though superior in point of abilities, was posses-
sed of less parliamentary interest, and much more
unpopular than the first. They derived their power
from their influence at one court, by means of a
then powerful connection; but which only tended to
make them less respected at the other court, and
even added to their unpopularity.—The third party
had little influence in parliament, and less at court;
but they possessed, in the highest degree, the con-

fidence and support of the people. The shining abilities of their leader, and his steady adherence to an upright disinterested conduct, claimed veneration even from his opponents.—These factions differed extremely in the general scheme of their politics. The two first agreed in opinion, that the increasing power of France was much to be dreaded; that it was absolutely necessary to maintain a balance of power; and that this was to be done chiefly by keeping up a close connection with the powers of the continent, by espousing their quarrels, and even assisting them with troops if required. This furnished an argument for a standing army; and, though they thought the navy should by no means be neglected, yet it ought only to be employed in subserviency to the continental system. In their opinions of constitutional liberty, they were likewise singular. Though they pretended to be staunch friends to the liberties of the people, yet, as government must be supported, they looked upon it as justifiable to secure a majority in parliament, by creating numerous lucrative places and employments at the disposal of the crown; alledging, as a palliation of this mode of ruling, that the particular form of our government, and the general depravity of mankind, rendered any other less exceptionable method impracticable.

THE third and popular party was actuated by principles of a different nature. They viewed indeed the increasing power of France in the same light with the two former, and acquiesced in the necessity of setting bounds to it; but they differed

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EUROPE.

widely in the means to be used for that purpose. They were for making the military operations of Great Britain entirely subservient to our naval strength, as a more natural, safer, and less expensive plan of politics. Our situation as an island, said they, points out to us a conduct different from that of other nations. The sea is our natural element; and to quit that, and involve ourselves in continental quarrels, is acting diametrically opposite to our real interests. The superiority of France lies entirely on the continent, and the attacking her on that side would be evidently dangerous, and like (to use a strong though vulgar expression) taking a bull by the horns. Our government, they said, stood in no need of support from a standing army, which was ever dangerous to freedom; and that a well-trained militia would prove our best protection against an invasion. From a higher notion of human nature, they judged it possible to influence the minds of men by nobler motives than that of interest. A ministry who governs uprightly, will never be opposed by the people.

THE forced resignation of Mr. Pitt, contributed to add lustre to his character. The resentment of a monarch, however destructive in other countries, in England has quite a different effect. The object of royal indignation, is ever the favourite of the people; and, if he forfeits not the protection of the laws, he has little to fear from the exalted situation of his adversary.—The British nation, ever grateful to their benefactors, received the dismissed ministers with the greatest tokens of ap-

probation. The most opulent and respectable corporations presented them with their freedom, the highest gift, in the opinion of a Briton, that can be conferred.—The resentment against the old ministry, who had now resumed their places, was more violent than ever. The people could not be persuaded, that the same persons who had sunk the nation into ruin and distress, could ever be the instruments of her delivery and redemption. Numerous addresses were presented to the throne, soliciting the restoration of Mr. Pitt; and his Majesty, sacrificing his private resentments to the good of his people, was graciously pleased to redeliver the seals to Mr. Pitt, appointing him secretary of state for the southern department, on the 29th of June.

1757.
EUROPE.

Mr. Pitt resumes the seals.

THE unpopular party, however, was not entirely excluded from a share in the administration. Their influence in the privy council, and credit in the house of commons, were still great, and sufficient to thwart every measure in which they did not partake. A coalition of parties therefore took place from necessity, as the only prudent and salutary means of healing divisions, and assuaging the rage of faction. Both parties receded a little from their former principles, which had been violently pushed in their several extremes. It was now proposed to gratify the King, with assisting our allies on the continent in the method most agreeable to our insular situation, which is, by making diversions with our fleets; and it was also agreed, that we should aid them with such land-force and money as our strength and finances could admit,

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THESE domestic dissensions happily composed, it became now absolutely necessary, to atone for the past losses and disappointments, and to retrieve the credit of the British arms and councils, by some spirited and vigorous enterprise. War had been declared in the course of the summer by both nations, and our hostilities could no longer be represented as lawless invasions or piracies. As the first undertaking was intended to facilitate our military connections and operations in Germany, it will more properly come after the account of the transactions in that country.

Situation of
the King of
Prussia.

AT the opening of the campaign in 1757, every thing appeared unfavourable for the King of Prussia. In the preceding summer, process had been commenced against him in the Aulic council, and before the diet of the empire. The influence of a family in which the empire had so long been hereditary, and the formidable confederacy against him, over-awed those who wished to support him, and his enemies were happy at so fair an opportunity to reduce his power. He was condemned for contumacy; and it was notified to him, that he was put under the ban of the empire, and fallen from all the dignities and possessions he held under it. The contingents of men and money ordered to be furnished by the circles of the empire to put this sentence in execution were, however, slowly collected.—His victory at Lowoschutz had been attended with no other consequence than the surrender of the pass at Pirna. The Austrian army in Bohemia, commanded by Prince Charles of Lorrain and M. Brown, amounted to upwards of

100,000 men; the Czarina sent 60,000 men, under the command of M. Apraxin, assisted by a strong fleet, to invade Ducal Prussia; and the Swedes, in hopes of recovering what they had lost in Pomerania, joined the same confederacy, being aided by 6000 troops of Mecklenbourg.

1757.
EUROPE.

IN this perilous situation, threatened on all sides, and apparently on the brink of destruction, the Prussian monarch had nothing to trust to, for preservation, but his own abilities, and the superior valour and discipline of his troops. Far from being daunted at the formidable confederacy against him, he prepared for the contest with a cool rapidity peculiar to himself. He distinguished, between great difficulties and impossibilities, and being never discouraged by the former, has often seemed to execute the latter. He divided his army into three bodies, which at the same time penetrated, by very different ways, into Bohemia; his maxim being to carry the war as far from home as possible. The first body was commanded by M. Schwerin, and entered that kingdom from Silesia. The second was under the Prince of Bevern, who marched from Lusatia; and the last was commanded by the King in person.

As a prelude to the campaign, the Prince of Bevern, on the 21st of April, having possessed himself of some strong posts on the frontiers of Bohemia, marched to attack the Austrian army, amounting to 20,000 strong, commanded by Count Königsegg, and posted near Reichenberg. The action began at half an hour after six in the morning, and continued till eleven. The Austrians were

Battle of
Reichen-
berg.

1757.

EUROPE.

defeated and put to flight; and their loss amounted to upwards of 1000 men killed and wounded, while that of the Prussians did not exceed 150.

THE King of Prussia, on receiving the news of this victory, published the account of it at the head of his army, by whom it was received with the loudest acclamations of applause.—This advantage, at the beginning of the campaign, was productive of the most salutary consequences to his Prussian Majesty. It facilitated his future operations, struck a panic into his enemies, and spirited up his own troops, who were eager to be led on to the most arduous enterprises.—The Prussian armies were now in such a situation, that a junction could be formed whenever necessary. The

King of Prussia resolves to attack the Austrians.

Stratagem to divide their forces.

Succeeds.

intention of Frederic, was to draw the enemy to a general engagement, if possible. They were superior to him in number, and were encamped in a situation so fortified by nature and art, as to be deemed almost impregnable. Something therefore was necessary to be done in point of generalship, without leaving all to the risk of the sword; and his Majesty, ever vigilant and penetrating, with a sagacity that foresaw every thing, was readily furnished with a stratagem for this purpose. To the surprise of every one, he marched towards Egra; and the Austrians, deceived by this movement, and imagining that the King had undertaken some design distinct from the object of his other armies, detached a body of 20,000 men from their main army, to observe his motions. Frederic, finding that this manœuvre had taken its full effect, made so sudden and masterly a movement to the left,

that all communication between that detachment and the main army of the Austrians was cut off. Elated by this advantage, he marched onwards, with his accustomed rapidity, to Prague, where he joined the armies under the Prince of Bevern and M. Schwerin, who had advanced, with an almost equal celerity, to meet him. The Austrians, tho' amounting to 100,000 men, were sensible of the ability of their adversary, and determined to act with caution. Their commanders, Prince Charles of Lorrain and M. Brown, resolved not to march in quest of the Prussian monarch, but to wait his united force in their camp, and to cover the city of Prague from insult.

THIS caution in the enemy, only stimulated the vivacity of the Prussian monarch, whose fortitude was always in proportion to the difficulties he had to encounter, and whose resolutions were not taken upon the danger, but the expediency of the action. The hopes of future success depended on his defeating this fortified camp. Having thrown several bridges over the Moldaw, he passed that river, on the 6th of May, with 30,000 men, leaving the rest of the army under the command of the prince of Anhalt Dessau; and being joined by the troops under M. Schwerin and the Prince of Bevern, he resolved to attack the enemy on the same day. Accordingly, he ordered his army to file off to the left, with an intention of flanking the enemy; which obliged M. Brown to wheel about to the right. The Prussians continued their march through a road so full of defiles and morasses, that the infantry and cavalry were forced

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to the at-
tack.

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Prague.Gained by
the Prus-
sians.

to separate. Their ardour, far from being checked at these obstacles, was greatly heightened by them. They vied with each other, in passing defiles, in crossing marshes, in seizing the rising grounds, and in clearing ditches.—The foot began the attack too precipitately, and were at first repulsed; but they immediately rallied, and advanced with an impetuosity that was not to be resisted. M. Schwerin, as he was advancing towards the enemy, was suddenly stopped in his career by a morass, which threatened to disconcert the whole plan of operations. Upon this, he immediately dismounted, and, taking the standard of the regiment in his hand, boldly entered the morass, exhorting his men to follow him. Inspired by the example of this great commander, now 82 years of age, the troops pressed forward, and abated not in their ardour till they had totally defeated the enemy, though their brave general unfortunately fell at the first onset, loaded with years and glory.—The Austrian cavalry stood but three charges, and then retired with great confusion; the centre being at the same time totally routed. The battle was bloody and obstinate, and both parties gave signal examples of valour. Prince Henry of Prussia and the Prince of Bevern performed wonders, making themselves masters of two batteries; and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick took the left wing of the Austrians in flank, while the King secured the passage of the Moldaw with his left, and a body of cavalry. At last the Austrians, yielding to superior abilities, and the fate of war, were driven from the field of battle, and the King of Prussia obtained a com-

plete victory. The Prussians took, on this occasion, ten standards, and upwards of 4000 prisoners, thirty of whom were officers of rank; together with 60 pieces of cannon, all the tents, baggage, military chest, and, in a word, their whole camp. The loss on both sides was great, and each had the misfortune to lose one of their best generals; M. Schwerin*, whose fidelity, intrepidity, experience, and military prudence, had deservedly gained him the friendship and confidence of the Prussian monarch; and M. Brown, who received a wound, which, from the chagrin he suffered, rather than from its own nature, proved mortal shortly after.—The main body of the Austrian army fled towards Prague, and threw themselves into that city; another party, to the amount of 10,000 men, retired towards Beneschau, where they afterwards assembled under M. Pretlach.

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* M. Schwerin was born on the 26th October 1684. He studied at Leyden, Rostock, and Griefswade. The Duke Charles Leopold sent him in 1712 to the King of Sweden, Charles XII. at Bender, with whom he continued a year. In 1723, he had a regiment given him in the Prussian service, and, by military gradation, arrived at the post of Field Marshal in 1740. He distinguished himself at the battle of Mollwitz in 1741. In the campaign 1756, he gave great proofs of his abilities in the art of war. He was rather a little sized man, but had however a martial look; loved the soldiers, and was very careful of them, and therefore much beloved by them. In all his expeditions he knew how to combine the greatest bravery with the greatest prudence. He was twice married, and left children of both sexes.

C H A P. V.

*King of Prussia joins the blockade of Prague—Deplo-
rable situation of the inhabitants—Count Daun
takes the command of the Austrian army—At-
tacked by the King of Prussia, when he reposes
at Kolin.*

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Prague in-
vested.

BY the event of this battle, it was expected that the Prussians would invest Prague; which they immediately did, the King commanding on one side, and Marshal Keith on the other. In four days all communication from without was cut off, the whole city being surrounded with lines and entrenchments.—The number of forces shut up within the walls amounted to 50,000, besides a great many persons of the first rank, viz. Prince Charles of Lorraine, Marshal Brown, the Princes of Saxony, the Prince of Modena, the Duke d'Aremberg, Count Lacy, and several others of great distinction. It was generally imagined, that this city would necessarily fall a sacrifice to the victorious army, the numbers within serving no other purpose than to consume the provisions of a garrison, then but indifferently supplied. Immediately after the blockade was formed, the Prussians took possession of Cziscaberg, an eminence which commanded the town, on which the Austrians had a strong redoubt. The besieged made several vigorous, but ineffectual attempts, to recover this post, which was defended by the

Prussians with the utmost resolution.—In order to ease the city of the multitude of forces cooped up usefess within the walls, it was resolved to attack the Prussian army in the night, with a body of twelve thousand men, sustained by all the grenadiers, volunteers, Pandours, and Hungarian infantry, and thus, if possible, to open a way, sword in hand, through the camp of the besiegers.

THE Prussians, having received intelligence of this design by a deserter, took proper measures for their reception, and in less than a quarter of an hour they were all under arms.—But notwithstanding the Prussians were warned of this attempt, it was conducted with so much silence, that nothing was discovered before the Austrians charged their advanced posts. From their beginning the attack on Marshal Keith's camp, and the left wing of the Prussian army, encamped on the Moldaw, it is probable the enemy intended to destroy the batteries that were raising, and to attack the bridges of communication which the Prussians had thrown over the Moldaw at Branick and Podaba, about a quarter of a German mile above and below the city. The alarm began about two o'clock, the enemy hoping to come unexpectedly upon the miners; but in this they were disappointed. The piquet of the third battalion of the Prussian guards, who were to sustain the body which covered the works, was thrown into confusion at the first fire from the enemy, owing to the darkness of the night, which rendered it impossible to distinguish the Austrian troops from their own. A lieutenant, who was detached with

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The besieged make a sally.

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a party to reconnoitre the enemy, endeavoured, by lighting a fire, to discover their disposition. This had the effect of informing Captain Rodig, who commanded the piquet, of their situation, who immediately attacked them on the flank, giving orders to his men to fire in platoons; upon which the enemy fell with the greatest precipitation, being ignorant of the strength of the piquet, as the shouting of the Prussian soldiers made them mistake it for a numerous body. Numbers deserted, some took shelter in Prague, and many were forced into the river, and drowned.—A regiment of the enemy's horse-grenadiers, at the time this attack began, supported by the Hungarian infantry, endeavoured to surprise a redoubt, under an incessant fire upon the whole front of the Prussians; but were repulsed with considerable loss. They renewed the attack three times, and were as often beat back, the Prussians maintaining the post with a firmness and resolution not to be described. On this occasion the battalion of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick suffered greatly.

At three in the morning, the Prussians marched out of their camp to meet the enemy. Part of the army attacked a building called Red-house, at the bottom of a declivity before Wellastowitz. The Pandours, who were in possession of this house, fired upon them incessantly from all the doors and windows, but were at last dislodged. For about two hours the Prussian army were obliged to sustain the fire of the enemy's whole cannon and musketry, which did much execution. At length, the Prussians having abandoned the Red-house,

owing to the continued fire which was kept upon it from the artillery of Prague, the Pandours again took possession of it; and the rest of the enemy retired to the city, without in the least effecting their design, leaving behind them many dead and wounded, besides deserters. The Prussians upon this occasion made a few prisoners, although they suffered the loss of several officers and private men. Prince Ferdinand, the King of Prussia's youngest brother, was slightly wounded in the face, and likewise had a horse shot under him.

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Austrians
drove back.

HITHERTO neither of the parties had received very considerable damage, the operations of the Prussians being confined to a silent blockade, and those of the Austrians to a few slight sallies, in which they were generally repulsed with loss. But the Prussian works being at length completed, and their heavy artillery arrived, they opened four batteries erected on the banks of the Moldaw, and began to play furiously on the city. In the space of twenty-four hours they threw in no less than three hundred bombs, besides an infinite quantity of red-hot balls, which set the city on fire in several places.—The King of Prussia has on this occasion been censured for want of humanity; and indeed the generals on both sides seem to have been actuated by the most horrid barbarity. When the conflagration had lasted for three days, and the inhabitants saw their city on the point of being reduced to a mass of rubbish, they in a body petitioned the commander to hearken to terms; but, instead of granting their request, he turned out 12,000 persons, the least useful in the

A terrible
bombard-
ment.

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EUROPE.

Distress of
the inhabi-
tants.

defence of the city. These were again forced back by the Prussians, which soon brought on a famine, and reduced both the garrison and inhabitants to the necessity of living on horse-flesh, and even that was given out in a very sparing manner. In this melancholy situation, the inhabitants saw no end to their miseries, but by a speedy capitulation, which the commander, who saw himself at the head of a numerous, well-appointed, and desperate army, was determined by no means to listen to. Several resolute and well conducted sallies were made, but without success, being always rendered fruitless by the vigilance and determined bravery of the Prussians.*

* "It is, no doubt, a thing worthy of remark, and will appear a fable to posterity, that near 50,000 men, with a train of artillery, arms, &c. should submit to be shut up for six weeks, and reduced to extremity, by an army of equal force. That of the King did not certainly, at the end of May, exceed that of the Austrians; which will appear evident, if we consider how many men he had lost in the battle, by sickness, desertion, and the numberless detached corps. This army, small as it was, formed a chain of posts, which extended many miles, and was moreover separated by the Moldaw; over which they communicated by two bridges only; the one above, and the other below the town: so that, in fact, the Austrians, had they chose to march out of the place, would have had no more than half the Prussian army to contend with: why therefore they did not, no man that has the least idea of military affairs, can ever comprehend. A torrent carried one of the bridges away; yet did they still continue quiet, and let slip this favourable opportunity, without making any attempt to go out. We have been very often on the ground about Prague, and must own it is, and will be, a matter of wonder and astonishment, that no effort was made to march out. Had they attacked the Prussians, thus separated by a great river, and divided into so many small detachments, they could not fail in their attempt; they must have destroyed their army. It is no less surprizing, that so great a general as the King of Prussia should think it possible to reduce an army of 50,000 men, in such an extensive town as Prague, with one of equal force. The supineness of the Austrians justified this attempt, and saved his army from inevitable

IN this situation, when the Empress-Queen was on the brink of ruin, her grand army dispersed, and flying in small parties, her princes and commanders shut up in Prague, that capital on the point of surrendering, and the utmost favour the garrison could expect was being made prisoners of war, a general arose, who seemed destined by the hand of providence to mark the vicissitude of human affairs, and who in turn was to reduce his Prussian Majesty to as bad a situation, as that in which the Empress-Queen at present found herself. Leopold Count Daun*, bred from his infancy in the camp, who had served under the greatest generals, and particularly had studied the art of war under the great Kevenhuller, was now put at the head of the Austrian army, on which

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Count
Daun
takes the
command
of the Au-
strian army.

destruction.—The celebrated M. Belleisle, who knew Prague perfectly well, had, in the preceding war, with 15,000 men, defended it for many months against the Austrians; and, being at last reduced to the greatest extremity, quitted it with 12,000 men, and retired to Eggra, with safety and glory. This general wrote a letter, while the King was blockading that town, which I have seen; wherein he says, “ Je connois Prague, si j’y étois, avec la moitié des troupes, que le prince Charles y a actuellement je détruirois l’armée Prussienne.”

Hist. of the War in Germany, by a General Officer.

* Leopold Count Daun was born in 1705. He was, in the beginning, a knight of Malta, and colonel of his father’s regiment; in 1736 lord of the bed-chamber; in 1737 major-general, and served against the Turks; in 1739 a lieutenant-general; in 1740 he obtained a regiment; in 1745 he was made a general of infantry; in 1748 a privy counsellor; in 1751 commandant of Vienna; in 1753 knight of the golden fleece; and in 1754 a field-marshal. He had, in the preceding war, shewn no less bravery than prudence; and was wounded in the battles of Grotzka and Freidberg, in 1749. He formed the new exercise, and composed the institutions for the new military academy. In 1745, having quitted the order of Malta, he married the countess Fuchs, (a favourite of the Empress) by whom he has many children.

1757. depended the fate of the empire. Born of a noble family, and possessing the greatest abilities, he owed not his preferment to servile court policy, but rose slowly and silently from the rank of a subaltern, to that of commander in chief, by mere dint of superior merit. Arriving within a few miles of the city of Prague, the day after the late defeat, he halted to collect the straggling and dispersed parties of the Austrian army.

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FREDERIC, apprehensive that this army, which now amounted to above 40,000 men, and was continually upon the increase, might not only disturb his operations before Prague, but likewise, by some manœuvre, give the Austrians an opportunity to slip out of that place, judged it necessary to check its farther progress, and prevent its becoming too formidable. For this purpose he detached the Prince of Bevern, with about 25,000 men, to attack the Austrian army.

CAUTIOUS, subtle, and penetrating to a degree, Daun was too prudent to risk an action in his then circumstances, which, if attended with a defeat, would have put the finishing hand to the ruin of the Empress-Queen. Besides, he considered his troops as dispirited, sunk with disgrace, and overcome with fatigue. He considered, that such an army was by no means fit to cope with one flushed with success, confident of victory, and fighting under the eye of their sovereign; he therefore retired as the Prussians advanced, encamped at Kolin, and fortified himself strongly, where he was daily joined by numbers of recruits sent to his army. His situation was such, that he

could not possibly be attacked but at an evident disadvantage; and by this means he divided the Prussian forces, one half of whom was drawn off from Prague, in order to watch his designs. Here he harraided the enemy, by cutting off their convoys; and restored, by degrees, ardour and confidence to his troops. He was no stranger to the enterprising disposition of the Prussian monarch, and the discipline and bravery of his army, and wisely provided against every contingency. His situation, he was sensible, would prove irksome and embarrassing to the enemy, and therefore he improved it to the best advantage.

HIS Prussian Majesty, finding that the Count's army still increased, and that it might soon be in a condition to raise the siege, the place being still defended with the most obstinate bravery, resolved to dislodge the Austrians from their strong post at Kolin, with one part of his army, while the other should continue the blockade at Prague. Marshal Keith endeavoured, with all the reasons he could urge, to dissuade the King from so hazardous an attempt, advising rather to raise the siege entirely, and attack the Count with the whole united Prussian force, or wait until he should get possession of the city, or the Austrians quit their advantageous post. By following either of these measures, a certain advantage would accrue. By the first, he might very probably defeat the Count; and, by keeping within his lines, the Austrian general might perhaps attempt to raise the siege, by which means he must lose his advantageous situation, and his Majesty might then meet him

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King of
Prussia re-
solves to at-
tack Daun.

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Advantageous situation of the Austrian army.

upon equal terms.—But, notwithstanding this prudent advice, the King persisted in his resolution, and, on the 13th of June, left the camp before Prague, attended by a few battalions and squadrons, and joined the Prince of Bevern at Milkowitz, not doubting but that the reputation of his late victories would strike a terror into the enemy's troops, and that in consequence they would become an easy conquest. The army of Count Daun now amounted to 60,000,* deeply entrenched, with a fine and numerous train of artillery. The bottoms of the hills were secured by difficult defiles, redoubts, and batteries, erected on the most advantageous posts, and every accessible part of the camp fortified with lines and heavy pieces of battering cannon.—The personal bravery of the King of Prussia, and his confidence in his troops, were never more conspicuous than on this occasion. With a body of horse and foot, not exceeding 32,000, he undertook to dislodge an army of 60,000, with all the advantages of situation and entrenchments above mentioned.

THE King's army, on the 18th of June, came in sight of the Austrian camp, which he found fortified with the heavy cannon of Olmutz, and reinforced with several parties of troops from Moravia and Austria, which had joined them during his march from Prague. The Austrians were drawn up in three lines, on the high grounds be-

* Nothing can be more difficult, than to ascertain with precision the numbers of the German armies; there being scarce an author but what differs in this respect. We have endeavoured to follow those, who, from their situation, must have had the best information.

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tween Genlitz and St. John Baptist. Notwithstanding the difficulties the King's troops had to encounter, they marched up to the attack with the most amazing firmness and intrepidity, amidst an incessant fire from the enemy's batteries, which swept away multitudes. The action began about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Prussian infantry drove the Austrians from two eminences secured with heavy cannon; but, immediately after, in attacking a third eminence, they were taken in flank by grape-shot poured from the enemy's batteries, and, after a most horrid slaughter, thrown into disorder. The King, animating his troops by his presence, soon rallied them, and they returned to the charge, but without effect. They were a second time repulsed. Prince Ferdinand did every thing in the power of a great general, to retrieve the honour of the day, but to no purpose. Seven times did he lead the infantry on to the attack, and as often were they beat back.—Every manœuvre was put in practice to gain a settlement in the Austrian camp, and all were attended with the same want of success. The Austrian general, in all his operations, cautious, penetrating, and decisive, was every where present, and neglected none of those nicer strokes on which the fate of a day frequently depends. Intimately acquainted with the intrepid bravery and skilful conduct of his Prussian Majesty, he exposed himself in every perilous situation, in order to infuse courage into his troops, who every where caught the fire of emulation from their general, and behaved with the utmost resolution.

Battle of
Kolin.

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Prussians
defeated
by M.
Daun.

WHEN the Prussian infantry had thus been repeatedly drove back, a most furious attack was made by the cavalry, headed by his Majesty in person, upon the enemy's left wing, who received them with amazing fortitude, and soon threw them into confusion — At last, when the King saw no possibility of changing the fortune of the day, but loss following loss, and misfortune succeeding misfortune, he drew off the remains of his army in such good order as to prevent a pursuit, and likewise to protect his artillery and baggage from falling a prey to the enemy, and retreated to Nimberg.

LEAVING the command of this shattered army with the Prince of Bevern*, although his Majesty had been upon horseback the whole day, without taking any repose, he set off immediately for the camp before Prague, where he arrived next morning, bringing the first news of his own de-

* Augustus William duke of Bevern was born in 1715 : in 1733 he served against the French ; in 1735 he entered the Prussian service, as lieutenant colonel ; in 1739 he was made a colonel, and wounded at the battle of Molwitz ; in 1741 he had a regiment given him ; in 1743 was made a major-general ; in 1747 governor of Stettin ; in 1750 knight of the black eagle, and lieutenant-general. He distinguished himself in the battles of Hohenfriedberg, Lowoschutz, Prague, Kolin, and Breslaw : after which he was made a prisoner, while he went with a servant only to reconnoitre the enemy. He was in 1758 released, without any ransom, for his affinity to the Empress. The King seeming offended at his conduct, he retired to his government at Stettin ; where he remained 'till 1762, when he was called to the army in Silesia, and had a corps confided to him, while the King was besieging Schweidnitz. The Austrians, intending to relieve that place, attacked him with an army under the command of Generals Lacy, Laudhon, and Odonell, whom he repulsed several times, though they were three times stronger than he was, and gave the King time to come to his aid. He may, no doubt, be numbered among the first generals of this age.

feat.—He immediately gave orders for raising the siege, which was executed with so much secrecy and dispatch, that all his artillery, ammunition, and baggage, were sent off, and the army on their march, before the garrison knew any thing of the battle. In this action, the loss on both sides was very considerable. The killed and wounded on the side of the Prussians, amounted to between 8000 and 9000 men. Count Daun received two slight wounds, and had a horse shot under him. As soon as the garrison of Prague was informed of the retreat of the Prussians, a considerable body of Austrians, under the command of Prince Charles of Lorraine, sallied out in pursuit; but, when they came up with their rear, they found it too well covered to hazard an attack, and therefore returned to Prague, leaving the Prussian army to pursue its route unmolested.

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Siege of
Prague
raised.

Thus ended the battle of Kolin, and siege of Prague; which, if we advert to consequences, may be reckoned the severest check his Prussian Majesty received during the war.—By the loss of this battle, he found himself under the necessity of evacuating Bohemia, the conquest of which kingdom he was upon the eve of accomplishing. His army too, besides the loss sustained in killed and wounded, suffered greatly by sickness and desertion; and the Austrians, from their late success, and consequent junction, were become too powerful for him to make head against. He was therefore obliged to take refuge in Saxony, until an opportunity should offer of retrieving his misfortunes, which, great as they were, he bore

Consequences
of the
battle of
Kolin.