

1758.
AUGUST.

for the French to discover the small handful of men he was attended with. Before he arrived at the town, an accidental firing had alarmed the enemy, who were prepared to meet him; but the prince, by his courage and excellent dispositions, conquered all opposition. He beat the enemy from the possession of a bridge they held, took possession of the town, and forced Chabot, the French commandant, who had thrown himself into the castle, to surrender it with all his stores and magazines.

PRINCE Ferdinand, at the head of the Hanoverian army, continued his march in two divisions; and, at last, cleared all the electorate of the French, Minden excepted, which was garrisoned by 4000 men; but the place being invested, they were obliged, on the 14th of March, to surrender prisoners of war, after a siege of no more than nine days. The skirmishes which passed between the French and Hanoverians, were always to the advantage of the latter; and indeed the former scarce made any resistance, but when they were prompted by despair. Their situation was now become completely wretched. All subordination was lost among their troops. Destitute of cloathing and covering in a bitter season, many perished on the roads; and the sword was scarcely wanted to finish the destruction of the survivors, most of whom were so weak and diseased, that they were knocked on the head by the clubs of the enraged peasants, while the Hanoverian hussars and hunters harrassed the few who had strength enough to attempt an escape. Upon the

Distress of
the French
army.

whole, it is reckoned, at a moderate computation, that of 130,000 French who had entered Westphalia, not above 50,000 were alive at the end of the campaign. These being collected from all parts, at last reached the Rhine, except a body which maintained itself at Wesel, under the Count de Clermont.

1758.

EUROPE.

THE same misfortune and despondency seemed to attend the French troops in other places. A small English Squadron, under Commodore Holmes, arrived before Embden, which, as we have already mentioned, was taken from the King of Prussia by the French, and by them garrisoned with 4000 men. The British commodore cut off the communication between this place and the mouth of the river; and the garrison, struck with a panic, fled the town, and conveyed their artillery and heavy baggage up the river. Holmes ordered some armed boats to pursue them, and some of their vessels were taken. In one of them was a youth, the son of a French officer of distinction, whom the commodore immediately sent to his father, and offered to send him the money too, upon his giving his word and honour that it was his own property.

Commo-
dore
Holmes
takes pos-
session of
Embden.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great losses which France had sustained in a few months, she was far from being, as many imagined, in a ruinous condition. Her internal strength was great, and she had prodigious resources. Her councils, it is true, were not only divided, but unsteady and infirm. All reciprocal confidence had been lost between her court and parliaments, and the ablest

1758.

EUROPE,

The Duke
de Belleſſe
put at the
head of the
French ad-
miniftra-
tion.

of her miniſters had with indignation retired from public buſineſs. The ſlighteſt condeſcenſions, however, on the part of their King, gave ſpirit to the French; and even the loſſes he had ſuffered, ſerved to animate them with a paſſion to repair them. The Duke de Belleſſe, ſo celebrated for his exploits, civil as well as military, was pointed out by the public voice as the only miniſter who could prevent farther diſgraces; and the French King accordingly put him at the head of the war-department, to the general ſatisfaction of his ſubjects.*

* There appeared in the public prints, at this time, a ſpeech ſaid to be delivered by that nobleman in council, which does honour to the ſpirit and patriotiſm of the old Marſhal, who had ſerved his King and country with honour, during better times. It was as follows.

“ I know, ſaid he, the ſtate of our armies. It gives me great grief, and no leſs indignation; for, beſides the real evil of the diſorder in itſelf, the diſgrace and infamy which it reflects on our government, and on the whole nation, are ſtill more to be apprehended. The choice of officers ought to be made with great deliberation. I know but too well to what length the want of diſcipline, pillaging, and robbing, have been carried on by the officers and common men, after the example ſet them by their generals. It mortifies me to think I am a Frenchman; my principles are known to be very different from thoſe which are now followed. I had the ſatisfaction to retain the eſteem, the friendſhip, and the conſideration of all the princes, noblemen, and even of all the common people in all parts of Germany, where I commanded the King’s forces. They lived there in the miſt of abundance; every one was pleaſed; it fills my ſoul with anguiſh, to find, that at preſent the French are held in execration; that every body is diſpirited; and that many officers publicly ſay things that are criminal, and highly puniſhable. The evil is ſo great, that it demands immediate redreſs. I can eaſily judge by what paſſes in my own breaſt, of what our generals feel from the ſpeeches they muſt daily hear in Germany, concerning our conduct; which indeed would loſe much, to be compared with that of our allies. I muſt particularly complain of the delays and irregularity of the poſts; a ſervice which is very ill provided for. I am likewiſe diſpleaſed with the negligence of our generals, in returning answers; which is a manifeſt breach of their duty. Had I commanded the army,

AFFAIRS in Britain bore quite a different aspect. The administration was popular; and such a harmony subsisted between the court and parliament, and the parliament and people, as was altogether unprecedented in history. The glorious victories of the King of Prussia, after the train of distresses he had undergone, rendered the German war popular; and the ministry, with safety, entered more deeply than ever into continental measures.

THE retreat of the Russian troops was considered as a prelude to an alteration in the Czarina's conduct; but the public were soon undeceived in this respect. Apraxin was dispossessed, and put under an arrest; and the command of the army was given to Generals Brown and Fermor.—The disgrace which the Swedish arms had sustained, served to increase their animosity; and they were determined to prosecute the war, with more vigour than ever.

As soon as the season would permit the King of Prussia to renew his operations, he turned the blockade of Schweidnitz into a siege, and pushed it with so much vigour, that the garrison, reduced by sickness and other losses, surrendered pri-

Schweid-
nitz taken.

a thousand things which are done, would not have been done; and others, which are neglected, would have been executed. I would have multiplied my communication; I would have had strong posts on the right, on the left, in the center, lined with troops. I would have had magazines in every place. The quiet and satisfaction of the country should have been equal to their present disaffection, at being harassed and plundered; and we should have been as much beloved, as we are at present abhorred. The consequences are too apparent to need being mentioned. I must insist on these things, because late redress is better than the continuation of the evil."

1758.

EUROPE.

soners of war, in thirteen days. By the reduction of this place, Frederic had cleared his dominions of his enemies, and he began to think of attacking them in their own. His credit was now high, and his armies strong. He had a body of troops commanded by Count Lohna, on the side of Pomerania, which over-awed the Swedes and Mecklenburghers. Silesia was covered by another body, posted between Wohlau and Glogau; while an army of 30 battalions and 40 squadrons was formed in Saxony, under the command of his brother Prince Henry, to face the army of the empire, which was again become formidable. Those armies were all so judiciously posted, that each had a ready communication with the other.

THE Prussian monarch's affairs wearing so promising an appearance, he resolved upon an offensive war, and to make the untouched country of Moravia its theatre. To conceal his design, after the reduction of Schweidnitz, he ordered some troops to take post as if he intended to invade Bohemia; but all of a sudden, making a rapid march, he opened trenches before the city of Olmutz, the barrier of Moravia, on the 27th of May. The flattering prospect of carrying the war to the gates of Vienna, was probably Frederic's main motive in this expedition, which at first threw the Austrian councils into great perplexity.

MARSHAL Daun was then in Lusatia; but no sooner was he apprised of the King's march towards Moravia, than he immediately marched through Bohemia to that province, and took the command of the army which was to oppose his

King of
Prussia lays
siege to Ol-
mutz.

Prussian Majesty. He took post between Gewitz and Littau, by which situation he had at his back the fruitful country of Bohemia, and could, by his parties, intercept the Prussian convoys from Silesia.

1758.

EUROPE.

It soon appeared, that his Prussian Majesty had not sufficiently considered the difficulties attending this enterprize. Olmutz was a city of such extent, that his troops were not numerous enough completely to invest it; so that Daun was enabled to supply it with provisions, and every thing necessary for making a vigorous defence. Never did Daun show himself so complete a general as upon this occasion. Perceiving that his Prussian Majesty had taken a false step, he availed himself of it to the utmost; and took such measures, that his royal antagonist, notwithstanding all his endeavours and provocations, found it was impracticable to force or entice him to a battle. In the mean time, the besieged plied the Prussians with incessant sallies, by which they ruined their works, not to mention their loss of men.—The Prussian monarch's situation was such, that by the neighbourhood of Daun's army, he found himself unable to employ above 10,000 men upon the siege, and they were in a manner themselves besieged by the enemy. The country about Olmutz afforded them no subsistence, all having been destroyed by the Austrians; and to complete the King's misfortune, the Austrian general lay so near to Silesia, that, by means of intelligence from the country people, he intercepted almost the whole of his convoys.

Disadvantageous position of the Prussian army.

1758.

ASIA.

Daun intercepts an important Prussian convoy.

DAUN having received intelligence that a large and important convoy was to leave Troppau on the 25th of June, he resolved to strike a blow, which should prove him to be an enterprising, as well as a cautious general. He ordered two detachments from two very different places, Muglitz and Prerau, to put themselves in motion; and prescribed them such regulations for their march, as that they should come up at the same time, so as to attack the enemy on both sides. To favour this manœuvre, Daun made dispositions as if he intended to fight the Prussian army under the King, who had left the command of the siege to Marshal Keith. This sudden change in Daun's operations, gave the King some suspicion, and he sent General Ziethen to support his convoy. Ziethen came too late to prevent its being attacked; but it had repulsed the Austrians. The latter, however, were reinforced by Daun with fresh troops, who renewed the engagement next day, defeated Ziethen, seized on the centre of the convoy, while the rear precipitately retreated to Troppau, and but few of the van reached the Prussian camp.

THE loss of this convoy proved fatal to the aspiring views of his Prussian Majesty. July was now drawing on; and he had thrown away a most precious part of the summer in unsuccessful operations, without having it in his power, so judicious were the measures of his adversary, to display either courage or generalship. The Russians had taken the field, and their Cossacks and Calmucks were, as usual, making cruel incursions

into Silesia, and Berlin itself was threatened.— Such was the situation of the Prussian monarch, when he took the secret, but unwilling resolution, of raising the siege of Olmutz. By this time Daun had made a motion to Pefnitz, which must have laid the Prussians under still greater difficulties, and might have not only raised the siege, but even ruined their army.—Beset with so many dangers, Frederic, by an uncommon effort of genius, instead of retiring, resolved to advance into his enemies dominions; a resolution equally bold and wise. Perceiving that Daun, by the change of his situation, had left Bohemia uncovered, he ordered, on the last of July, the siege to be carried on with more vigour than ever; but on the night of the same day, his whole army took the road of Bohemia, gained twenty-four hours march of the Austrians, defeated all the parties that attempted to oppose him, siezed upon a grand magazine at Leutomissel, and arrived at Koningsgratz, one of the most important posts in Bohemia, with all his waggons, baggage, artillery, and military stores. Here he defeated a body of 7000 Austrians, who were entrenched before the place, and took immediate possession of it. Every one was astonished that he took no farther advantage of this important conquest, than by laying it, and the neighbouring country, under contribution. But the rapid progress which the Russians were making, justified his evacuating Bohemia, and marching towards Silesia, where he understood that those barbarous enemies had entered the New Marche of Brandenburg, and laid siege to the important fortress

1758.

EUROPE.

King of
Prussia
marches in-
to Bohe-
mia.

1758.
EUROPE. of Custrin. Count Dohna, though he closely attended their motions, was by no means in a situation to give them battle. His army was by far too much inferior in number to hazard such a step, and, in a matter of such importance, the personal attendance of his Prussian Majesty was absolutely necessary.

MARSHAL Daun's reputation, as a general, was greatly heightened by this last measure. This commander seems to have been expressly formed to penetrate the designs, thwart the measures, and check the daring genius of the Prussian monarch. He was compared to the celebrated Roman general, Fabius Maximus, whom he greatly resembled in vigilance, caution, and sagacity. His Prussian Majesty's reputation suffered no abatement; for it must be acknowledged, that his genius and abilities were more conspicuous in extricating himself from the greatest dangers, than in his most complete victories. In the former, the merit was entirely his own; in the latter, fortune was entitled to a share in the praise.

HERE we shall leave the Prussian monarch advancing with his usual celerity, to give battle to the Russians, in order to attend the operations of another great general, Prince Ferdinand.

C H A P. XIV.

Prince Ferdinand passes the Rhine—Battle of Crevelt—Battle of Sangershausen—Action at Meer—Prince Ferdinand repasses the Rhine—Allies defeated at Lanwerenbagen—They retire into winter-quarters.

PRINCE Ferdinand, finding that he could not prevent the French from passing the Rhine, pursued them across that river, on the 1st of June, and passed it, in sight of their whole army, at Herven and Rees. Astonished at the boldness of this passage, they retired towards Meurs; while it was plain he designed to pass the Maese, and thereby oblige the Prince de Soubise to abandon an enterprise he was meditating against Hesse Cassel. To prevent his executing this scheme, the French at last made a stand at Crevelt, with their right towards the village of Vischelon, and their left towards Anrath; Crevelt lying in the front of their right. In short, their situation was strong, their dispositions judicious, and it required great exertion of military genius to attack them with any appearance of success. A wood covered their left wing at Anrath; and the Prince, after accurately reconnoitring all their visible posts, and informing himself of the nature of the ground, judged that an attack on the flank of their right wing was the most practicable. It was necessary this attack should be favoured by two others;

1758.

EUROPE.

Prince Ferdinand passes the Rhine.

1758.
EUROPE.

which, though real, were in a great measure to be continued or discontinued according to the success of the main one, which was to be conducted by himself.

Battle of
Crevelt.

HE accordingly advanced, at the head of the grenadiers, against the enemies left wing, which suffered severely from the superior fire of the Hanoverian artillery: but the French, favoured by the wood, still maintained their posts, which made it necessary to dislodge them by a closer engagement. This was begun by the gallant Hereditary Prince of Brunswic, at the head of the first line of foot, with which he had formed a front against the wood, and the fire of the musketry here continued incessantly for two hours and a half. The Hanoverian infantry at last penetrated into the wood, where they found two ditches lined with troops, which were successively forced. This intrepidity threw the French into a disorder, which was a prelude to the defeat of that wing; but a defeat which in its consequences was no way correspondent to the courage and conduct of the conquerors. The French cavalry were not to be broken by the utmost efforts of the Hanoverian horse, and, notwithstanding a most dreadful fire, maintained themselves in good order upon the plain, and covered the remains of their infantry of the left wing, as they were driven out of the wood. The two other attacks went no farther than cannonading; but though the enemy suffered by it, their right wing and center retired in good order to Nuys.

THERE is great reason to believe that the loss on both sides in this action was carefully concealed. That of the French, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was about 7000, according to the best accounts; and the loss of the Hanoverians exceeded 3000: but it is difficult to ascertain the loss of an army that is victorious, and keeps the field of battle. In this engagement fell the Count de Gisors, the only son of the Duke de Belleisle, a young nobleman not above 25 years of age, but so amiable in his manners, and so accomplished in his person, that in him seem to have expired the remains of French urbanity and virtue. Books, travelling, conversation, and study, had given him every kind of knowledge, except that of war, which he resolved to gain by experience; but he fell at the head of his regiment, in his first essay.

1758.
EUROPE.

Count de
Gisors killed.

THOUGH the military merit of Prince Ferdinand, and the courage of his troops, were eminently conspicuous in this action, yet some were apt to wish, that they had been employed on an occasion, in which success might have been attended by decision. The French, notwithstanding their repulse at Crevelt, drew such resources from their own country, as not only made them stronger than ever, but enabled them to reinforce the Prince de Soubise. Prince Ferdinand was conscious of his inferiority, and sought to avail himself of his victory. He passed the Rhine, and, on the 29th of June, appeared before the important city of Dusseldorp, situated on that river, belonging to the Elector Palatine, and the capital of

1758.

EUROPE.

the dutchy of Berg. It was garrisoned by 2000 French ; but after a brisk bombardment, it surrendered to the Prince on the 7th of July, and the garrison was suffered to depart with the honours of war. By the taking of Duffeldorp, Prince Ferdinand was enabled to secure his retreat over the Rhine, which it was too apparent he must soon be forced to make. After leaving three battalions of Hanoverians to garrison Duffeldorp, he spent several days in facing the French army, and watching his advantages. But both parties had their reasons for declining a second engagement. Prince Ferdinand flattered himself, that the Hessian general, the Prince of Ysenburg, would cut out work for the Prince de Soubise, till he could carry the war into the enemies country, by passing the Maese, the effects of which probably must have been, that the Prince would have fallen back upon the main body of the French army, which was now commanded by the Marshal de Contades. The hopes of his Serene Highness soon vanished ; for, on the 23d of July, the Duke de Broglie defeated the Hessian army of 7000 men near Sangerhausen ; by which the French became masters of the Weser, and of all that part of Westphalia.

Hessian army defeated by the French.

THE English ministry were now convinced of the necessity of supporting the German war with troops, as well as money. The King of Prussia could spare none of his forces to Prince Ferdinand ; none could be expected from the few princes of the empire, who had courage to appear openly for the Protestant interest ; his Da-

nish Majesty's declared intention was to remain neutral; Hanover and Hesse could bring no more to the field than they had done; the Dutch had absolutely refused to join us; and to receive assistance from the Swiss, or any other power, was impracticable. All these considerations, joined to the dispositions of the public in their favour, encouraged the English ministry to send about 10,000 British troops, under the Duke of Marlborough, to Hanover; and they had landed at Embden, about the time the unfortunate battle was fought at Sangerhausen. It must be observed, that the new establishment of a militia in England, went on with so much success at this time, that so considerable an evacuation of regular troops was neither felt nor dreaded by the public.

1758.

EUROPE

British
troops sent
to Ger-
many.

PRINCE Ferdinand was apprehensive, that the French, after their late advantage in Hesse, might endeavour to intercept the British army. In this disagreeable situation, he would gladly have given them battle; but they had taken their measures so well, that he could not bring them to an engagement. He would have repassed the Rhine; but the roads he had to march through, were almost impassable, by the rains that had fallen, and the overflowings of the rivers: nor, till these were abated, could he pass the bridge at Rees, which was covered by Baron Imhoff with about 3000 foot, and four squadrons of cavalry, in order to secure the junction of the British troops with those of the allies.

MONS. de Chevert, the most active of all the French officers, had formed a plan, which, if it

1758.

EUROPE

Gen. Imhoff
defeats the
French.

had succeeded, must have put the allies into the greatest perplexity. His plan was, to dislodge Imhoff, to burn the bridge at Rees, to make himself master of the magazine, and to render the junction of the English troops with the Hanoverians impracticable. To execute this judicious scheme, he had strengthened himself with draughts from garrisons, which encreased his army to about 12,000 men, while that under Imhoff did not exceed 3000. But while the French general thought himself secure of his blow, a resolution, not perhaps wholly uninfluenced by despair, (for he could obtain no succours from Prince Ferdinand, because the swell of the waters still continued) prompted Imhoff to become the aggressor. He then lay near Meer, to the right of the Rhine; and, on the 5th of August, his detachment, with their bayonets fixed, attacked all the army under Chevert, while they were in difficult ground, and in a critical situation. An attack so spirited and unexpected, struck the French with a panic, from which all the efforts of the general could not recover them. Their resistance did not continue half an hour; for they took refuge under the cannon of Wesel, leaving many dead upon the field, with a great number of prisoners, and 11 pieces of cannon, in the hands of the Hanoverians. After this victory, which did Imhoff great honour, he secured his magazines at Meer, and after receiving a few reinforcements, which passed the Rhine in boats from Prince Ferdinand's army, he marched to meet the British troops, whom he joined without farther trouble.

PRINCE Ferdinand was now to repass the Rhine, which he did under the greatest difficulties; difficulties in which the gallantry of his officers, and the spirit of his troops, were eminently displayed. The Hereditary Prince forced a strong post possessed by the French at Wachtendonck, being the first who plunged into the river to attack it, and was followed by his grenadiers, who dislodged the enemy with fixed bayonets. This bold action increased the terror of the French; and, though the bridge at Rees continued still impassable, Prince Ferdinand effected his passage, on the 9th of August, at Griethuyster, a little below that bridge.

1758.
EUROPE.

Prince Ferdinand repasses the Rhine.

THE operations on both sides seemed to languish for a considerable time. Prince Ferdinand entirely adopted the defensive plan. The grand army under M. de Contades found it impossible to disturb the admirable disposition of his army along the Lippe; and the Prince of Ysenburg, with the few forces he had under him, maintained his posts upon the Weser; so that the French had hitherto made little progress, either against Hesse, or Hanover. Sensible that an attack upon the main body of the allies would prove a dangerous attempt, the French resolved to strengthen the Prince de Soubise's army, so as to enable him to dislodge the Prince of Ysenburg from the Weser, and to open a passage into the Landgraviate. Prince Ferdinand was aware of their intention, and sent the Prince a detachment under General Oberg; but, after it had joined him, all the force of the allies in Hesse did not exceed 15,000 men. They were attacked, on the 30th of September, at

1758.

EUROPE.

Lanwerenhagen, by the Prince de Soubise, at the head of about 30,000 men; and were defeated, and forced to take shelter in some strong grounds, covered with woods, in the neighbourhood, with the loss of about 1500 men. Prince Ferdinand flew to their relief so critically, that the Prince was enabled to join him at Rheda. This, however, necessarily uncovered the electorate, so as to lay it open to the incursions of the enemy, whose light troops penetrated even to the gates of Hanover.

NOTHING further was achieved by the allies, during the remaining part of the season. The troops were disposed in the Landgraviate of Hesse Cassel, and in the bishoprics of Munster, Paderborn, and Hildesheim. The French established their winter-quarters in Westphalia, and extended themselves along the Rhine, so as to command the whole course of that river, on both sides.— Upon the whole, the campaign in Westphalia, this year, was rather bloody, than advantageous to either party. Both parties had neglected, or had it not in their power, to improve their victories; and, in reality, reputation was all that either side had lost or won; and, in that respect, the advantage lay clearly on the side of Prince Ferdinand and his troops.

THE British forces had no opportunity of signalizing themselves this campaign; but they suffered greatly by the severity of the climate and season; and their commander, the Duke of Marlborough, died of a dysentery at Munster, universally lamented. By his death, the command of the British troops devolved on Lord George Sackville.

C H A P. XV.

Critical situation of his Prussian Majesty—Retreats from Bohemia—Daun's intentions frustrated—Battle of Custrin or Zorndorff—King of Prussia marches into Saxony—Surprised at Hobkirchen, and defeated—Marches into Silesia—Count Daun lays siege to Dresden—The suburbs burnt—King of Prussia raises the siege of Neiß and Cosel—Returns into Saxony—The Austrians retire into Bohemia.

THE affairs of his Prussian Majesty were never in a more critical situation than at present. The Russians had now penetrated into the New Marche of Brandenburg, where they were besieging Custrin; and a few days would have led them to the defenceless gates of Berlin. The Swedes had gained ground upon the Prussian generals, Wedel and Manteufel, in Pomerania; and the army of the empire, with a body of Austrians under General Haddick, were not only possessed of many strong posts on the frontiers of Misnia, but began to pinch the quarters of Prince Henry of Prussia, who lay at Diepoldswald with about 20,000 men.—Marshal Daun, neglecting all other objects, was intent upon recovering Saxony from the Prussians. Through his natural caution, he had several times altered the plan of his operations; sometimes pointing them towards pursuing the King of Prussia into Silesia, sometimes against

1758.

EUROPE.

King of
Prussia's
critical si-
tuation.

1758.

EUROPE.

Berlin ; but, at last, leaving the Generals Harsch and de Ville on the southern frontiers of Silesia, to amuse the Prussians, he began his march, by Zittau, Goerlitz, and Bautzen, towards Dresden. By crossing at Meissen, he might have cut off all communication between Dresden and Leipzig ; and, by attacking Prince Henry, who was now encamped at Seidelitz, he might have put him between two fires, that of his own army, and that of the army of the empire. But the vigilance of Prince Henry, who secured a communication with his brother, and took care to keep Dresden at his back, frustrated, for that time, all the schemes of that cautious general.

Arrives at
Frankfort
on the
Oder.

In the mean time, his Prussian Majesty, notwithstanding all the interruption given him by the Austrians, marched by Wisoca, Politz, and Landshut ; and, on the 20th of August, he reached Frankfort on the Oder. Here he joined the troops under Count Dohna. The Russians had, ever since the 15th, been throwing bombs and red-hot balls into Custrin ; by which the place was set on fire, and the inhabitants reduced to the most deplorable state that imagination can form ; and, to complete their misfortune, their principal magazine had blown up.

FREDERIC hastened to avenge himself on those destroyers of his dominions. On the 23d, he passed the Oder, with his whole army, about 20 miles to the north coast of Custrin. The Russians, on his approach, marched from before Custrin, and took post between the villages of Zwickau and Zorndorff.—The King had now to

cope with an enemy, with whom he had never been personally engaged before. The greatest generals have their failings; and that of his Prussian Majesty, is perhaps a too great disregard for his enemies. He considered the Russians as barbarians, without reflecting, that they were barbarians who never knew how to yield; and that they were commanded by officers of experience, who knew how to turn that barbarism, which he affected to despise, into steady courage, and military discipline, so ~~to~~ to baffle all the efforts of more active valour.

1758.
EUROPE.

His Prussian Majesty at first attempted to put in practice one of those military motions in which he had been often successful, by turning the left flank of the enemy, and attacking them in the rear. The Russians, foreseeing his design, had thrown themselves into a kind of hollow square, which presented him every way with a front fortified by artillery, and chevaux de frize. It was therefore necessary for the King to attack them with his artillery. The cannonading began at nine in the morning, by a most dreadful discharge of great and small artillery, in which the Prussians were greatly superior; and which did amazing execution upon the Russians, who stood as if they had been invulnerable, and supplied every vacancy in their ranks, with unparallelled readiness and alacrity. This behaviour was new to the Prussians, who, seeing their enemy in a manner court death, made a pause; which the first line of the Russians, having exhausted their shot, improved into a panic, by breaking in upon them.

Battle of
Culmin.

1758.

EUROPE.

with their swords and bayonets, and which forced the hitherto impenetrable body of the Prussian infantry to recoil. This change in the fortune of the day, effected by their broken and defeated battalions, was so unexpected by the Russian generals, that they made no dispositions for supporting their infantry with their cavalry. Had this been done, this day had probably been the last of the Prussian greatness.

FREDERIC, whose presence of mind never failed him, was not so negligent. He instantly brought the whole of his cavalry under General Seidelitz to the center, and they made head against the fatigued Muscovites, while the Prussian infantry, recovering from their disorder, and stung with what had happened under the eye of their sovereign, formed behind them, and made so dreadful a charge upon the unsupported Russian battalions, that they recovered the field. When the Russians are beat, they never fly; but they grow stupid, unless they are under the command of generals in whom they have a great confidence. At present, they were under no command; and, unable to advance farther, they remained where they were, plundering their own baggage, and drinking brandy, wherever they could find it. To encrease their confusion, the wind blew the dust and smoke directly in their faces, while their cool enemies, by their King's directions, improved every advantage. It was now no longer a battle, but a horrid and undistinguishing carnage. Still the Russians, amidst this inconceivable slaughter, kept their ground. At last, their cavalry, as yet

Battle of
Custrin.

unbroken, fell upon the left wing of the Prussians, ^{1758.} now fatigued with conquest and carnage, and favoured the broken infantry so far, as to give them an opportunity of forming anew, and marching to an advantageous ground.—The loss of the ^{Loss on both sides.} Russians in this battle, amounted to above 21,000 men, in killed, wounded, and prisoners; amongst whom were 939 officers. Ten thousand were killed upon the spot, and the wounds of above 6000 more proved mortal. The Prussians did not lose above 2000 men in ~~the~~ whole; and the Russian military chest, and a noble train of artillery, fell into their hands.

THE Russian generals having collected the broken remains of their army, gave orders for a retreat, and they marched to Landsberg on the frontiers of Poland; while their general in chief, Fermor, requested the King of Prussia for leave to bury the dead.

THIS victory, glorious and complete as it was, gave no relief to his Prussian Majesty. Laurels and thorns grew on every side of him. He made dispositions for improving his victory; but danger called him towards Saxony, where Marshal Daun, whom nature did not seem to fit for offensive measures in the field, unless he was either compelled to them by necessity, or invited by a certainty of success, was encamped at Stolpen, to the eastward of the Elbe. This situation, in which there was more safety than glory, served, however, to cover the operations of the Austrian arms, under the Generals Harsch, de Ville, and Laudohn.

1758.

EUROPE.

THE resolutions of the Imperial court, in all matters of war, are taken with the utmost secrecy; and every minister and Aulic counsellor there, is either a general, or a judge of generals. It was therefore difficult to pronounce, whether Daun's not proceeding to offensive operations, in the absence of his Prussian Majesty, against Prince Henry in Saxony, over whom he had so great a superiority, did not proceed from the selfishness of the court of Vienna. They had promised the King of Poland, and all their allies, that the recovery of Saxony should be the chief, if not the only object of the campaign; but it is presumed, that they would have been much better pleased to have recovered Silesia.

WHILE Daun overawed Prince Henry, and his Prussian Majesty was employing his army against the Russians, Laudohn lay upon the borders of Brandenburg, with the apparent intention of drawing the Prussian troops to the northern, while Harfch and de Ville acted in the southern parts of that province. The strong fortress of Sonnestein, in the neighbourhood of Dresden, which had long overawed Daun, surrendered, in a very unaccountable manner, to the Austrian general, Macquire, on the 5th of September. Upon this, Daun proposed to execute the plan he had formed in the beginning of the campaign; that of passing the Elbe, and putting Prince Henry between his fire and that of the army of the empire, and thereby cutting off the communication between the Prince and Dresden. But his Prussian Majesty was by this time on the borders of Saxony.

The terror of his approach obliged Laudohn to forego his advantages in the Lower Lusatia, and to fall back upon Daun, who was so far from executing his grand plan, that he retired to Zittau, so as to have Bohemia at his back; while the army of the empire remained inactive in the strong post at Pirna, which they had seized.

THOSE glorious successes of the Prussian monarch, who in the space of fifteen days had defeated a superior body of his enemies in one extremity of his dominions, baffled, without fighting, another superior body in another extremity, gave him respite rather than security. The Swedes, on hearing of his victory at Zorndorff, had retired in disorder; but they still kept their arms in their hands, without evacuating his dominions. The Russians had still a strong footing in the most populous parts of his territories; and he had no superiority in Saxony, but that of generalship and reputation. In short, his affairs were still in the most critical situation; and the least error, or neglect, threatened still to plunge him into an abyss of calamity and misfortune.

DAUN still kept possession of his almost impregnable camp at Stolphen; and the Prussian monarch had taken post at Bautzen; a situation, by which he was enabled to act as he pleased on the side either of Misnia or Lusatia, his right wing extending to Holzkirchen. By this position of the two armies, it appeared, that the Marshal intended to cut off the King's communication with Silesia, and the King to cut off that of the Marshal with Bohemia. The situation of his Majes-

1758.

EUROPE.

Situation of
both armies

1758.

EUROPE.

fly, however, was, upon the whole, the most advantageous of the two. A battle seemed inevitable; and it was evident, from the situation of both armies, that the aggressor would have the disadvantage. It will, perhaps, be ever a secret, by what means Daun came to have intelligence that the Prussians were more carelessly encamped, and more remiss in their quarters, than usual. He had before concerted measures with the Prince of Deux-Ponts, who commanded the army of the empire, for a general battle; and, in the dead of the night, on the 14th of October, he ordered his army to decamp in three columns, and to march, by different ways, with the utmost silence, so as all the three divisions should meet together near the Prussian camp, at five in the morning.

King of
Prussia sur-
prised in his
camp at
Hohkir-
chen.

DAUN'S orders were obeyed with astonishing secrecy and precision. The divisions, in falling in with one another, formed a regular line of battle, and almost instantaneously attacked the Prussian camp towards Hohkirchen, where it was weakest. Considering the bravery and discipline of Daun's army, and the advantages under which this attack was made, it is astonishing that a single battalion of the Prussians should escape. Not a shot was fired by any of the Prussian out-guards; and their enemies were in the midst of their encampment, while they imagined them to be lying at Stolpen.

FIELD-MARSHAL Keith had, the day before, pointed out some weaknesses in the Prussian encampment, and had even remonstrated to his Majesty on that occasion. He was the first general

1758.

EUROPE.

And de-
feated.

Officer who got upon horseback, and gave the alarm to his quarter : and to his vigilance and activity was it owing, that the whole army was not cut off ; for the small party under him, gained time for their fellow-soldiers to put themselves under arms. The Marshal, however, was killed on the spot, by two musket-balls ; and the head of Prince Francis of Brunswic was carried off by a cannon-ball, as he was mounting his horse. The death of those two great officers, the next in command as in merit to the King himself, seemed to portend the entire loss of the army ; but his Majesty had by this time assembled some troops, and in person gave play to the Austrians, till others were formed. Frederic perhaps never had so difficult a part to act. The contest was not now for victory, far less for glory, but for safety. He flew from post to post, with that inconceivable rapidity, and presence of mind, which so strongly mark his character. As his right wing was in the greatest danger, he reinforced it with some battalions from the left ; and endeavoured to recover the important post of Hohnkirchen, from which his troops had been driven in the beginning of the attack.

THIS reinforcement enabled him, after four bloody charges, to retake that post ; but the Austrians, who well knew its importance, recovered it with an amazing slaughter. General Retzow, who commanded the left wing of the Prussians, with great difficulty repulsed the enemy from that quarter. At last his Majesty, after maintaining the fight for five hours, and losing,

1758.
EUROPE.

in killed, wounded, and prisoners, about 7000. His best men, ordered a retreat behind his artillery, which was placed in the middle of his camp, and which, with the help of his cavalry, put a stop to all pursuit from the Austrians, whose loss in killed and wounded amounted to above 5000. All the further consequences of this bloody action, were, that his Prussian Majesty still kept possession of Bautzen, but extended his right wing towards Weissenburg.—The occasion of this unfortunate disaster, cannot, to this day, be accounted for. Certain it is, that his Prussian Majesty's extricating himself from so dreadful a dilemma, conveys a more exalted idea of his military talents, than the most splendid of his victories.

The Russians lay
siege to Col-
berg.

THE Russians had been so severely handled at Zorndorff, that they remained in their camp near Landsperg, without making any motion, till the 21st of September; when they began their march towards Pomerania, and there laid siege to the town of Colberg. This place, though inconsiderable in itself, was of infinite importance to the Russians, by its being a sea-port; from whence they might receive provisions and reinforcements, without being exposed to the danger of starving Brandenburg, or to marches insupportably long and laborious.—Hitherto his Britannic Majesty had ordered his minister at the court of Petersburg, to omit nothing that the Czarina could reasonably expect or desire, to buy off her inveterate enmity towards Prussia; and he was not without hopes of success. But the siege of Colberg proved, to all Europe, not only that she was

immoveable in her purpose, but that the Empress-Queen was determined to sacrifice the safety of Germany, and even of her own dominions, to her resentment; since nothing had, at all times, been deemed more impolitic in the Germanic system, than to suffer the Russians to get footing by sea in the empire. It was now more than suspected, that her Russian Majesty had far greater views than that of assisting her sister empress; and that she intended to take, and to hold. Colberg, though poorly garrisoned, and still more weakly fortified, held out, under Major Heydon, its governor, for twenty-six days, against an army of 15,000 besiegers, who were at last shamefully obliged to quit their enterprise: but they revenged their disgrace, by perpetrating, wherever they went, the most unheard-of inhumanities upon the defenceless inhabitants; for the several stages of their marches were marked by fire and desolation.

1758.
EUROPE.

Obliged to
raise the
siege.

THE insincerity of the court of Vienna appeared now more glaring than ever. Daun, instead of pushing the advantage he had obtained at Hohenkirchen, by attempting the relief of Saxony, through his inactivity, and the few motions he made, plainly evinced, that all he intended was to cover the operations of the Austrian generals in Silesia, where they had already besieged Neiss, a city twenty miles south-west of Breslau, and lying near the confines of the Austrian Silesia. The point was embarrassing to his Prussian Majesty, whether he should hazard a battle, leave Saxony exposed, or march to Silesia. He was not long

1758.

EUROPE.

K. of Prussia
marches to-
wards Sile-
sia.

in determining. Having received large reinforcements from his brother's army, he left his camp at Dobreschutz, the night of the 24th of October, and, without opposition from the enemy, reached the plain of Goerlitz; where he defeated a party of Austrians, who wanted to fortify themselves there. This march eased him of all apprehensions from Daun's army; and, in fact, blasted all the laurels which the latter had acquired at Hobkirchen.

DAUN, ashamed to thus outwitted, sent Laudohn, to harrafs his Prussian Majesty, with 24,000 men; and strong reinforcements to the Generals Harsch and de Ville, who had not only besieged Neifs, but blockaded Cosel. Frederic, notwithstanding all these impediments, continued his march; and Daun, seeing that he could not prevent the relief of Silesia, on the 6th of November, passed the Elbe at Pirna, and advanced towards Dresden, from which the Prussian army, weakened by the detachments the King had drawn from it, had been obliged to retire to the westward. Before Daun, however, could cut off their communication with that city, as the army of the empire had cut it off from Leipzig, they threw themselves into Dresden all at once. Thus, notwithstanding the advanced season, three great sieges were undertaken in Saxony; that of Dresden by Daun, that of Leipzig by the Imperial army, and that of Torgau by detachments from both.

FREDERIC was now approaching towards Neifs, the garrison of which had defended themselves, with incomparable bravery, ever since the 4th of

August. On the 1st of November, he obliged the Austrians to raise that siege, and the blockade of Cosel, and to fall back upon Bohemia, and the Austrian Silesia. He now hastened to the relief of Saxony, where Daun had besieged Dresden with 60,000 men. Count Dohna and General Wedel, who had rid themselves of the Swedes in Pomerania, defended Torgau, and had driven the Austrians from it as far as Eulenburg.

COUNT Schmettau commanded in Dresden, with an army of 10,000 men. The Electors of Saxony had long been the patrons of ingenious arts and manufactures. Their subjects had rivalled the ancients, in many curious works of the chisel, the furnace, the laboratory, the needle, the loom, and the pencil; and they had greatly exceeded the Easterns, even the Chinese themselves, in their boasted productions of porcelain. The soil of the country, and the genius of the inhabitants, were wonderfully well adapted to the improvement of every manual art; and a long series of internal tranquillity, while the flames of war raged around, had rendered Saxony the paradise of Germany. Even the expences of its court, the most luxurious of any in Europe, had contributed to enrich the inhabitants, who gave specimens of their wealth in the magnificence of their buildings. The suburbs of Dresden, where the principal nobility, merchants, and manufacturers reside, formed of themselves a most superb city, and are greatly superior to that which lies within the walls. Unfortunately the builders of the houses had not reflected, that it was possible,

1758.

EUROPE.

Prosperity
of the city
of Dresden.

1758.

EUROPE.

some time or other, that Dresden might be besieged; for the platforms of the suburbs looked down on the battlements of the city.

SCHMETTAU was sensible of the advantage this circumstance presented to Daun, and that the suburbs were untenable. He therefore gave Daun his option, either to see them in flames, or to desist from his operations. The Austrian general threatened him with the consequences of so barbarous a proceeding, and contrary to the rules of war. Schmettau justified himself by necessity, which supercedes all other considerations; and by the duty he owed to his master, to whom alone

Daun threatens the Prussian governor.

His spirited answer.

he was accountable. Daun threatened to make him personally answerable to himself. Upon which Schmettau replied, that he would not only burn the suburbs, but, if the city was attacked, he would defend it street by street, and at last take refuge in the castle, where the royal family resided, and defend that likewise. This answer, being made public, brought the magistrates and the chief inhabitants on their knees before the Prussian governor; and the royal family implored him, with all the moving eloquence of distress, to change his resolution, which, if executed, would leave them destitute of a habitation. Schmettau's answer was, that Daun, and not he, could grant their request; and instantly ordered the houses of the suburbs to be filled with combustible materials, and, at three in the morning, November 10, they were fired; and the houses in which they had been deposited, were reduced to ashes.

The suburbs burned.

THOUGH no arguments can justify this horrid transaction, far less reconcile it to the dictates of common humanity; yet, if we admit the casuistical reasonings of politicians, and allow the necessity of war, it must be acknowledged, that Schmettau did no more than what he was compelled to. His conduct likewise admits of many alleviations. He communicated to the magistrates and inhabitants the time and manner in which he was to proceed, assisted them in removing their goods, consulted with them upon the most favourable way of executing his disagreeable orders, which was done so gently, that not above 250 houses were consumed. All these circumstances appeared afterwards from authentic evidences, judicially given by the magistrates of Dresden, and the parties themselves, who were the chief sufferers, and which were published by his Prussian Majesty's command, to confute the exaggerated representations of the court of Vienna, and its allies, on this occasion.

It was in vain for Daun, while the flames were thus raging, to renew, as he did, his threats against Schmettau. Perhaps they proceeded, not so much from concern for the sufferers, as from his conviction, that he would now find it extremely difficult, if not impracticable, to take the city. He accordingly, upon the approach of his Prussian Majesty, decamped from before Dresden on the 17th of November; and the King, on the 20th, after joining his troops under Count Dohna and General Wedel, made a kind of triumphal entry into that city.—Thus, by the valour and

1758-

EUROPE.

The siege raised.

1758.
 EUROPE.

activity of the Prussian monarch, his general, and officers, six sieges were raised almost at the same time; namely, those of Colberg, Neiss, Cosel, Torgau, Leipzig, and Dresden.

THE Austrians retired to winter-quarters, and disposed their forces so as to form a chain of an amazing length, from the frontiers of Moravia, passing through Bohemia, all along the skirts of Silesia, and the borders of Saxony; where they were joined by the army of the empire, which continued the chain through Thuringia and Franconia, where it was united to the quarters of the Prince de Soubise. The King of Prussia, in order to break this extensive chain, sent some bodies of his troops into Thuringia, where they dispossessed the army of the empire of several of their posts.

THOUGH the events of this campaign were not so splendid and brilliant as the last; yet, on examination, we shall find, that the conduct of the different commanders was more artful and refined, their movements more judicious, and their marches were performed with more celerity and vigour. The vicissitudes of fortune which his Prussian Majesty experienced, are remarkable; and the fortitude and skill with which he stemmed the torrent of adversity, and rose superior to his evil fortune, are altogether without example.—We should have been happy to have had an opportunity of extolling his moderation, as well as his courage; but, in this particular, impartiality obliges us to condemn his conduct. Exasperated at the persecuting spirit of his enemies, the dangers

1758.

EUROPE.

and labours he had undergone, the blood and treasure he had expended, and incessant bodily toils he was every day exposed to, but above all at the exhausted state of his finances, he retaliated upon the unfortunate inhabitants of Saxony; who, as they were unconcerned in the war, should have been exempted from its horrors. He declared he would no longer consider Saxony as a deposite, but as a conquered country; and he inflicted some unbecoming severities, to oblige the magistrates and chief inhabitants to draw upon their foreign correspondents, for large sums for his use.—Whether Saxony could be considered as a conquered country, or whether, considering it as such, he would have been justified in his proceedings, we shall not take upon us to discuss: but this we will venture to assert, that the pillaging of a whole people, is infinitely more cruel, and more deserving of punishment, than the robbing of an individual; and that the massacre of thousands, however dignified by the name of victory and conquest, is equally criminal with private murder.

C H A P. XVI.

Louisbourg besieged and taken—Defeat of the British army at Ticonderoga—Frontenac and Fort du Quesne taken—Transactions in the East-Indies—Engagements between Pocock and d'Ache—Successful expedition to the coast of Africa.

1758.

AMERICA.

THE disgrace which has hitherto attended our arms in America, had excited the indignation, and roused the spirit of the people. The intrepid minister, who had the direction of the war, concurred in cherishing this spirit; and it was resolved to change hands, and to employ other commanders, both by sea and land, in making a new attempt upon Louisbourg.

Expedition
against
Louisbourg.

ON the 19th of February, Admiral Boscawen failed, with a powerful fleet of ships and transports, from England to Halifax; from which place he sailed, with 157 ships, great and small, and about 14,000 land troops, under General Amherst; and, on the 2d of June, appeared before Louisbourg. The French had raised batteries all along the coast, where a landing was practicable; and the surf was so great, that for six days no boat could approach the shore. Those obstacles appeared so dreadful to some of the officers, that they advised the admiral to call a council of war. Happily for his country, and his own reputation, he disregarded this advice; and determined to avoid having recourse to that bane

Military Memoirs.



Admiral Boscauwen.

of all our national enterprizes. He was resolved to land the troops at all events.

1758.
AMERICA.

ON the 8th of June, the surf was a little abated, and dispositions were made for landing the troops in three divisions. The left, which was destined to the real attack, was commanded by General Wolfe; the divisions in the center and right, were only intended to draw off the enemy's attention, and to distract their defence. The boats now rowed briskly towards the shore, while the frigates and armed sloops kept up an incessant fire upon the enemy. The French reserved their fire till the British troops were near the shore, and then gave it in full effect, both from their cannon and musketry; but neither the slaughter of men, the oversetting and wrecking of boats, nor the advantageous position of the enemy, could daunt the assailants. The gallant Wolfe was the foremost in this hot service. He leaped into the surf, and his example was followed by his whole division. Each encouraged his neighbour. Those who could not jump, waded ashore; and at last the whole fell upon the enemy, and drove them from their posts; upon which the other two divisions made good their landing, with far less loss than could have been expected.

The troops landed.

THE Chevalier Drucour, the governor of Louisbourg, having received detachments into the town, destroyed his out-posts, and prepared for a vigorous defence. The surf on the shore continuing, rendered it difficult to land the artillery and the implements necessary for the siege; and the French had in the harbour of Louisbourg, five

1758.

AMERICA.

men of war, who could bring all their artillery to bear upon the approaches of the British troops. Those difficulties were all surmounted by perseverance, intrepidity, and judgment. Gen. Wolfe, on the 22d of June, took from the enemy, a post called the light-house battery, by which he was enabled to annoy the enemy's ships, and the batteries on the other side of the harbour. On the 25th, he silenced what was called the island battery, which bore the hardest upon our forces. Notwithstanding this, the enemy continued to make a brave resistance; but, on the 21st of July, a shell from the British batteries set fire to one of their ships, which immediately blew up, and two other men of war having caught the flame, were also destroyed. This loss seemed to damp the garrison, and the admiral now thought it practicable to destroy the two remaining ships. To effect this, a detachment of about 600 seamen were sent in boats, under the command of Captains Laforey and Balfour, who executed their instructions with amazing intrepidity and success. They towed one of the ships out of the harbour, and burnt the other which ran aground.

UPON the success of this spirited enterprise, a council of war was held within the place, and it was determined to treat about a capitulation. Droucour, at first, demanded the terms that were granted to the garrison of St. Philip in Minorca; but the British admiral and general, in a joint letter, informed him, that they were about to enter the harbour, and batter the town, in which case he must stand to all the bloody consequences,

if he and his garrison did not instantly surrender prisoners of war ; which they immediately did.

1758.

AMERICA.

Garrison
surrenders.

THE taking of this important place, reflected indelible dishonour on the French government. Drucour, and the troops under his command, behaved with spirit ; and though they were well provided with artillery, stores, and ammunition, yet the fortifications were shamefully neglected ; and the French court had failed in all its promises to Drucour, of sending him a force from Canada sufficient to raise the siege. The harbour of Louisbourg had always been a receptacle for the enemy's privateers, who infested the North American seas, and the reduction of it gave infinite satisfaction to all the British colonies. The island of St. John, and all the French stations for carrying on their fishery, towards Gaspésie and the bay de Chaleurs, surrendered in consequence of the taking of Louisbourg.

WHEN the news of this important event arrived in Britain, it could scarcely be credited ; so much had the public, of late years, been accustomed to miscarriages in America. Indeed, the acquisition of the place was not of greater service than the spirit it raised in the people, who were now convinced, that the high ideas we had entertained of the French power had been the chief means of their success. They had been insulted in their own country, and deprived of the strongest, as well as the most convenient place they held in America ; for Louisbourg was the place of rendezvous for all their vessels employed in the cod-fishery, and all the troops they sent to Canada.

1758.

AMERICA.

Expedition
against Ti-
conderoga.

THE views of the British government were not confined to this object, however important it might be. It was judged expedient, if not necessary, to drive the French from Ticonderoga, deemed their most impregnable pass on the continent of America, and Crown Point, which Ticonderoga covered. General Abercrombie, who had succeeded Lord Loudon as commander in chief of the British forces in America, undertook this expedition.

ON the 5th of July, he embarked upon Lake George, with about 16,000 troops, regulars and provincials, and a numerous well provided artillery; and, next day, he effected his landing without opposition, the advanced guard of the French retiring at his approach. It is impossible to convey to the reader, without he has been in America, a just idea of the face of the country, which lies between the place of landing and Ticonderoga. It had, perhaps, never been trode by human feet, if we except the savage, thinly scattered, natives. The British troops had no direction for their march, but the quarters of the heavens; and even these were intercepted by the trees of the woods through which they were obliged to pass. No wonder, therefore, if both officers and men, who cannot be supposed to have been very expert astronomers, lost their way in this more than bewildering march. The French advanced guard did the same, and fell in with our forces. A skirmish ensued, in which 300 French were killed, and 148 taken prisoners. But this encounter, though the English were victorious, cost

Skirmish
with the
enemies ad-
vanced
guard.

them dear, for in that day they lost the gallant Lord Howe.

1758.

AMERICA.

THE name of this nobleman obliges us to interrupt our narrative to commemorate his virtues. He seemed formed, by nature, for all that was amiable in society, and great in war. While he issued the order, he set the example; and by his behaviour to his superiors, he taught his inferiors their duty towards him. To great merit as an officer, he added great genius as a soldier. From the moment he landed in America, he resolved to adapt himself to the service he was engaged in, discouraging and difficult as it was, by retrenching in his own person every superfluity that he was entitled to from his rank, either as a nobleman or an officer, even to the cutting off his hair. The common soldier saw him fare like himself; nor did he seem to affect the least pre-eminence, but in his forwardness to encounter danger, and endure fatigue. His officers and soldiers cheerfully obeyed the commander, because they loved the man; and indeed he appeared to be rather imitated, than obeyed, by all under his command.

THE British army, which had marched in four columns, appeared before Ticonderoga, on the 28th of July. The fort is situated on an isthmus between Lake George, and a gut which communicates with Lake Champlain. The French had been apprised of this expedition, and had omitted nothing to render the pass impregnable. It was accessible only in front; where a large morass was to be passed, the vacuities of which were supplied by a fortification eight or ten feet high,

1758. well furnished with cannon, and lined by about
 AMERICA. 5000 men.

THE engineer reconnoitred the ground according to General Abercrombie's order, and gave in his report, that he thought the entrenchments practicable by musketry alone. This fatal report produced a resolution, not to wait the arrival of the artillery, which, on account of the badness of the ground, could not be easily brought up, but to attack the enemy immediately. This resolution was confirmed by a rumour, that the French were about to be joined with 3000 troops, who were on their march to Ticonderoga.

THE attack was made with that vigour and intrepidity peculiar to British troops; and they performed every thing but impossibilities. The pass was not only fortified, as already described, but shut up with vast trees felled down with their leaves towards the assailants, so as both to conceal and favour the French. They marched up to the attack with an undaunted resolution, and sustained a most dreadful fire without flinching. The

The British
troops re-
pulsed with
great loss.

enemy, secure in their intrenchments, deliberately directed their fire, and the carnage of the British troops was horrible. The general, at last, convinced that the attempt was impracticable, ordered a retreat, after losing 2000 men, in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, in the action, which lasted about four hours. The troops, on this unfortunate occasion, behaved with the greatest intrepidity. Lord John Murray's highland regiment (the 42d) suffered greatly; above one-half of the private men, and twenty-five officers, were either killed on the spot, or desperately wounded.

THERE was plainly a defect of judgment in this precipitate attack; but it is not to this day determined where the blame ought to lie. According to the general's account, he was misinformed by the engineer. But ought he not personally to have reconnoitred the enemy's works, and not trusted entirely to the vague reports of his engineer?—Would a Wolfe, a Ferdinand, or a Frederic, acted in that ungeneral-like manner?—But, be this as it will, the retreat seems to have been the wisest, as well as the most expeditious part of this enterprise; for the British army regained their camp to the southward of Lake George, on the evening after the action.

To compensate in some measure for this unfortunate affair, Colonel Bradstreet was sent with 3000 Provincials against Fort Frontenac, the garrison of which was understood to be but weak. The great difficulty of this expedition, lay in the length of way which the army had to surmount, before they could come at their object. At last, with astonishing perseverance, the Colonel arrived at Oswego, embarked on Lake Ontario, and, on the 25th of August, came before Fort Frontenac, which stands near the communication between that lake and the river St. Laurence. It could not be expected, that a place garrisoned as that was, only by 150 men, could make any considerable resistance. The colonel, two days after he came before it, took it, without the loss of a man, and destroyed a large magazine of provisions, that was to have supplied their southern forts. Nine armed sloops were also taken and burnt, and

1758.
AMERICA.

Fort Frontenac taken.

1758.

AMERICA.

Expedition
against Fort
du Quesne.

the fort was destroyed, because, as matters were then circumstanced, it would have been sacrificing men to have left a garrison within a place at such a distance from our own establishments.

THE execution of the expedition intended against Fort du Quesne was committed to General Forbes, an officer of great experience, who had been tutored in the art of war by General Campbell, who lost his life at Fontenoy, and who had been present at most of the considerable actions in Europe during the preceding war. He had now a spacious field to display his talents. This enterprise had hitherto been fatal to our troops; and the failings of his predecessors contributed to render the general more cautious and circumspect. He particularly adverted to those deficiencies which had occasioned the fall of the unfortunate Braddock.—He marched from Philadelphia, with a considerable army, through a prodigious track of country, intricate and unknown, and infested on every side by the enemy's Indians. Major Grant, with a body of Highlanders and Provincials, as being most proper for that service, had the command of the advanced guard, which consisted of about 800 men; but advancing too near the fort, probably with an intention of surprising it, he was defeated and taken prisoner by the garrison. The main body of the army coming up, the garrison, which did not exceed 500 men, after damaging their works, fell down the Ohio, and left the general to enter the place. The fort was repaired, and the name changed, with an obvious propriety, to that of Pittsburg.—The general

The fort abandoned
by the enemy.

returned to Philadelphia; but did not long survive his success, his constitution having been exhausted by the incredible fatigues of the service.

1758.

AMERICA.

THOUGH the successes of the British arms in America this year were neither striking nor splendid, they were solid and advantageous. The security of our back settlements, which was the primary object of the war on our part, was effected; and the enemy, by the loss of Louisbourg, which may be termed the American Dunkirk, was deprived of the source of all their supplies; and their other settlements were now open and exposed to the attacks of the British forces.

THE transactions of the war in the East-Indies were chequered with various success. The French had sent a considerable reinforcement, under the command of General Lally, an officer of Irish extraction, from whose great experience sanguine hopes were conceived. Lally, though one of the bravest soldiers in the French service, was the most unfit man in the world to be connected with a trading company. He was proud, fierce, and precipitate; and there was a mixture of avarice in his disposition, which tempted him to share in their gain. Bred up to arms from his earliest youth, he carried the spirit of discipline to a faulty extreme, even in this country, where the nature of the service required its relaxation.—They had likewise fitted out a new armament under M. d'Ache, who commanded their marine.

ASIA.

ADMIRAL Pocock, who had succeeded Admiral Watson, was reinforced in the beginning of

1758.

ASIA.

Engage-
ment be-
tween Po-
cock and
d'Ache.*Conscience!*Fort St.
David taken.

the year with several ships under Commodore Stevens. Upon this junction, he immediately sailed in quest of the French fleet, whom he discovered, on the 29th of March, in the road of Fort St. David. It consisted of eight ships of the line, and a frigate. They immediately stood out to sea, and formed the line of battle; and Pocock, whose fleet consisted only of seven ships, followed their example, and, bearing down upon M. d'Ache, began the engagement. The action was supported with great warmth for two hours, when the French commodore sheered off. Being afterwards joined by two more ships of war, he again showed an inclination to renew the engagement. But this was merely to amuse the British admiral; for, in the night, they made no signal, nor showed any lights, and next morning they were not to be seen.—Three of Admiral Pocock's captains misbehaved in this engagement. They had acquired immense riches, which they were impatient to enjoy in their country; and this impatience might probably relax their attention to discipline.

LALLY, in the mean time, had landed his troops at Pondicherry, and laid siege to Fort St. David, while the squadron blocked it up by sea. The garrison, being destitute of provisions and fresh water, surrendered in twelve days, after having sustained a severe bombardment.—Admiral Pocock, having repaired his ships, went again in quest of the French squadron, whom he came up with on the 3d of August. They would willingly have avoided coming to an engagement;

but finding that impracticable, they maintained a running fight for near an hour, when they crowded all their sail, put before the wind, and escaped into the road of Pondicherry. The loss of the French, in this action, amounted to 540 in killed and wounded; and that of the English did not exceed 146. D'Ache's Squadron was likewise so much damaged, that, in the beginning of September, he sailed to the isle of Bourbon, in order to refit; leaving the command of the Indian seas to Pocock, whose fleet, in point of number, men, and weight of metal, was infinitely inferior to the French.

1758.

ASIA.

Second engagement
between
Pocock and
d'Ache.

LALLY was destitute of provisions, money, and almost every thing, excepting men, that could give success to his operations. In order to supply himself, he demanded a sum from an Indian potentate, called the King of Tanjour; and his request being rejected, he besieged that prince's capital; but was driven from it, though it was little better than an open place, through the bravery of some British gunners. He arrived at Pondicherry about the end of September, where we shall leave him making preparations for the siege of Madras or Fort George.

WE are now to give an account of an expedition to the coast of Africa.—Mr. Cumming, a Quaker, having made a voyage to Portenderrick, in the character of a merchant, became personally acquainted with the Moorish King of Legibelli. Being an intelligent and sensible man, he availed himself of this prince's prepossession in favour of

AFRICA.

1758.

AFRICA.

the English, and his dislike of the French, whom he wished to drive from their settlements on the river Senegal. Mr. Cumming informed himself particularly of the nature, extent, and importance of the gum trade, and also the situation and strength of the French forts on that coast; and, on his return to England, communicated his observations and project to the board of trade. The ministry approved, and finally adopted his plan. —After a considerable delay, a small squadron was fitted out, consisting of three ships of war, a sloop, and three buffes. They had on board 200 marines, a detachment of matrosses, and ten pieces of cannon and eight mortars.

Expedition
against Se-
negal.

THIS small squadron, under the auspices of friend Cumming, came to an anchor in the mouth of the river Senegal, on the 24th of April. The French governor of Fort Louis, after making an ineffectual attempt to dispute the passage of the bar, surrendered; and the inhabitants of the town of Senegal swore allegiance to his Britannic Majesty. This important conquest was achieved, agreeable to the religious tenets of the projector, without spilling a single drop of human blood.—The fleet now proceeded to attack the island of Goree; but, from the insufficiency of their force, the attempt miscarried.

Succeeds.

OUR success on the African coast was still incomplete, while the island of Goree remained in the possession of the French. The British minister was sensible of this, and sent out a small squadron of four ships of the line, two frigates, and two bomb-ketches, under the command of Commo-

dore Keppel, with 600 land forces under Colonel Worge. On the 28th of December, the commodore brought his ships a-breast of the fort of St. Michael, when a terrible cannonading ensued, in which above 100 of the English were killed or wounded. The French garrison, tho' they lost not a man, were so intimidated by the fire from the ships, that they surrendered in a very short time. A detachment of marines was landed, who took possession of the island, and hoisted the British flag on the castle of St. Michael.

1758.

AFRICA.

Goree taken.

COMMODORE Keppel, having left a sufficient garrison in this place, and reinforced that at Senegal, returned to England.—The Litchfield man of war of 50 guns, a transport, and a bomb-ketch, belonging to this squadron, were, on their outward passage, wrecked on the coast of Barbary. One hundred and thirty of the crew were drowned. The remaining part reached the inhospitable shore, where they suffered great hardships, and were enslaved by the Emperor of Morocco, at that time our ally; nor were they delivered from their captivity, till ransomed by the King of Great Britain.

C H A P. XVII.

*Detached naval transactions in the year 1758.*1758.

THE masterly strokes of conduct, and the intrepidity of commanders, are not confined to powerful fleets, or numerous armies. A greater degree of sagacity, resolution, and presence of mind, is often displayed in a petty engagement, than in the most momentous enterprises. The generality of people, indeed, considering more the greatness of the event, than the spirit of the action, are apt to pass over those matters slightly, which are achieved by a person of little note. Captivated by "the whistling of a name," they confine military merit to a particular rank; while it is often more conspicuous in the lieutenant of a small frigate, or the leader of a foraging party, than in the admiral of a numerous fleet, or a generalissimo.

THOUGH the particular exploits of separate commanders at sea are properly unconnected with the plan of general history; yet, in relating the events of this period, it would be ungenerous not to do justice to the actions of those gallant men who have deserved so well of their country.—To enter into a particular and chronological series of naval events, would far exceed the limits of our undertaking; and there is a sameness in most sea engagements, which would render such a detail tedious and disagreeable. We have endeavoured

to select the transactions of greatest celebrity, and to narrate them nearly in the order in which they happened.

1758.

EUROPE.

THE war was pretty far advanced before our naval commanders began to distinguish themselves; and Hawke and Boscawen were the first who wiped off the disgrace which the misbehaviour of Byng had thrown upon the British flag.—We have already related the successful operations of the latter against Louisbourg, and will now proceed to give an account of a transaction, which was in some degree connected with them.

THE French fleet, which had protected Louisbourg the preceding year, had returned to France in a shattered condition. To prevent their getting back to that important station, two fleets were dispatched, to block up the French harbours in the bay of Biscay, and in the Mediterranean. The first was commanded by Sir Edward Hawke, the latter by Admiral Osborne.

ON the 28th of February, Admiral Osborne, who had been for some time watching the French fleet in Toulon harbour, fell in with *Monf. du Quesne* in the *Foudroyant* of 80 guns, attended by the *Orphee* of 64, the *Oriflamme* of 50, and *Pleiade* of 24, as they were sailing from that port, in order to reinforce the squadron under *M. de la Clue*, at *Carthagen*. On finding themselves in the midst of Osborne's fleet, the French squadron immediately dispersed, and took different courses, and were as immediately pursued by detachments from the British fleet. The *Pleiade*, being an excellent sailer, escaped. The *Oriflamme* was run

Success of
Osborne's
fleet.

1758.

EUROPE.

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Monmouth
and Fou-
droyant.

ashore, by the Monarch and Montague, under the castle of Aiglos, and saved only by the respect which the English had for the neutrality of the Spaniards. The Orphee was pursued by the Revenge and Berwick, and taken, by the first of these ships, in sight of Carthagena. The Foudroyant was chased by the Monmouth, Swiftsure, and Hampton-Court. About seven in the morning, the Monmouth and Foudroyant began to engage, the rest of the fleet not having come up. There was a very great disproportion between the two ships. The Foudroyant had one thousand men on board, and mounted 80 guns, 42 and 22 pounders; the Monmouth mounted sixty-four 12 and 24 pounders, and had only 470 men.—A notion had long prevailed, that the superior weight of metal which the French ships carry, rendered them an overmatch for the British, even for those of an equal number of guns. It was the apprehension of this, that had made Admiral Byng decline fighting Gallifoniere in the Foudroyant. Gardiner, who at that time was captain of the Ramillies, publicly declared, that he should not be afraid to fight the Foudroyant in an English 70 or 64 gun ship. On the present occasion he was as good as his word. He brought his ship within pistol-shot of the enemy, and the action was sustained with great fury on both sides. About nine o'clock, the gallant Gardiner lost his life: but the fight was still continued, with unabating vigour, by his first lieutenant Carket; and the Foudroyant, after having lost two of her masts, and about 200 of her men killed, was obliged to

strike. Just before the Foudroyant struck, the Swiftsure came up; but though a superior ship to the Monmouth, Monf. du Quesne would acknowledge no other conqueror but Carket, to whom he politely delivered his sword.—It appeared, upon an admeasurement, that the Foudroyant, exclusive of her vast superiority in weight of metal and number of guns, was as broad as an English first-rate, and 12 feet longer.—This action silenced the ridiculous boasts of the French, and put a stop to the custom which some of our cautious commanders had adopted, of calculating their comparative weight of metal before they ventured to engage.

THE same superiority, in point of skill and resolution, attended the British mariners in other parts of the globe.* Several gallant actions,

* The following instance of desperate courage is too remarkable to be passed over.—The Terrible privateer, of 26 guns, and 200 men, commanded by Captain Death, attacked a large French ship from St. Domingo, and took her, after an obstinate engagement, in which his own brother and 16 men were killed. Having secured this valuable prize with 40 of his men, he directed his course to England. On the fourth day, he fell in with the Vengeance privateer, of 36 guns, and 360 men, belonging to St. Malo. The prize was soon retaken, and both ships bore down upon the Terrible, whose main-mast was shot away by the first broadside. The engagement was short, but perhaps the most desperate and furious that ever happened. The French captain and his second, with 150 of his men, were killed; and the brave Captain Death, all his officers except one, and almost the whole of his crew, shared the same fate. When the Terrible was boarded by the enemy, they found only twenty-six persons alive, all of whom were desperately wounded; and the ship itself was so shattered, that she was with difficulty kept above water. The Vengeance was nearly in the same condition; and both ships made shift to reach St. Malo, where they presented a scene of blood and desolation, which could not fail of exciting terror and astonishment.—It may perhaps appear trifling to take notice of the singular combination of names belonging to the English

1758.
EUROPE.

*Engagement
between the
Terrible and
Vengeance.*

1758.

AMERICA.

Engage-
ment be-
tween Cap-
tain For-
rest and the
French fleet
off Cape
Francois.

worthy of being recorded, were performed in the West-Indies. Captain Forrest in the *Augusta*, attended by the *Dreadnought*, Captain Suckling, and the *Edinburgh*, Captain Langdon, had for some weeks blocked up a numerous fleet of French ships who lay at Cape Francois. The French commander, piqued at being thus insulted by so small a squadron, resolved to give them battle, and used every precaution to render the destruction of so puny a foe inevitable. His squadron consisted of four ships of the line and three frigates, well manned, with soldiers on board, and their full compliment of guns. Forrest, perceiving the French fleet advance, held a short spirited consultation with his two captains; the result of which was, immediately to attack the enemy. Accordingly, he bore down on them, and came to action about four in the afternoon. The engagement was very hot for two hours and a half, and the French having lost 300 men, and as many wounded, were beat back to their harbour. They had, however, according to their usual custom, disabled the English ships so much in their rigging, that they were rendered incapable of pursuing them.

Captain Forrest had another opportunity of displaying his courage and sagacity. Receiving intelligence that a numerous fleet of French ships were ready to sail for Europe, he went in pursuit of them; and, in order to avoid discovery, dis-

privateer, the *Terrible*, equipped at Execution-dock, commanded by Captain Death, whose lieutenant was called Devil, and who had one Ghost for his surgeon.

guiled his ship, and hoisted Dutch colours. When he came up with them, he kept aloof, and avoided the appearance of giving chace; but, on the approach of night, pursued them with all the sail he could crowd. About ten o'clock, he overtook the sternmost vessel, which immediately submitted; and having manned this vessel with thirty-five of his own crew, he ordered her to stand for the harbour of Petite Goave, and to intercept any vessels that might attempt to reach it. He then made sail after the French fleet, and, coming up with them by day-break, he fired at them all, as he could bring his guns to bear. They made a shew of resistance; but three of them being secured, they were employed in taking the other five vessels, not one of which escaped. They were carried in to Jamaica, where the conduct and courage of the captors were rewarded by the sale of their rich cargoes.

1758.

AMERICA.

Captain Forrest takes a whole fleet of French merchant-men.

ON the 29th of May, Captain Dennis, of the Dorset of 64 guns, and 520 men, engaged the *Raisonable*, a French 64 gun ship, with 630 men on board, commanded by the Prince de Mom-bazon, who, after having 61 men killed, and 100 wounded, struck to Captain Dennis, whose loss was only 15 men killed, and 21 wounded.

EUROPE.

MANY more gallant actions were atchieved in the course of this year, by our naval commanders. The names of Lockhart, Tyrrel, &c. were eminently distinguished. The British flag was restored to its ancient dignity; and our fleets, no longer confined in our ports to wait the delusive motions of French armaments, and French prepara-

1758. tions, were permitted to carry their power into the
EUROPE. ocean. *

* The following is a list of the principal ships which were taken from the French :

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>By whom taken.</i>
Foudroyant	80	Ramillies, Captain Gardiner
Espérance	74	Orford
Alcide	64	Admiral Boscawen
Lys	64	
Orpheus	64	Admiral Osborne
Raisonable	64	Dorset
Arc-en-ciel	50	Litchfield
Duc d'Aquitain	50	Eagle
Aquillon	48	Antelope
Royal Chariot	36	Torbay
Hermione	36	Unicorn
Melampe	34	Tartar, Captain Lockhart
Emerald	34	Southampton
Nymph	34	Hampton-Court
Brune	30	Hussar
Galatée	22	Essex

784

Besides a great many more that were sunk or otherwise destroyed.

The following English ships were taken by the French :

Warwick	60
Greenwich	50
Winchelsea	24

134

650 Balance in favour of the English.

The Mars of 66, the Tilbury of 60, and the Invincible of 74 guns, were lost.—On the 13th of April, the Prince George of 80 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Broderic, in his passage to the Mediterranean, took fire, and notwithstanding every endeavour to extinguish the flames, the vessel was burnt down to the water edge, and the remaining part sunk. Out of 800 men, only 300 were saved; and the admiral, after swimming above an hour, was taken up by the boat of a merchant ship.

C H A P. XVIII.

*Situation and resources of the contending powers—
 Prince Ferdinand defeated at Bergon—Successful
 operations of the French army—Battle of Minden
 —Gallant exploits of the Hereditary Prince of
 Brunswick—Munster surrenders to the allies.*

THE affairs of Germany still carried the same ^{1758.}
 uncertain and undecisive appearance. The vic- ^{EUROPE.}
 tories and defeats, which both parties had reci-
 procally gained and suffered, were productive of
 no consequences. The destruction and plunder-
 ing of numberless towns, the spilling of a prodi-
 gious quantity of blood, and the vast expences
 which fell upon all, far from exciting a desire of
 accommodation, served only to confirm the ani-
 mosity of the belligerent powers. Both parties
 seemed intent on revenge, and the prospect of
 peace was farther removed than ever. The neu- <sup>The pro-
 spect of
 peace far
 removed.</sup>
 tral powers withheld their mediation; and the
 contending ones were actuated by motives of con-
 veniency, as well as resentment. The impending
 death of the Spanish monarch would in all pro-
 bability involve the southern parts of Europe in
 the war, and consequently give a new turn to the
 face of affairs, in which all parties expected to
 find an advantage. The great exertions made on
 both sides, far from exhausting, seemed scarcely
 to have diminished their strength; and whatever
 difficulties might have occurred in raising supplies

1758.

EUROPE.

Situation of
his Prussian
Majesty.

of money and of men, they were apparently surmounted before the opening of the campaign.

THE situation of the Prussian monarch, notwithstanding its favourable aspect, was in reality far from being desirable. The whole kingdom of Prussia was still in the hands of the Russians, and the duchy of Cleves was held by the French. The fine armies with which he had performed such wonders, were now no more; nor was he longer assisted by the counsels of those able generals, whom fatigue, diseases, and the fate of war, had carried off; and it was but a small comfort to him, that his enemies were as much distressed as he was.—These disadvantages, however, were in some measure balanced by the possession of Saxony, and the annual subsidy from Great Britain; but though he could raise money, he could not re-animate men.—The court of Vienna, though deficient in pecuniary funds, found resources in the fertility of its provinces, and in the number and attachment of its subjects. No people in Europe more highly honour, or more cheerfully acquiesce in the dispositions of their sovereign, than the Austrians; and, when pay cannot be afforded, they willingly contribute free quarters for the subsistence of the army.—The Czarina continued true to her resentments against the Prussian monarch, and her desire of obtaining a permanent interest in the German empire; and, though her subsidies were ill paid, she still persisted in pursuing those favourite aims.—Sweden still kept up a shew of hostility against his Prussian Majesty; but her efforts were, as before, in-

considerable and inglorious.—France, though her finances were apparently exhausted, and her commerce abridged, maintained a resolute countenance. The general bankruptcy which was then said to prevail in that kingdom, was found to be little more than a fiction, invented by the court, to prevail with its subjects to replenish the royal coffers.—Holland still preserved the same interested and contemptible neutrality. The love of gain had prompted some of her subjects to carry on the trade of France in their bottoms, which subjected them to frequent captures from the English men of war and privateers. Loud complaints were made by the Dutch at this outrage, which they represented as a violation of the law of nations. Little attention was paid to those complaints, and the two nations were inflamed against each other with the most bitter animosity. The dispute, however, ceased by the destruction of its object, the French trade becoming too inconsiderable to afford any advantage.

THE allied troops under Prince Ferdinand, strengthened by fresh reinforcements from Britain, and augmented by German recruits, were supplied with every convenience and necessary which might enable and encourage them to face their enemies. They were in a great measure deprived of these advantages, by the unjust proceeding of the French, in seizing of Francfort, a neutral city. By this step, the French army secured the course of the Maine and the Rhine, and could, without difficulty or danger, receive every kind of reinforcement and supply; and it maintained their

1759-
EUROPE.

French seized to
Francfort.

1759.
EUROPE.

communication with the chain formed by the Austrians, and the army of the empire, from which they derived a considerable advantage.

Battle of
Bergen.

SENSIBLE of their advantageous situation, the great object of Prince Ferdinand was to drive the French from Francfort. Accordingly, having assembled all his forces, to the amount of 40,000, he came in fight of the enemy on the 13th of April, whom he found strongly encamped about the village of Bergen, between Francfort and Hanau. They were commanded by the Duke de Broglio, esteemed one of the best officers in France. His situation was such, that he could only be attacked through the village, his centre and flanks being perfectly secure. The attack was begun about ten in the morning, and was sustained with great alacrity for the space of two hours, during which time the allies were three times repulsed. Finding that little impression was made upon the French posts, and that his own troops suffered greatly, Prince Ferdinand's chief consideration was, how to retreat with honour and safety, in the fight of a superior enemy. Night was the only means to cover such a retreat, and the day was not yet above half spent. In this embarrassment, his Serene Highness made such movements, as indicated a resolution of renewing the battle with redoubled vigour. By this means, the French were amused during the remaining part of the day; and night secured to the allies, an easy, safe, and regular retreat to Windecken, with the loss of five pieces of cannon, and about 2000 men, including the Prince of Ysenberg, who fell in the action.

THE good conduct and military knowledge of Prince Ferdinand, were eminently displayed in this engagement; but, though the allies preserved their reputation, the consequences of this battle were as ruinous to them, as they were advantageous to the French. The latter still kept possession of Francfort, and all advantages they drew from that situation; and the former were reduced to act only on the defensive, for a long time after.

THE French army, elated by their success at Bergen, advanced with great vivacity; and Prince Ferdinand, finding himself inferior to the united forces of the enemy, retired as they advanced, after having left strong garrisons in Lipstadt, Retberg, Munster, and Minden. The progress of the French arms was but little retarded by these obstacles. Retberg was surprised, Lipstadt was blockaded, and Minden was taken by assault. General d'Armentieres besieged and made himself master of Wesel, where the garrison of 4000 men were made prisoners of war. In short, the progress of the French was so rapid, that they looked upon the conquest of Hanover as an event not to be doubted of; and the most sensible people in England were not of a different opinion. The archives, and most of the valuable effects of that electorate, were sent to Stade; and the disposition of the French army near Minden, was such as encouraged them to boast, and believe, that the allied army under Prince Ferdinand would lay down its arms without a stroke. They were then

1759.
EUROPE.

Rapid progress of the French army.

1759.
EUROPE.

encamped in a very advantageous situation at Petershagen, about nine miles from the French.

A battle was the only means to prevent the enemy from taking their winter-quarters in Hanover; and to attack them in their then situation, was impracticable. Stratagem was to supply the place of strength; and it must be confessed, that the operations of Prince Ferdinand were masterly. Cool and deliberate, he persisted steadily in his own plan, and was always ready to take any advantage that might offer.

Manœuvre
of Prince
Ferdinand.

ON the 28th of July, he detached the Hereditary Prince of Brunswic with 6000 men, to make a compass towards the enemy's left flank, and to cut off their communication with Paderborn. On the 29th, Prince Ferdinand forsook his camp on the Weser, and marched to the right; leaving a strong body of troops, under General Wangenheim, intrenched on the borders of that river, and supported by a considerable artillery. The allied army was now divided into three bodies; and it was evident, that the defeat of any one of them must decide the fate of the other two. The French generals gave completely into the snare that was laid for them. Nothing appeared more easy, than to defeat the body under Wangenheim, by which Prince Ferdinand must be cut off from all communication with the Weser, and be thereby compelled to surrender at discretion. This was deemed the more practicable, as Prince Ferdinand, with the division under his command, was then supposed to be at Hillen, a village at a

considerable distance, by which position the French were in hopes of cutting off his communication with Wangenheim's corps. Early on the 1st of August, the French left their advantageous post near Minden, and advanced in eight columns to attack the allied army. The Duke de Broglie was to lead the attack; and he marched on, with the utmost assurance of having a cheap conquest over the division under Wangenheim: but, gaining some heights, he was astonished, when, instead of a few posts weakly guarded, he beheld the whole allied army drawn up in excellent order, so as to form in fact but one body. This was an unexpected stroke: but he had advanced too far to retreat without fighting; and the disposition of his army was such, as indicated that they did not expect to fight at all, their center being composed of their cavalry.

THE English infantry had at once the post of danger and of glory. They were attacked by the French cavalry, which were deemed to be irresistible, and were supported by their infantry on the flanks; but nothing could withstand the address, courage, and intrepidity of the British infantry, supported by a few corps of Hanoverians. Their boasted cavalry gave way before the regiments of Kingsley and Waldegrave; and there was scarce a musket in the British army, which was not filled with the blood of their enemies; so effectually did they use their bayonets. As soon as the French began to fly, the Prince sent orders to Lord George Sackville, who commanded the cavalry, to advance, and compleat the rout. These or-

1759.
AFRICA.

Battle of
Minden or
Thorn-
hausen.

1759.

EUROPE.

Battle of
Minden.

ders were but ill obeyed. Whether they were contradictory, or unintelligible, is yet a point to be determined. Certain it is, that while the British general was coolly waiting for an explanation, the critical moment was permitted to pass away, and the French made good their retreat to Minden, without being so totally defeated, as they must have been, had the British cavalry acted *.—

* This is one of those difficult and delicate points, on which it is impossible to decide, without incurring the imputation of partiality. The only method to avoid that imputation, is plainly to relate the fact as represented by the different parties, and to leave the reader to judge for himself.—The advocates of the British general, state the transaction as follows :

“ There had for some time subsisted a coolness between the commander in chief and the British general. The penetrating eye, extensive understanding, and inquisitive spirit, of the Englishman, were by no means agreeable to the German, who was not accustomed to have his opinions contraverted, or his plans disapproved of. He had likewise exhibited some instances of a prying disposition, and was considered as a check on the interested views of the commander in chief. Nothing therefore was more eagerly desired, than a plausible pretence of removing him from the high station he filled. He was kept in the dark, as much as could be, with regard to the intended operations; and omitted, as often as possible, from assisting at the military councils. At last an opportunity presented itself, for ruining him entirely in the opinion of his sovereign and his countrymen. On the famous 1st day of August 1759, orders were sent to him, so contradictory and unintelligible, that it was impossible for him to avoid the snare. The scheme of the political German, was as successful as he could have wished. The English nation, who never scrutinize too deeply into matters of that nature, regarded the conduct of their general with abhorrence and detestation. He demanded a trial, in which, though he clearly proved that the orders could not possibly be complied with, without an explanation, he was found guilty of disobedience, and adjudged unfit to serve his Majesty in any military capacity whatsoever.—To render his disgrace more complete, his Majesty ordered his name to be struck out of the list of privy counsellors.”

The partisans of the German commander represent the affair in the following manner :

“ The English general had for some time been ambitious of obtaining the supreme command, which he flattered himself he might easily ar-

In the mean time, the detachment under the Hereditary Prince of Brunswic, defeated a large body of the French under the Duke de Brisac, and forced it to take refuge in Minden; by which the enemy lost all their advantageous posts upon the Weser, and were obliged to resign all the promising glories of the campaign. Their loss on this occasion amounted to about 7000 men, and that of the allies to about 2000, of whom 1200 were British.

1759.

EUROPE.

Battle of
Minden.

rive at, if he could make the German general obnoxious to his countrymen, which he endeavoured to do by every artifice he could use. Haughty and imperious in his temper, he could ill brook a superior; and, when he assisted in directing the operations of the war, he constantly contradicted whatever was proposed by the commander, and treated all his schemes with contempt, without ever offering any thing himself in their place. His eloquence and knowledge in the theory of war, enabled him to perform this with facility, the commander being a thoughtful reserved man, of few words, whose whole life had been spent in action, and who could more easily have executed than explained his designs. Thus counteracted in all his plans, the German general immediately wrote to his Britannic Majesty, desiring permission, either to resign his command, or to be relieved from this vexatious opposition. The British monarch was no stranger to the capacious disposition of his general; but, as his distinguished rank and abilities rendered him of great importance in England, it was not quite so proper to remove him entirely from the command. He therefore gave the German general an unlimited power to carry on the war according to his own judgment, without consulting or being liable to be opposed by any other person. Having received this enlargement of his authority, the German general planned his schemes, without consulting any person; nor were they known till the moment of being put in execution, when he issued his orders with the peremptory precision of an absolute monarch. This was a galling circumstance to the English general; whose high spirit was hurt, by being obliged to submit to a person whom he held in contempt. He obeyed, however, in sullen silence, resolving, the first opportunity, to defeat his measures, as he could no longer disconcert his councils. The famous battle of Minden offered him an opportunity to attempt putting his designs in practice. The contradictory orders he received, he imagined would prove a sufficient

1759.

EUROPE.

THE eclat attending this celebrated victory, made an impression on the mind of his Britannic Majesty, which was by no means favourable for the noble Lord who that day commanded the British troops. Prince Ferdinand had, in an oblique manner, reflected upon his backwardness. Lord George insisted upon a trial, the event of which was unfavourable to his Lordship: he was declared incapable of serving in any military command for the future; with what justice, let those determine who at this day read it coolly and dispassionately.

WITHOUT derogating from the abilities of Prince Ferdinand, we may venture to affirm, that his glorious success at the battle of Minden, was, in the main, owing to causes which he could not reasonably foresee. Those who are conversant in history, know what a great share fortune has in the most decisive military operations, and how apt mankind are to attribute fortunate events to sagacious foresight and wise dispositions. The victory at Minden was one of those hasty, but happy, productions of a next to enthusiastic valour, and

reason for his not obeying them, and by that means defeat the measures of his commander. The extraordinary success of the day disappointed him; and the battle, as it had been planned without his advice, was likewise gained without his assistance. Disgrace succeeded disappointment. He resigned his command, returned to England, and demanded a trial, which, though it cleared him from the imputation of cowardice, which had been rashly laid to his charge, was still unfavourable to him in every other respect."

Both these accounts may be exaggerated. We live too near to arrive at the truth of facts, while the parties are living; and the respect due to high rank, and distinguished abilities, precludes too hasty or too rash a conclusion. So that, after all, this matter still remains a point for posterity to debate upon.

owing to that rapidity of courage peculiar to the British, of which foreigners can have no idea, and which sets at nought all systems of war. The ascribing the victory to accident, therefore, is no reflection on the general: his manœuvres were admirable; but no human foresight could possibly have formed any plan for such an improbable instance of bravery, as that which obtained it.

The consequences of the battle of Minden, were by no means answerable to the amazing valour and conduct displayed in it. However splendid and honourable to the allies, laurels were almost the only advantage reaped from the field of battle.—Prince Ferdinand obliged the French to retire towards Cassel; but it was the 11th of September before the inconsiderable castle of Marbourg surrendered to the allies, after having kept them at play so long, that, at the end of the campaign, the French found themselves in a condition to begin another. The Hereditary Prince, ever active and enterprising, defeated a body of the enemy, killing a great number, and taking 400 prisoners.—Munster, however, still remained in their hands; and the Hanoverian general, Imhoff, was detached by Prince Ferdinand, to besiege it: but he was obliged to raise the siege, by d'Armentieres.

1759.
EUROPE.

Consequences of the battle of Minden, not very considerable.

CONSIDERING the despondency and bad situation of the French army, it is astonishing that the general of the allies did not improve the opportunity, which fortune, and the British valour, had thrown into his lap. Little advantage was gained by victory, and few misfortunes were suffered by

1749.
EUROPE.

defeat ; and, indeed, the successes on either side, appeared as a compact, by which both engaged to lose much, and gain little.

THE Duke de Broglie, and Contades, recriminated on each other. Broglie was acquiesced by the public ; but Contades, who was the favourite of Belleisle, under whose direction he acted, lost all his reputation. D'Etrees, a general of greater experience and capacity than both, was sent to their camp, to prevent an open rupture, and to reduce the troops, who held their generals in the utmost contempt, to their duty. This office he executed, at the mortifying expence of serving under his giddy-headed inferiors.—The Duke de Broglie, however, by his influence at Versailles, having got the better of his antagonist, acquired a marshal's staff, and the command of the army.

NOTHING material happened between the two armies, while they lay encamped in the neighbourhood of each other, for a considerable time. Munster, after a long and obstinate defence, surrendered on the 20th of November.

The Hereditary Prince surprises the Duke of Wirtemberg.

THE Duke of Wirtemberg, having recruited and augmented his troops, had taken possession of Fulda. The Hereditary Prince resolved to beat up his quarters ; and having selected a body of troops for that purpose, he began his march from Marbourg, early in the morning, on the 28th of November. On the 30th, he arrived at Fulda, where the Duke of Wirtemberg, far from expecting such a visit, had invited all the fashionable people to a sumptuous entertainment. The Prince,

after reconnoitring the avenues in person, took such measures as totally disconcerted the schemes, both of war and diversion. A body of the enemy, who were posted on a plain before Fulda, retired on precipitation, and were driven through the town. Four battalions were defeated and taken; and the Duke himself, with the rest of his forces, escaped with difficulty.

THE rigours of the season were now too severely felt, to permit any vigorous exertions on either side. There was no longer a necessity for the allies to keep so large a body of troops in Westphalia; and Prince Ferdinand, adverting to the distressed situation of the Prussian monarch, detached 12,000 of his best men, under the Hereditary Prince, to his assistance. They marched, in the depth of a severe season, the distance of 300 miles in fifteen days, without losing a man by sickness or desertion, and joined the King of Prussia at Freyberg in Saxony.

1759.
EUROPE.
Hereditary Prince marches to the assistance of his Prussian Majesty.

BROGLIO, having received intelligence of the allied army being weakened by this detachment, determined to avail himself of it, and to distinguish his entrance into command by an action of importance. Accordingly, on the 25th of December, he marched to attack the allies; but found them so well prepared to receive him, that he thought proper to lay aside his design, and nothing but a mutual cannonade ensued; then he returned to his former quarters.—With this unsuccessful attempt, the operations of the French army were terminated; and the sanguine hopes which France had entertained from this campaign,

1759.
EUROPE.

were entirely blasted. This disappointment may be ascribed to three causes; their unexpected and extraordinary defeat at Minden, the vigilance of Prince Ferdinand, and the bad conduct of their own commanders.

THE events of this campaign are a convincing proof, that victories do not decide the fate of nations. We have seen armies, after complete victory, obliged to act as if they had been defeated; and, after a defeat, taking an offensive part with success, and reaping all the fruits of the victory. For instance, the victory of Crevelt, could not enable Prince Ferdinand to defend the Rhine; the battle of Bergen, did not give M. Broglio an entrance in Hanover; and the great victory at Minden, did not drive the French from the Maine.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

Prince Henry's expedition into Bohemia and Franconia—Count Dobna superseded by Wedel, who is defeated by the Russians—Battle of Cunnersdorf—Prince Henry marches into Saxony, and defeats General Vebela—General Finck surrenders to the Austrians—Prussians defeated at Meissen—Conclusion of the campaign.

THE armies under the direction of his Prussian Majesty, proceeded in their operations with vigour. On the 23d of February, his general, Woberfnow, marched into Poland with a strong body of troops, destroyed several vast magazines belonging to the Russians, and returned, without any loss, into Silesia, on the 18th of April.

IN the mean time, Prince Henry commanded in Saxony; and his army entered Bohemia, in two columns, with great success. General Hulsén, who commanded one of the columns, defeated a large body of Austrians at Pasberg, and made about 2000 prisoners, with the loss of only 70 men; while the other column penetrated as far as Loboschutz and Leimeritz; and both returned to Saxony, with hostages for the contributions they had exacted. Soon after this, the Prince entered Franconia by the way of Hoff, and defeated a body of Austrians and Imperialists under General Macquire. The consequence was, that the bishoprics of Bamberg and Wurtzburg were laid

1759.
EUROPE.

Operations
of Prince
Henry.

1759.

EUROPE.

under contribution. In taking possession of Bamberg, the Prussians were guilty of some unjustifiable irregularities, which were productive of loud and just complaints, and, in due time, of severe retaliation. During Prince Henry's absence in Franconia, a body of Austrians had penetrated into Saxony.

THE Russians were too formidable to be attacked by Count Dohna, who contented himself with observing their motions, and harrassing their march. The King of Prussia thought this conduct too timid and cautious, considering the emergency of affairs: he therefore gave that general leave to retire for the benefit of his health, and conferred his command upon General Wedel, with positive orders to attack the Russians at all events. He marched against them in two columns; and, on the 23d of July, attacked them at Zulichau, where, after a most bloody and obstinate engagement, he was repulsed with great loss. General Wobernow was killed, and General Mantouffell wounded; the Prussians passed the Oder, without molestation; and the Russians, in a few days, made themselves masters of Franckfort.

General
Wedel de-
feated by
the Rus-
sians.

THE King of Prussia, and Count Daun, had been for some time employed in observing each other's motions; but the attention of the former was chiefly directed towards the Russians, whose progress was now become very alarming. Receiving intimation of Wedel's defeat, he marched with ten thousand of his best troops, in order to take upon him the command of Wedel's army, and to drive this formidable enemy from his dominions.

The remainder of his forces were strongly encamped under the direction of Prince Henry, who had joined him previous to this event.

Ignorant of the King's intentions, and knowing that the Russians were very defective in regular and firm cavalry, he detached a body of 12,000 horse, together with 8000 foot, under the command of General Laudohn, one of the ablest officers in the Austrian service. These troops, penetrating in two columns through Silesia and Lusatia, with some loss, arrived in the Russian camp at a very critical conjuncture.—By this time, the King of Prussia had joined General Wedel at Muhlrose, and assumed the command of the army; but finding it greatly inferior to the enemy, he recalled General Finck, whom he had detached some time before with a body of 9000 men, to oppose the progress of the Imperialists in Saxony. Thus reinforced, his army amounted to near 50,000: that of the Russians exceeded 90,000. They had chosen a strong camp at the village of Cunnerdorf, the natural strength of which they had increased by intrenchments, mounted with a numerous artillery. To attack them, was difficult and hazardous; and, in any other circumstances than the present, the attempt would have been rash and ridiculous. But there was now no room for hesitation. The affairs of his Prussian Majesty, required a desperate effort; and, in his present situation, the most rash attempt could not be rejected by the most rigid prudence.

ON the 12th of August, about two in the morning, his Prussian Majesty put his troops in

1759-

EUROPE.

Daun re-
inforces the
Russian ar-
my.

1759.

EUROPE.

Battle of
Cunnerf-
dorf.

motion ; and, having formed them in a wood, advanced towards the enemy. The action began about eleven, with a severe cannonade ; which having produced the effect he desired from it, he charged the left wing of the Russians with his best troops disposed in columns. After a most obstinate conflict, the enemies entrenchments were forced with a prodigious slaughter, and 72 pieces of cannon were taken. A narrow defile was afterwards passed ; and several redoubts that covered the village of Cunnerfsdorf, were taken by assault, one after another. The Russians made a firm stand at the village ; but they were overborne by the impetuosity of the Prussians, who drove them from post to post, quite to their last redoubts. As the Russians never quit their ground, till they are hewn down in their ranks, this success was attended with an inconceivable slaughter. After a most furious contest of six hours, fortune seemed to declare in favour of the Prussians. The enemy had been driven from all the ground they occupied before the battle, and more than half of their artillery was taken. In those circumstances, Frederic dispatched the following billet to the Queen at Berlin : “ Madam, we have beat the Russians “ from their entrenchments. In two hours, expect “ to hear of a glorious victory.” This news arrived at Berlin, just as the post was going out ; and the account of his Prussian Majesty’s success, was circulated throughout Europe. But this intimation was premature, and subjected him to the ridicule of his enemies. The Russians had been severely handled, but were not defeated. Count Soltikoff rallied

his troops, and formed them under cover of a redoubt, which was erected on an eminence called the Jews burying-ground. A situation more advantageous could not well be conceived, and, to an army already fatigued with the hard service of six hours slaughter, it might justly be deemed impregnable. The day was excessively hot, and the strength of the enemy still greatly superior to the Prussians. Frederic was far from being daunted at those circumstances. His courage was always in proportion to the danger he had to encounter, and he could not bear to be a conqueror by halves. He resolved, therefore, to drive the enemy from their advantageous posts, which was the only thing wanting to render his victory complete. His generals, it is said, represented to him the madness of such an enterprise; and used every argument that could be suggested, to dissuade him from so dangerous and difficult an attempt. This salutary advice was rejected; and he resolved, once more, to put all to the hazard. The infantry began a new attack; which being much beyond their strength, they were repulsed with great slaughter. They were again rallied, and brought to a second attack; they were a second time repulsed, and their loss redoubled. The infantry being quite exhausted, the cavalry succeeded to the attack. They made several spirited, but unavailing attempts; the horses, as well as their riders, being entirely spent. At this critical moment, the Russian and Austrian cavalry, who were quite fresh, fell in among the Prussian horse, broke their line at the first charge, forced them back upon their foot, and threw the

1759.

 EUROPE.

Battle of
 Cunners-
 dorf.

1759-
EUROPE.

Battle of
Cunners-
dorf.

whole into irreparable disorder. Being thus put into confusion, the Prussian army was seized with a panic, and in a few minutes totally defeated and dispersed. The personal efforts of the King, who hazarded his life in the hottest parts of the battle, were of no avail. He led on his troops three times to the charge; two horses were killed under him; and his cloaths, in several parts, were penetrated with musquet-balls. Nothing but the approach of night, could have saved the Prussian army from total destruction.—This was by far the most bloody action, that had happened since the commencement of hostilities; and, perhaps, modern history cannot furnish so desperate an engagement. The Prussians lost upwards of 20,000 men, in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. General Puttkammer was killed on the spot; and the generals Seidelitz, Itzenplitz, Hulsen, Finck, and Wedel, the prince of Wurtemberg, and five major-generals, were wounded. Of the enemy, 10,000 were killed. The Prussians lost all their artillery and baggage.

WHEN his Prussian Majesty found himself obliged to quit the field, he dispatched another billet to the Queen, couched in these terms: “Re-
“move from Berlin with the royal family. Let
“the archives be carried to Potsdam. The town
“may make conditions with the enemy.” It is much easier to conceive, than to describe, the horror and confusion which this intimation produced at Berlin; horror the more aggravated, as it seized them in the midst of their rejoicings, occasioned by the first dispatch. The terror was still

more dreadfully augmented by a subsequent indistinct relation, importing, that the army was totally routed, the King missing, and the enemy in full march to Berlin.*

NEXT day, the King retreated over the Oder, collected the scattered remains of his army, and saw, with joy and astonishment, the enemy remain inactive and quiet in their camp. He improved this interval, with equal spirit and sagacity. He furnished his camp with cannon from the arsenal at Berlin, which likewise supplied him with a con-

*—"We cannot dismiss the affairs of Germany, in which two such battles as those of Minden and Cunnerdorf were fought, with events so different for the common cause, without observing something of the two generals who conducted them. They are certainly, in reputation, the first in Europe, which probably never produced two greater men: though they differ as much in their characters, and in the kind of talents they possess, as they agree in the greatness of their abilities for war. The King of Prussia, rapid, vehement, impatient, often gives decisive blows; but he often misses his stroke, and wounds himself. Prince Ferdinand is cool, deliberate, exact, and guarded: he sees every possible advantage; he takes it at the moment; pursues it as far as it will go; but never attempts to push it further. Nothing in the man, disturbs the commander. In him, we do not see a person who is a great soldier; it is the idea of a perfect general; it is a general in the abstract. Ferdinand suffers his temper to be guided by his business. He never precipitates matters; he takes them in their order, and their course, and leaves nothing to fortune. The King, on the other hand, leads, and often forces circumstances: he does not endeavour to remove, but to overleap obstacles; he puts all to the risk; and, by suffering fortune to play her part in his designs, he acquires a splendor and eclat in his actions, which mere wisdom could never give them. Prince Ferdinand is famous, for never committing a fault. The King of Prussia is above all the world, in repairing those he has committed. Like some of the great masters in writing, whenever he makes, or seems to make a mistake, it is a signal to the observer, to prepare for some great and admirable stroke of spirit and conduct. His errors seem to be spurs to his abilities. He commits an error, he repairs it; he errs again, and again astonishes us by his manner of escaping. We should often condemn the commander, but that we are forced to admire the hero." *Annual Register.*

Parallel between the King of Prussia and Prince Ferdinand.

1759. fiderable number of recruits. He recalled General
 EUROPE. Kleist, with 5000 men, from Pomerania; and, in a little time, resumed his former importance.

COUNT Solikoff marched into Silesia, and, with part of his army, joined that of the Austrians in Lusatia, under Daun. The army of the empire having entered Saxony, where they had reduced Hall, Wittemberg, Leipzig, Torgau, and at last Dresden itself, the King detached 6000 men under General Wunch, to check the progress of the imperialists in that electorate. Perceiving that the Russians intended to besiege Great Glogau, he, with the rest of his army, took post between them and that city, so as to frustrate their design. This movement, while it prevented the Russians from taking winter-quarters in his dominions, unavoidably cut off all communication with the army of Prince Henry. Finding that he could not co-operate with his brother on the side of Silesia, Prince Henry directed his march towards Saxony, with the view of recovering possession of that country, and to draw the attention of Daun towards it, so as to disable him from assisting the Russians. The country, through which this projected march lay, was in a manner overspread by the enemy. On the 23d day of September, the Prince quitted his camp at Hornsdorf, and, after a rapid and almost incredible march, arrived at Hoyerfwerda; where he surprised a body of 4000 men, commanded by General Vehla; killed 600, and made twice that number prisoners, including the commander himself.

Extraordi-
 nary march
 of Prince
 Henry.

Soon after this atchievement, the Princee joined the troops under Finck and Wunch, which obliged M. Daun to leave his camp, and to make a forced march to cover Dresden; which city, it was probable, Prince Henry had resolved to attempt.—Three armies were now encamped on the banks of the Oder; the Russians, at Franstadt; General Laudohn, with a body of Austrians, at Schlighingskeim; and the King of Prussia, at Koben.—On the 29th of October, the Duke d'Arremberge, with 16,000 Austrians, was encountered and defeated by General Wunch, who took 1200 prisoners, some cannon, and great part of their tents and baggage.

THE affairs of his Prussian Majesty, notwithstanding his repeated disasters, were once more in a respectable condition. He was at the head of a gallant army of 60,000 men, in high spirits, ready to perform the most desperate of his orders; and there still remained hopes, that the campaign might be concluded to his advantage.—It was now obvious, that Daun would be obliged to retire into Bohemia, to abandon Dresden, and, in short, to give up all the advantages resulting from his former victories. Frederic was not satisfied with the slow, progressive mode, of distressing an enemy; he was for actions of greater moment, and more decisive. The passes into Bohemia were exceedingly difficult; and the King thought, that, by some posts, properly chosen, and strongly guarded, the retreat of the Austrians might be prevented; and that Daun, after all his caution and prudence, would be compelled to hazard a battle at an evi-

1759-
EUROPE.

1759.

EUROPE.

dent disadvantage, as he would then have no resource but in victory. With this view he detached General Finck, with 19 battalions, and 35 squadrons, to take possession of the defiles of Maxen and Ottendorf, through which alone it seemed possible for the Austrians to penetrate into Bohemia. This was done with great success. Daun retired to Planen, and the King advanced to Willsburg, imagining that he had effectually succeeded in his design.

HOWEVER plausible this project might appear, there was evidently some mistake or oversight in its execution. Finck had no sooner taken post near Maxen, than Daun, after having reconnoitred his situation, resolved to attack him with the corps de reserve under the Baron de Sincere. The Baron marched his troops in four columns through the woods, and the Prussians were entirely surrounded before they had the least intimation of their approach. They had penetrated too far into these defiles, and had neglected to secure a retreat, or any sort of communication with the main army. Their situation was the most desperate that could well be imagined. To retreat, was impossible; and the only consolation arising from resistance, was the selling their lives dear. They defended themselves, for the whole day, with the greatest resolution. But all their efforts were ineffectual. Overpowered by numbers, they were driven from eminence to eminence, until, by favour of the night, they made their last retreat to Falkenhayn. The Austrians were employed the whole night, in guarding, with double strength and

General
Finck sur-
rounded.