

please her sister of Russia, and out of mere decency, had instructed Daun, in the campaign, to make the preservation of Dresden his capital object. He was then in Silesia, where he durst not, for the reasons given, pursue his advantages; and, astonished as he was, at his Prussian Majesty's masterly conduct, he found himself, against his better judgment, obliged to return to Saxony, that he might preserve Dresden; and his return left Prince Henry at liberty to move towards Silesia. All the motions of this campaign had hitherto been so skilful, that the reader, who understands the game at chess, can scarcely fail to find out the similarity. The King of Prussia made the most surprising, and the finest moves; but Daun shewed himself to be as sure a player. His return from Silesia, was much more quick than was expected, from his phlegm and regularity; for, on the 19th of July, he and his army appeared within a few miles of Dresden.

1760.

EUROPE.

Daun returns to Saxony, to defend Dresden.

His Prussian Majesty, however, did not fail to avail himself, to the utmost, of the start he had gained. He besieged Dresden, which was defended by General Maguire, an officer of courage and experience. The operations of the siege, unless we were to recount particulars, can convey no new instruction to a reader, who can form an idea of the most determined attack on the one side, and the most intrepid defence on the other; and the ruin of the finest buildings that any city in the world contained, by the incessant fire from three batteries of cannon, and mortars; while each party equally practised every art and ma-

1760.

EUROPE.

The siege
raised.

nœuvre usual in such cases. The approach of Count Daun, served to redouble the fury of the Prussians, but at the same time it confirmed and increased the resolute intrepidity of the besieged; especially when Daun found means to throw into the place, no fewer than 16 battalions, during the night of the 21st. After such a reinforcement, and while three armies were in the neighbourhood, (for the army of the empire, and that under Lacy, had returned by this time), it would have been worse than madness, for his Prussian Majesty, to continue the siege; and therefore he raised it, but without molestation from his enemies.

Thus ended this mighty trial of skill between great genius and great sagacity, and each supported by a proportionable degree of courage and experience. The conduct of the Prussians was the most brilliant, and that of the Austrians the most solid; but, in the main, if any advantage was gained, it lay on the King's side, tho' in fact the great game that was played between them, remained still precarious.

Laudohn
besieges
Bressau.

Laudohn, who was all this while in Silesia, trusted to his being joined by the Russians; but, thro' their unwieldiness and irregularity, they did not arrive soon enough to make the campaign decisive on that side. Being still, however, in hopes of their junction, on the 1st of August, he had his cannon and mortars in condition to play from their batteries, upon Bressau. Count Tauenzein commanded for his Prussian Majesty in that city, and a kind of military ceremonial at first passed be-

tween the two generals. Laudohn, partly in civility, partly in compassion, took pity upon Tauenzein's weakness, and that of the place; and employed various arguments, which had more the air of a French, than that of a German general, to persuade him to accept of an honourable capitulation. Tauenzein was too obstinate, and too unpolite, to believe one word he said; and thus, after they had fought through all the weapons of soldier-like courtesy, they drew the sword; and nothing was wanting, that could do honour to the besieged, or the besiegers. Laudohn, from hostilities, returned to compliments; and was answered only by reproaches, for doing the same thing against Breslau, that his Prussian Majesty was doing against Dresden, that is, ruining the town, without damaging the the fortifications. Mean while, there was no account of the approach of the Russians; but, on the 5th of August, an account came, that Prince Henry was within a few leagues of the Austrian camp; which induced Laudohn, in a kind of regular hurry, to break up the siege.

1760.
EUROPE.

Siege of
Breslau
raised.

THE most busy part of the campaign approached. Tho' Prince Henry had obliged Laudohn to retire from Breslau, that general, with a powerful army, blocked up Neiss and Schweidnitz, and waited to form a junction with the Russian army; a junction which his Prussian Majesty had long dreaded. The Swedes, amounting to 22,000, had begun their operations; and Daun, his principal opponent, was lying in wait to finish all his hopes.

1760.

EUROPE.

Motions of
his Prussian
Majesty.

IN this distracted and discouraging situation, Frederic had recourse to expedients, which necessity alone can suggest, and success justify. Finding he could effect nothing in Saxony, he, on the 30th of July, decamped, and took the route of Meissen. Without tracing his various motions, in five days time, he marched near 200 miles, at the head of an army, encumbered with a numerous artillery, and 2000 waggons. He passed the Elbe, the Spree, the Neiss, the Queiss, and the Boher, with one Austrian army on one side of him, under General Reid, near Bautzen; another behind him, under General Lacy; and a third in front, under General Beck; and all this without opposition. After this astonishing rapidity, it may, perhaps, be unnecessary to add, that during his progress, he obtained many, not inconsiderable advantages, over the Austrian generals.

COUNT DAUN, as we have mentioned, was still at Bautzen, with an intention to penetrate into Silesia, and to join Laudohn; in which case, the often-attempted junction of the Austrians with the Russians, must have been effected. Laudohn, whose army, every day, was receiving strong reinforcements, had been, for some time, with difficulty, kept in play by Prince Henry; but the delay of a few days must have rendered the match unequal, as the Russians were every hour advancing. Daun was astonished at the escape, for so we may call it, of the King of Prussia; but prepared to follow him. His Majesty encamped at Lignitz; but found himself in danger, after all, of missing his great aim, which was that of en-

gaging Laudohn, before the armies under Daun and Lacy could arrive to his assistance, which they did before his Majesty could find that opportunity. But still Daun and Laudohn occupied different camps, the one on his front, and the other on his rear. They had taken possession of an extent of a very strong country, no less than 30 English miles, along the Katsbach, from Parchwitz to Cossendau, and had filled it with lines and redoubts; so that the whole appeared as one continued fortification. Frederic, with all his skill, could find no way of attacking one army, without being exposed to be ruined by the other. He was again in one of those situations, that had so often distressed him. It is yet unknown, whether he owed his deliverance, on this occasion, to his own wonderful sagacity, which suggested what he himself would do, had he the same advantages; or, whether he was not favoured by private intelligence. Both might be true. Daun was tempted by the occasion which presented itself, and resolved to become the aggressor. He concerted a plan with Laudohn and Lacy, for attacking his Prussian Majesty; while the Russians, to the number of 24,000 men, having thrown bridges over the Oder, were to pass it that very day under Count Czernichew. His Prussian Majesty saw that his enemies could not surround him, without their making one of those movements he had so long wished for. On the very night when the Austrians had proposed their great stroke, he privately decamped from Lignitz, and removed to a strong pass, by which he knew Laudohn's division must march.

1760.

EUROPE.

Junction of
the Austrian
and Russian
armies.

1760.

EUROPE.

EVERY thing succeeded to his wish. Daun executed his part of the plan, with profound silence, in the night time; but found the enemy decamped, and soon had certain indications that they were engaged with Laudohn. It was thought, especially at his own court, that if he had made a vigorous attack on the rear of the Prussian army, it might have been totally defeated. But this opinion probably did him injustice; for his Prussian Majesty, foreseeing such an attack, had guarded his rear with very strong entrenchments. In the mean while, Laudohn had passed the Katsbach, and proceeded as far as Pfaffendorf, in his march to Lignitz, where he was in hopes of assisting at the mortal blow his Prussian Majesty was to receive. The break of day, and the dissipation of a very thick fog, presented to his eyes a most dreadful prospect, which was that of the whole Prussian army drawn up in array of battle, with a strong artillery on its front, and posted to great advantage. This was the morning of the 15th of August; but the astonishment of Laudohn, neither daunted his courage, nor disordered his judgment. Finding he could not retreat, he formed his army with admirable presence of mind; and a most terrible battle ensued, in which his Prussian Majesty, in person, was exposed equally with the meanest soldier; his cloaths being shot through in several places, and a horse killed under him; so that it might be said, he then fought, not for dominion, but for safety. Nothing, perhaps, but his own personal intrepidity, could have gained him the victory. His veteran generals were all

Battle near
Lignitz.

dead, or killed; and his troops were but newly raised, but they were brave and faithful. His example inspirited their efforts; and Laudohn, without losing any of his military reputation, retreated to the Katsbach, with the loss (as the Austrians themselves gave out) of 6000 men, killed, wounded and taken prisoners, though the Prussians gave out he lost 10,000. Two generals, and 84 officers, were amongst the prisoners; and the trophies which fell to the victors, were 82 pieces of cannon, and 123 pair of colours. The loss of the Prussians, was said to have been 5000 killed, and 1200 wounded.

1760.
EUROPE.

A great loss
on both
sides.

THOUGH the loss of the battle, as has been before hinted, must have been fatal to his Prussian Majesty, it did not prove so to the Austrians, whose generals received daily reinforcements and encouragements from their sovereign. Daun, tho' he could not succeed in Silesia, turned his arms towards other objects. He detached Prince Lavenstein and General Beck, with part of his army, to encourage the Russians to advance. But the terror of the battle of Pfaffendorf, had made such an impression upon them, that they had repassed the Oder, and were then marching northwards. This did not hinder Daun from blockading Schweidnitz; and his Prussian Majesty, having by this time joined his brother at Newmarche, detached General Goltze to observe the motions of the Russians, while he himself defeated the corps of Austrians under General Beck, and obliged Daun to raise the blockade of Schweidnitz,

Victory in-
decisive.

Count Daun
blockades
Schweid-
nitz;

but is re-
pulsed by
his Prussian
Majesty.

1760.

EUROPE.

and to retreat precipitately towards the heights of Landshut.

Gen. Huls-
sen defeats
the Imperial-
ists;

but is ob-
liged to re-
treat, not
being able
to pursue
his victory.

IN Saxony, General Hulsen, on the 20th of August, had an action with part of the Imperial army, which attacked him with great fury, in order to cut off his communication with Torgau. The engagement was hot, and Hulsen discovered great military abilities; for, besides the killed, he made 41 officers and 1200 men prisoners, with very little loss to himself. But he could not avail himself of this victory; for he was obliged to retreat, lest the grand army of the Imperialists should cut off his communication with the Elbe. By this retreat, he lost his communication with the King, whose mind and army was distracted amidst a variety of objects. The Russians were now marching through the Lower Silesia: the Austrians found no resistance in Lusatia; and Saxony, notwithstanding all Hulsen could do to defend it, was upon the point of being lost to the King. Such was the state of his Prussian Majesty's affairs, towards the close of the campaign. He had defeated his enemies, without finding he had lessened their numbers. He had gained victories, but had reaped no advantages; and all the prodigies of valour he had performed, did no more than just save him from perdition.*

* The situation of his Prussian Majesty's mind, is best described in the following letter, which he wrote to the Marquis D'Argens, the author of the Jewish Spy, and one of his literary favourites; which letter bears, in its style and composition, undoubted marks of its authenticity, which was verified by other incontestible evidence.

"Formerly, my dear Marquis, the affair of the 15th of August would have decided a campaign. At present, that action is no more

A great body of Russians, under Count Czernichew, had now entered the New Marche of Brandenburg; and 15,000 Austrians proposed to meet them, under the Generals Lacy and Brentano, at the gates of Berlin; the whole amounting to 40,000 men. The Prussian generals, Hulsen and Werner, after a variety of rapid marches, and artful movements, endeavoured to cover that capital: but their whole force did not amount to 16,000 men; so that all they could do, was to make a faint opposition to the advanced body of the Russians under Count Tottleben; and to retreat, after throwing into the city, three incomplete battalions.

1760.
EUROPE.

Russians
and Austrians
invest
Berlin.

than a scratch. A great battle must determine our fate. We shall have one, according to all appearances, very soon; and then, if the event is favourable to us, we may rejoice. It required many stratagems, and much address, to bring things to this pass. Don't talk to me of danger; the last action cost me only a suit of cloaths and a horse. This is buying victory very cheap.

"I have not had the letter you mention: we are in a manner blocked up, in regard to correspondence, by the Russians on one side of the Oder, and by the Austrians on the other. A small skirmish was necessary, to clear the way for Coccei; I hope that he will deliver you my letter. I never was, in the course of my life, in a more embarrassing situation, than in this campaign. Believe me, nothing less than a miracle is still necessary, to extricate me from the difficulties that I foresee. I shall certainly do my duty, when occasion offers: but, my dear Marquis, always remember, that I pretend not to command fortune; and that I am obliged; in my projects, to leave too much to chance, for want of being able to form any more solid. I have the labours of a Hercules to undergo, at a time of life, when my strength fails me, my infirmities increase, and, to speak the truth, when hope, the only consolation of the unhappy, begins to desert me. You are not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances of affairs, to have a clear idea of all the dangers which threaten the state. I know, but conceal them: I keep all my fears to myself; and only communicate to the public, my hopes, or the little good news that I can acquaint them with. If the blow that I meditate succeeds, then, my dear Marquis, it will be time enough to ex-

1760.

EUROPE.

The garrison tamely surrenders.

THUS his Prussian Majesty's capital, the proud, the envied seat of arms and arts, adorned with all the improvements and beauties that a long series of wise princes could give it, the populous residence of the popish, as well as the reformed religion, was in a manner abandoned to the power of inveterate enemies, and barbarous conquerors, who were pleased with the near prospect they had, of plundering one of the finest cities in the world. The inhabitants were manufacturers, shopkeepers, merchants, and artists; but they knew nothing of arms, and gave themselves up to total dependency. The garrison was weak, and became prisoners of war; so that the former had now nothing to depend upon, to save them from

press our joy: but, till then, let us not flatter ourselves, for fear some expected bad news should deject us too much.

"I lead, here, the life of a military monk. I have much to think of about my affairs; and the rest of my time I devote to literature, which is my consolation, as it was of the consul, the father of his country, and of eloquence. I know not if I shall survive the war; but I am determined, in case it should happen, to pass the rest of my days in retirement, in the bosom of philosophy and friendship.

"When our correspondence shall be more open, you'll oblige me by writing more frequently. I know not where we shall have our winter-quarters. My houses at Breslau were destroyed by the bombardment. Our enemies envy us every thing; even day-light, and the air that we breathe. They must, however, leave us some place; and if it is safe, it will be a retreat to receive you there.

"Well, my dear Marquis, what is become of the peace with France? Your nation, you see, is more blind than you imagine it: those fools lost Canada and Pondicherry, to please the Queen and the Czarina. Heaven grant that Prince Ferdinand may well reward them for their zeal! The officers, innocent of their evils, and the soldiers, will be made the victims; and the illustrious offenders will suffer nothing.

"These are the subjects which offer themselves to me: I was in a writing vein; but I see that I must conclude, lest I should tire you, and neglect my own business. Adieu, my dearest Marquis.—I embrace you, &c."

the worst of fates, but the mediation of the foreign ministers residing at Berlin. This proved far more effectual, than was expected. A free exercise of religion, was granted to the inhabitants: they were to be protected in their persons and effects; and it was agreed, that the Russian irregulars should not enter the city. Notwithstanding those favourable terms, great excesses were committed. The regulars, who marched in, destroyed the magazines, the founderies, and all the warehouses of military stores, of which they seized immense quantities, besides artillery and arms. The contributions that were demanded, amounted to a regular kind of plundering the city. Eight hundred thousand guilders were ordered to be immediately paid down, and a further contribution of 1,900,000 German crowns was imposed; and it was with the utmost difficulty, that the officers were able to preserve a tolerable degree of discipline amongst the barbarians.

1760.
EUROPE.

Berlin laid under a heavy contribution.

CONSIDERING the exasperated state of the Austrians, it was surprising that the inhabitants of Berlin suffered so little as they did. This may be partly accounted for, by the great indulgences and freedom they enjoyed in that city, which made it the residence of strangers of all religions, and from all parts of Germany; so that it is easy to be supposed, that the Austrians (officers as well as soldiers) who entered it, had many friends and relations there. This account is the more probable, as both Austrians and Russians were guilty of the most ungenerous and unmanly depredations upon the royal palace. Like true

1760.

EUROPE.

descendents of the Goths and Vandals, they plundered the royal palace of Charlottenburg, destroyed the furniture they could not carry off, defaced the paintings, and broke in pieces the noble collection of antique and other statues that had belonged to the Brandenburg family, and particularly that made by the famous Cardinal Polignac. The Queen's castle of Schonhausen, and that of the Margrave Charles of Fredericksfield, experienced the like treatment.

AMIDST the numerous host of barbarians, one general was found who deserves a better epithet. This was Prince Esterhasi, who took possession of the palace of Potsdam, his Prussian Majesty's famous Sans Souci. All the ravage there committed, was, that the Prince, in viewing the apartments, took into his custody, the picture which he was told bore the greatest resemblance to his Prussian Majesty, and two German flutes which he usually played on; and even that, not without asking the leave of the keepers of the palace.

Berlin evacuated, after being greatly plundered.

ON the 13th of October, Berlin was evacuated, after groaning, for four days, under the scourge of the Austrians and Russians, who left Brandenburg little better than a desert; having destroyed the country, and carried off all the horses and cattle they could find. The consequence of this blow upon his Prussian Majesty, was, that having no army in Saxony, his enemies, after leaving Berlin, recovered all that electorate; while Stainville, at the head of a detachment of Broglie's army, laid Hulberstadt under contribution; and the Russians laid siege to the important sea-port of

Colberg. The Swedes, all this while, were advancing in the western Pomerania, and in Silesia. Laudohn invested the fortress of Cosel.

1760.
EUROPE.

UPON the whole, his Prussian Majesty's affairs seemed to be now more desperate than ever. When his enemies took the cities of Wittemberg, Meissen, Leipzig, and Torgau, he lost all his immense magazines of stores; and he himself was closely watched by a far superior army, under the most vigilant general of his age, Count Daun, without his knowing where to take his winter-quarters; so completely had his enemies ravaged his dominions. He had made some movements towards the relief of his capital; and, upon its being evacuated, he passed the Elbe the 25th of October, as Daun did the same day. Soon after, his Majesty was joined by his generals, Hülser and Prince Eugene of Wirtemberg, but found himself under circumstances in which he could get relief only from despair. His was not of the blind, furious kind; his dispositions were as wise, as his conduct was intrepid.

Desperate
situation of
his Prussian
Majesty.

DAUN, that he might cover Leipzig and Torgau, had fallen back upon the latter; and his Prussian Majesty saw him encamped at the head of 80,000 men, secured on the one side by the Elbe, on the other by morasses, hills, and woods, with 200 pieces of cannon in his front, where alone he could be attacked. His Prussian Majesty, undaunted by that dreadful object, acquainted his troops in person, on the 3d of November, that he would, that day, set them an example to conquer or die.

1760.

EUROPE.

GENERAL HULSEN had the command of the right wing, with orders to take post in a wood to the left of the Austrians, and there to wait till the battle should begin. General Ziethen, with the left wing, was to attack the right of the enemy, while the King was to make the grand charge in the front. These dispositions directed Daun in his, and he made them in a masterly manner. Ziethen began the attack, upon which his Majesty hastened his march. The situation of both armies was such, according to the accounts published at Magdeburg, that either the Prussian right or left must take the enemy in their rear, and so prevent their affording any assistance to that part of their army, where the main attack was to be made.

Battle of
Torgau.The Austri-
ans totally
defeated.

It is impossible to describe a battle so extensive and complicated as this was, in which even they who were present disagree as to their several relations. It is allowed, on all hands, that his Prussian Majesty, rapid and intrepid as his charge was, was three times repulsed with great slaughter; but General Ziethen, having beat the right wing of the Austrians, made himself master of some advantageous eminences, and, galloping up with a strong body of horse to sustain the infantry, the latter, notwithstanding their prodigious losses and fatigues, returned once more to the charge, and proved victorious. The enemy was every where routed, with vast slaughter, after a continued engagement from two in the afternoon to nine at night, when the Austrians were obliged to repass the Elbe, which they did in excellent order.

1760.

EUROPE.

THIS battle was the most important of any his Prussian Majesty had gained, and cost him the dearest; but it was attended with the most wonderful, though favourable, circumstances for him. He had lost, in killed and wounded, about 10,000 of the best of his men, besides 3000 who were made prisoners. The loss of the Austrians, in men, was not greater. The Prussians, however, made about 8000 prisoners, amongst whom were four generals, and 216 other officers; and were in possession of the greatest number of warlike trophies taken from the enemy. Both sides seem to agree, that the Prussians victory was owing, next to their own valour, and that of their King, to a wound which Count Daun received in the thigh, and which obliged him to retire from the field of battle, and to leave the command to Gen. O'Donnel, who ordered the retreat. The pitchy darkness of the night, was equally favourable to both armies, fatigued and exhausted as they were.

Austrians
defeat ac-
counted
for.

THE court of Vienna was surprised, astonished, and ashamed, at this sudden reverse of fortune. In vain did the ministers of the Queen, in publications of every kind, endeavour to extenuate their loss, and to magnify that of their enemy. All they could do, was to keep up the desponding spirits of their allies. They could not dissemble, that, besides all the other disadvantages the Prussians lay under in the attack, the Austrians were 30,000 superior to them in the field; so that the palm of generalship and discipline, was, by the public voice, adjudged to his Prussian Majesty, who received a contusion in the breast, and, during the hottest of

1760.
EUROPE.

the action, exposed his person, as if he had known himself to be immortal. The consequences, indeed, decided, beyond all dispute, the victory to be in his favour; for he recovered all Saxony, but its capital; and he was in no condition to besiege that, because Count Daun had posted all his army, which was still more numerous than that of the Prussians, in that city, or in cantonments round it.

Conclusion
of the cam-
paign.

IN the mean time, the Prussian general, Werner, had, after the evacuation of Berlin, been sent with a body of troops into Pomerania, where he obliged the Russians to abandon the long continued siege of Colberg; and, after defeating the Swedes in the western parts of that province, he forced them to fall back upon Stralsund, and to abandon the whole of Prussian Pomerania.

ON the side of Silesia, Laudohn was obliged to raise the siege of Cosel, to abandon Landshut, and to retire into the Austrian Silesia; while the Russians had entirely evacuated the other parts of his Prussian Majesty's dominions, and the army of the empire about the same time retired into Franconia.

HIS Prussian Majesty lost no advantage, that could possibly be drawn from his victory at Torgau. Pretending to have received great provocation, he taxed the circle of Leipzig alone, not only in its ordinary revenue, and in vast magazines of provisions, but in two millions of crowns for the ensuing year; a contribution, which London itself, the richest city in the world, would have found it difficult to raise. All the other parts of Misnia were taxed in the same proportion; and, estimating

the Saxons as beasts of burden, he made the raising 20,000 of them, for recruiting his army, a part of their contributions. But no country suffered more from his Prussian Majesty's successes, than the dominions of the Dukes of Mecklenburgh, which were so unfortunately situated with regard to those of Prussia, that they were deprived of relief from their allies. The treatment which those Princes met with, and the hardships inflicted on their subjects, were, perhaps, more than severe; and are said to have drawn from the pen of a young Princess, who now fills the most august throne in the world, a pathetic representation of her family and country's sufferings, which touched even his Prussian Majesty, but made much deeper impressions in the breast of another and a greater royal personage, to whom the letter was communicated.

SUCH was the situation of affairs on the continent of Europe, at the close of the year 1760. That of the Prussians was indeed become better, but that of the British troops was very undesirable; while the Austrians and the French, by preserving their communications, the former with the Elbe, and the latter with the Rhine, enjoyed comfortable winter-quarters.

C H A P. XXVI.

Designs of the French general, Levi—Battle of Sillery—General Murray defeated—Quebec besieged—British fleet arrives—Siege raised—Montreal taken—Cherokee war.

1760.

AMERICA.

French army takes the field,

with a design to retake Quebec.

Situation of the British army.

NOTWITHSTANDING the boasted skill of the French, in defending fortifications, and their still more boasted bravery, the loss of Quebec had brought an indelible stigma, both on their conduct and courage. The retaking of it was therefore a favourite object with their generals commanding in Canada, as nothing less would serve to wipe off the reproach occasioned by their pusillanimous surrender of that place.—Mons. de Levi, therefore, early in the spring, having mustered an army of about 12,000 men, and being well provided with every necessary, took the field, with the resolution of besieging that town. He began his march on the 17th of April, and, in ten days after, appeared on the heights of Abraham, within three miles of Quebec.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL MURRAY, who had been left to command the garrison, had put the place in the best posture of defence, it was capable of receiving. He had originally only 6000 men under his command, and no other provisions during the winter, but what could be spared from the fleet before their departure. Owing to the severity of the weather, and living on salt provisions,

(these even being scarce) the army had suffered greatly. Upwards of a thousand men had died of the scurvy, and an equal number were sick, and incapable of doing duty. The French had six frigates upon the river St. Laurence, from 44 to 26 guns, without one British ship to oppose them. There was no likelihood, therefore, of any speedy relief coming to the place.

In these distressful circumstances, General Murray formed the resolution of marching out, and giving the enemy battle, rather than waiting for them in an extensive fortification, where famine and disease were devouring his little army. By doing so, he had a chance of success;—and if he failed, he had still the town to retreat into, which, in that case, he was determined to defend as long as it was tenible. Accordingly, on the 28th of April, he marched out, at the head of 3000 men, which were all that could be spared from the town, against an enemy four times their number: but his troops were eager and confident, and he could depend upon their bravery; circumstances which he considered as putting them nearly on an equality with the enemy.

Gen. Murray marches out of Quebec, to attack the French.

WHEN General Murray came in sight of the enemy, he found their van advantageously posted on an eminence covered with trees, and their main body extended in one column, in the valley below. He immediately ordered the van to be attacked; which was done with so much fury, that it was instantly broke, and drove, in the greatest disorder, upon their main body, which nevertheless stood firm, and received the British with so

1760. close and well-directed a fire, as threw them, in
 AMERICA. their turn, into some confusion. The French endeavoured to take advantage of this circumstance, and extended themselves semicircularly, in order to surround them, and cut off their retreat. This, however, by the good conduct of the officers, and the spirit and intrepidity of the troops, was happily prevented.—At last, after an obstinate struggle, in which the British lost about 1000 men, it was thought adviseable to order a retreat, which was done accordingly, and effected in good order, without being pursued by the enemy, they having suffered very severely in killed and wounded.

Gen. Murray obliged to retreat.

Quebec beleagued.

THIS misfortune, in place of damping the spirit of the British troops, seemed rather to inspire them with fresh courage. They were no sooner within the walls of the town, than they began to labour at the fortifications with redoubled ardour. Although the French opened trenches before the place, the very evening of the battle, they were so very slow in their operations, that it was the 11th of May before they could bring a battery to bear. This gave the garrison time to make the best preparation they could for a defence. Accordingly 132 pieces of cannon were mounted upon the ramparts, altho' a great part of them must have been useless, owing to the want of hands to manage them; and General Murray, notwithstanding his bravery, and that of the troops under his command, must have been at last obliged to submit, had not a most unexpected reinforcement arrived to their relief.

On the 9th of May, a frigate arrived in the harbour of Quebec, with the agreeable news, that Lord Colvil and Commodore Swanton, with the squadrons under their command, had entered the river St. Laurence; and, on the 15th, a ship of the line, and another frigate, likewise arrived. The two frigates were immediately sent against the French squadron, which was anchored above the town, and, in a few hours, took, sunk, or dispersed the whole of them.—Mons. de Levi no sooner received intelligence of this disaster, than he imagined there was a strong fleet at hand to support these frigates; and, on the 18th, in the evening, he raised the siege, and fled with the utmost precipitation, abandoning all his provisions and artillery.

1760.

AMERICA.

British fleet arrives,

which obliges the French to raise the siege.

GENERAL MURRAY, who had intended to make a vigorous sally next day, and had the garrison under arms in the morning for that purpose, was no sooner informed of the enemy's retreat, than he gave orders for a pursuit; but not being able to overtake them, he returned, and took possession of their camp, which they had left standing, with a great quantity of baggage, stores, &c.

MONTREAL was now the only place of consequence remaining in possession of the French in Canada. Here M. de Vandreuil, lieutenant-general and governor of the province, commanded, and thither the remains of the French army retired. General Amherst had projected the conquest of this place, which would make him master of the whole province; and had issued the necessary orders to carry his plan into execution. As

Gen. Amherst's plan for besieging Montreal.

1760.

AMERICA.

British army put in motion for that purpose.

he knew the whole French force was assembled at Montreal, his design was, by making the British army take different routes, so to hem the enemy in, as would cut them off from any chance of escaping, to make a stand in any other part of the country. In the prosecution of this design, he ordered Colonel Haviland, with the troops under his command, to march from Crown Point, and take possession of a small island in the lake Champlain, and from thence to take the shortest way to the banks of the river St. Laurence. General Murray, at the head of what troops could be spared from the garrison of Quebec, was ordered to advance by water to Montreal; while General Amherst himself was to proceed directly thither, from New York, with the main body of the army, consisting of about 10,000 men, by the Mohawk river, to the lake of Ontario, and thence down the river St. Laurence.

Montreal besieged.

AFTER a most difficult and dangerous passage down this river, in which several boats and men were lost, the British army arrived at Montreal, and landed on the 6th of September, having, in their way thither, taken the fort of L'Isle Royale, after a slight resistance, and without any loss.

French make but a faint resistance.

THE spirit of the French, seemed, at this crisis, entirely to have forsaken them. The British forces were suffered to land without opposition; and, the day following, being the 7th of September, General Amherst received a letter from the Marquis de Vandreuil, with proposals for a capitulation. The plan projected by General Amherst, had succeeded to his utmost wish; and the French were

entirely cut off from a retreat. General Murray, according to his orders, had landed on the island; and Colonel Haviland had just arrived on the south side of the river, opposite to Montreal. Notwithstanding the French were thus cut off from every hope of escaping, and the British general might have dictated his own terms, yet, as the surrender of this place finished the war in Canada, which was now entirely under the subjection of Great Britain, and to prevent the effusion of human blood, more favourable terms were granted the enemy, than, in their present situation, they had a right to expect. They were refused the honours of war, but not made prisoners; and were to be transported to France in British vessels, under the condition of not serving against Britain during the continuance of the war.

A small fleet, consisting of one frigate, two large store-ships, and nineteen smaller vessels, having on board troops and military stores, had been sent from France, for the relief of Montreal; but, when they arrived at the mouth of the river St. Laurence, understanding that the British squadron had got the start of them, they put into the bay of Chaleurs, on the coast of Acadia, for shelter. They were, however, discovered; and intelligence sent to Louisbourg, where were several British men of war; one of whom, commanded by the Honourable Captain (now Lord) Byron, immediately set sail in quest of them, and the whole fleet was either taken or destroyed. Captain Byron likewise demolished two batteries, which had been raised for their protection.

1760.

AMERICA.

Montreal
taken.A French
squadron,
destined for
the relief of
Montreal,
destroyed.

1760.

AMERICA.

Cherokee
war.

THE French were equally unsuccessful in every other part of America. Having, by means of their missionaries, a much greater influence than the English, over the minds of the savages, they had debauched the Cherokee Indians into their interest; and there was reason for believing, that the Creeks, another very powerful nation, would follow their example. Philosophers, and philosophical historians, have indulged themselves in exhibiting flattering pictures of human nature in its most savage state: but there is the greatest reason to believe, from repeated experience, that the American Indians, in general, have no sentiments, but those of cruelty, revenge, and rapine, which they never fail to gratify; and that they are to be awed only by force.

MR. LITTLETON, the then governor of Carolina, knew this; and, in October 1759, he marched, with about 1100 regulars and provincials, 300 miles into their country, lying between Keowee and Charlestown. The barbarians, seeing their persons and possessions thus exposed to immediate destruction, humbled themselves before the governor, and agreed to all the terms he imposed. They even put into his hands, such of their countrymen as had been guilty of the greatest barbarities and murders upon the English, and gave him 22 hostages for their performance.

MR. LITTLETON, having, as he had reason to think, been successful in his expedition, returned to his government: but, no sooner was his back turned, than the very same savages blocked up

Fort Loudon, and attempted to take Fort Edward. General Amherst, hearing of this, sent Colonel Montgomery (now Earl of Eglinton) to relieve those two British forts, and to chastise the barbarians, with a regiment of Highlanders, a battalion of Royal Americans, some grenadiers, and the provincial troops. Upon his entering the country of the savages, he burnt one of their capital towns, consisting of about 200 houses; and, making war after their own manner, he spread terror and desolation wherever he came. He marched on to the middle Cherokees; and, in his progress, fell into an ambush, where he had 20 men killed, and 80 wounded. Tho' the enemy, in this skirmish, lost 80 men, besides a considerable town, yet the Colonel, perceiving that he must every day meet with such encounters as he advanced, found it necessary to retreat to Fort George, from whence he went to New York, to rejoin the grand army; leaving behind him, 400 men, for the protection of the province.—By this time, the garrison of Fort Loudon, having consumed all their provisions, was obliged to come to a capitulation, on the 7th of August, with the savages, who most infamously broke it, by butchering all the officers but one, and by carrying such of the soldiers as they did not kill, into the most miserable of all captivities.

1760.
AMERICA.

C H A P. XXVII.

British lay siege to Pondicherry—Fleet dispersed by a storm—The garrison surrenders—Internal revolution in India—Transactions of Comte d'Estaing.

1760.

ASIA.

SOON after the conquest of Arcot, most of the inferior settlements belonging to the French submitted. The important settlement of Carical, was reduced by the land and sea-forces under Major Monson and Rear-Admiral Cornish; and the French power on that coast was confined to Pondicherry,* and a few inconsiderable places.

Pondicherry
believed.

WHEN the siege of Pondicherry was resolved on, the garrison consisted of about 1500 Europeans; and, as the center of all the French riches in India, it was well provided with artillery and military stores. The approaching rainy seasons, and Lally's known character for resolution, rendered a regular siege unadvisable; and a blockade by sea and land, for obvious reasons, was determined on. The operations by land were conducted by Colonel Coote, and those at sea by

* Pondicherry is situated about 60 miles south of Fort St. George. It is in a low situation, and the ships anchor a mile and a half from it; nor can the boats or canoes come nearer it than a musket shot, on account of the breakers, so that the blacks come in flat-bottomed boats to carry the men and merchandises to the fleet. The fort is 200 paces from the sea, and very irregular. The country about is barren, and consequently most of their provisions are brought from other places. Their trade consists of cotton-cloths, silks, pepper, salt-petre, and other merchandises that are brought from Bengal.

Admiral Stevens. This blockade was supported and assisted by proper batteries, which continually harrassed the garrison, and were daily, tho' insensibly, drawing near to the place.

1760.

ASIA.

THOSE kind of operations continued for seven months, during which the batteries were often ruined, and as often repaired, by the indefatigable perseverance of the British ; in which, it must be acknowledged, they were equalled by the French. The former, however, had the comfort to reflect, that, amidst all their hardships and labours, the purposes of the blockade were still going on ; and that the French within the place, were reduced to live on dogs, cats, elephants, and camels ; and that even this lothsome kind of food must, if the blockade continued, fail them in a few days. The French, however, are a people little addicted to despair. They comforted themselves with the thoughts of being relieved by their fleet ; but an event happened on the 1st of January 1761, which gave them a much better ground of assurance of delivery.

THE rains, so prevalent in this country, had ceased for some days ; the weather was temperate, and the sky remarkably bright ; when, on a sudden, a most terrible tempest arose. There were 12 sail of British ships at that time in the road. At ten in the evening, the admiral's ship cut her cable, and fired the signal for the other ships to follow her example. The signal guns were not heard ; and the ships, in obedience to the discipline of the navy, rode until their cables parted, when they, with much difficulty, got before the

British fleet
dispersed by
a storm.

1767.

ASIA.

wind; none able to set more than a single sail, and none without splitting several. About twelve, the wind shifted from the N. W. and blew with equal impetuosity from the S. E. By the delay of not getting early under sail, whilst the storm was from the north, most of the ships lost the opportunity of gaining sufficient sea-room, before it came from the opposite quarter. Four ships, by prudently cutting away all their masts, rode out the storm; three came ashore, to the south of Pondicherry; and three foundered, by unfortunately preserving their masts. Eleven hundred Europeans perished in these ships.

Loss on
land occa-
sioned by
the storm.

THOUGH the difference of the element prevented the destruction from being equal at land, the ravage in proportion was not less. The tents were blown to pieces; the ammunition ruined; and nothing remained undamaged, that was not under the shelter of masonry. The soldiers, unable to carry off their muskets, and resist the storm, had left them on the ground; and were driven to seek shelter for their own persons, wherever it was to be found. The sea had every where broken over the beach; and all the batteries and redoubts, raised by the army, were entirely ruined. These, however, might be repaired: but the loss of the fleet, was an irretrievable misfortune; and great anxiety was expressed, for the ships of the squadron, whose fate was not yet known.

THE inhabitants of Pondicherry, beheld the storm, and its effects, as a deliverance from heaven. The sun rose clear, and shewed the havock spread around. Happily for the English, the ef-

1761.

ASIA.

fects of the storm prevented the garrison from making a sally; for no artillery could move thro' the inundation, nor could the ammunition be kept dry, otherwise 300 men, properly armed, would not, for three hours after day-light, have met with a hundred together in a condition to oppose them. Lally, confident of the annihilation of the British fleet, immediately dispatched letters to the French agents at the different ports in India, ordering them to send provisions with instant expedition, at every risk, on any kind of embarkation.*

THE hopes of the French were short-lived. Next day, about sun-set, the Norfolk, with Admiral Stevens' flag, was discovered in the offing. This ship was prepared at all points, before the south-east storm arose; and had studded before it with a stay-sail, without being obliged to anchor till the wind fell, when, in the morning, they discovered Madras. The apprehension of more bad

* The following intercepted letter, is no bad sketch of the writer's character, which seems to have a strong tincture of oddity and extravagance.

Mr Raymond,

Pondicherry, Jan. 2, 1761.

* The British Squadron is no more, Sir. Out of the twelve ships they had in our road, seven are lost, crew and all; the four others dismasted; and it appears, there is no more than one frigate that hath escaped: therefore, don't lose an instant to send us chelings upon chelings, loaded with rice: the Dutch have nothing to fear now; besides (according to the rights of the nations) they are only to send us no provisions *themselves*, and we are no more blocked up by sea.—The saving of Pondicherry hath been in your power once already: if you miss the present opportunity, it will be entirely your own fault: don't forget also small chelings: offer great rewards: I expect seventeen thousand Morattoes within these four days. In short, risque all, attempt all, force all, and send us some rice, should it be but half a gale at a time.

(Signed)

L A L L Y.

1761.

ASIA.

weather, made the admiral put out again to sea.—Several British ships, under Admiral Cornish, arrived the next day ; and, in less than a week after the storm, which had raised such hopes of deliverance in the garrison of Pondicherry, they saw their road again blockaded with eleven sail of the line.

Pondicherry taken.

THE garrison had now only three days miserable provision to subsist on ; but this wretchedness made no impression on the disposition of Lally. * He continued, at best, passively sullen ; pretending, that the English breaches of faith disabled him from treating with them. At last, however, a signal for cessation was made ; and the principal of the Jesuits, with two civilians, were sent out to treat, but without any apparent authority from the governor. As this deputation had no legal commission to treat, the English knew not well how to behave ; but, being given to understand that they would meet with no opposition from the governor, they took possession of the place, and all its immense riches. The garrison consisted of about 1450 men. The governor's house, and other edifices, were blown up, and the fortifications crazed,—in the same manner as the French had done at Fort St. David's, in 1758.

THUS, excepting the unimportant settlement of Mahie, on the coast of Malabar, which was soon

* The haughty spirit and cruel disposition of Lally, rendered him an object of general detestation : but it must be acknowledged, that he possessed great martial abilities, with an enlivening wit, and a large fund of good sense. On his return to France, he fell a victim to court-intrigues, to screen others. He was beheaded at the Greve, May 10. 1766, by the sentence of the parliament, and his effects confiscated to the king, &c.

after reduced, the whole trade of the vast peninsula of India, the richest of any in the known world, fell into the hands of the British, through the unparalleled intrepidity and perseverance of their officers and foldiers.

1761.

ASIA.

AN internal revolution in India, at this time, threatened to deprive the British of all their amazing successes.—The famous Timur Beg, or Tamarlane, at the head of his savage Moguls, a hideous race, conquered India, and its vast peninsula, which he left to a branch of his family. That branch failing, another, which was driven out of Buckharia, and from thence to Persia, passed the Ind; and such was the veneration of the inhabitants for a descendant of Timur Beg, that he mounted the throne of his ancestors, under the appellation of the Great Mogul, which is, there, synonymous with that of Great Conqueror. For many years, he and his posterity made use of none but Mogul guards, by which they established a most unbounded despotism over their Indian subjects. Tho' neither they, nor the Moguls, are very nice in matters of succession, yet it has been always necessary for the succeeding emperors there, ever since the days of Aurengzebe, to claim some kindred with the Timur Beg blood. At the time we now treat of, the Marattas were the military force of India; and having deposed the late Great Mogul, his son Sha Zadah assumed that title; but his authority was disputed by some provinces.

Revolution
in India.

SUPPORTED by M. Law, a French officer, nephew to the celebrated Mississippi Law, at the head of about 200 French fugitives, Sha Zadah

1761.

ASIA.

made great progress in asserting his title. By an address peculiar to his countrymen, Law persuaded him to march against the English in Bengal, at the head of 80,000 of his country troops, and, what he had a much greater dependence on, the 200 French. They were met by 20,000 of the same country troops, and 500 English, under the command of Major Carnac, who, in a pitched battle, entirely defeated them, and made the young Mogul, and his general, Law, prisoners, the very day on which Pondicherry was surrendered.

Transac-
tions of
Comte
D'Estaing.

DURING those transactions in India, the Comte D'Estaing, with no more than two frigates of ordinary force, by his valour, conduct, and activity, reflected reproach upon his countrymen, in all the other parts of the globe. In October 1759, he destroyed the British settlement of Bender Abassi, in the gulph of Persia. In the succeeding year, he reduced Bencoolen, in the isle of Sumatra, where we carry on a great trade, especially in pepper. This place, though in a good state of defence, was ingloriously deserted by the English garrison, after they had burnt the Denham East-Indiaman, that lay in the harbour. The bravery and good fortune of D'Estaing, however, were stained with perfidy and cruelty. He promised, that their effects, and private property, should be secured to the inhabitants; but he proceeded in quite a different manner. He allowed his ragged soldiers and sailors, to plunder and ransack all the houses, and put on the cloaths of the inhabitants, and to carry off all the moveable effects they could find. These transactions likewise took place while

he was a prisoner on parole. He had surrendered himself at the siege of Madraſs; and had engaged, not to ſerve againſt the Engliſh, untill he ſhould be regularly exchanged. This conduct (for which, by the laws of war, he might have been hanged) was encouraged and countenanced by the French court; for, after the peace, he was appointed to the chief command in India; and the requeſt of the Britiſh court, to have him recalled and cenſured, was abſolutely rejected.

1761.

ASIA.

C H A P. XXVIII.

Thurot lands at Carrickfergus in Ireland—Reimbarks, and is defeated and slain—Operations of the British squadrons—Detached naval transactions.

1760.
EUROPE.

THE British navy was now triumphant in every quarter of the globe. It amounted to 120 ships of the line, besides frigates, fire-ships, sloops, bombs, and tenders. These were stationed in the most judicious manner. Our commerce was protected, whilst that of the enemy was almost annihilated. Notwithstanding these favourable circumstances, the inconsiderable armament under Thurot, spread a general alarm over the three kingdoms. This little squadron sailed from Gottenburg in Sweden, where it had taken refuge the preceding year, to Bergen in Norway. In this voyage, Thurot was buffeted about the seas for three months; he was obliged to send back one of his largest vessels to France, and another was entirely lost; so that his fleet, which consisted originally of five frigates, was now reduced to three.

ON the 16th of February, Thurot was obliged to put in to the isle of Ilay in Argyleshire. Here he refitted his ships; and, though his misfortunes would in some measure have palliated his supplying his wants by plunder, he paid, even to profusion, for every article he had occasion to use. Here also he was informed of the defeat of Con-

1760.

EUROPE.

flans fleet, at which he expressed great astonishment. The account, however, appeared to him suspicious, and did not deter him from pursuing his course towards Ireland, where, on the 21st of February, he effected a landing at Carrickfergus. His troops were now reduced to about 6000 men; but, by draughts from the seamen, he made a shift to muster 1000 upon the beach, and with them he proceeded to attack the town. The place was defended by Colonel Jennings, with about four companies of new raised men, destitute of cannon, and with very little ammunition. The colonel, however, made a gallant defence at the gate of the town, supplying the want of ammunition with stones and rubbish. He then drew off his men towards the castle, which was old, ruinous, and untenable; so that at length he surrendered, on condition that his troops should be exchanged, that the castle should not be demolished, nor the town burned or plundered. These articles were all strictly observed, except the last. The magistrates of Carrickfergus refused to comply with Thurot's demands of wine and provisions; and thus, by their own imprudence, subjected the town to a contribution, which, however, was not immoderate.—The French lost about 60 men in their attack on Carrickfergus. Thurot, finding that Conflans was actually defeated, and dreading the approach of regular troops, reëmbarked his men, and sailed on the 26th, carrying off some of the principal inhabitants as a security for having the French prisoners sent to France.

Thurot attacks Carrickfergus,

which surrenders to him.

Thurot reëmbarks.

THE Duke of Bedford, then lord-lieutenant of Ireland, having received early intelligence of

1760.

EUROPE.

Three English frigates sent in quest of him.

He is attacked,

defeated,

and slain.

Thurot's descent, dispatched an express to Kinsale, for three English frigates, which lay there, to sail in quest of that adventurer. These frigates were, the *Æolus* of 36 guns, commanded by Captain Elliot; and the *Pallas* and *Brilliant* of 32 guns each, under the command of the captains Clements and Logie. The dispatch they used was so great, that they came up with Thurot, in sight of the isle of Man. This engagement afforded another instance of the superiority of the British, over the French maritime genius. Thurot's ships were of superior force, and his men more numerous. On the 28th, at nine in the morning, the *Æolus* engaged the *Belleisle*, commanded by Thurot; while the *Pallas* and *Brilliant* attacked the other two ships. The battle was maintained with great spirit, on both sides, for an hour and a half, when the French struck their colours, and were carried into Ramsay bay in the isle of Man. Upwards of 300 of the enemy were killed or wounded, while our loss did not exceed 40. The gallant Thurot fell in the action; lamented, perhaps, less by his own countrymen, than his enemies, who had often experienced his humanity, as well as his courage. Even while he commanded a privateer, he fought, more for honour, than for plunder; and the rank he acquired, was entirely owing to his undaunted courage.—Such was the termination of the remains of that formidable armada, which had so long been the hope of France, and the terror of Britain; and thus the only insult that his Britannic Majesty's European coasts had suffered during the war, was amply revenged.

IN the West Indies, Admiral Holmes, having received intelligence that a fleet of French merchantmen were about to sail from Hispaniola to Europe, under convoy of five frigates, he detached the Hampshire of 50 guns, the Boreas of 28, and the Lively of 20, in order to intercept them. On the 18th of October, the Boreas fell in with the French commodore of 32 guns, and, after a sharp engagement, obliged him to strike. The Lively compelled another frigate of 20 guns to submit, while the Hampshire gave chase to the other three. One of them, being a swift sailer, escaped. The other two were run ashore, and destroyed. The naval officers concerned in this gallant action, were the captains Norbury, Uvedale, and Maitland.

1760.

AMERICA.

Operations
of the British
squadrons.

THE squadron stationed off the Leeward islands, commanded by Sir James Douglas, was equally successful. The Temple and Griffin, commanded by Captains Obrien and Taylor, being on a joint cruise, silenced the batteries defending a harbour in one of the Grenades, and took out four privateers. They next entered another harbour, and took out three more ships. In their return to Antigua, they fell in with thirteen victuallers bound to Martinico; all which they took. The other ships of the squadron, in cruising round Guadaloupe, took nine privateers.

No action of any importance was performed by the squadrons in the British seas. Admiral Rodney still maintained his station off the coast of Havre de Grace, while the Admirals Boscawen

EUROPE.

1760.
EUROPE.

and Hawke alternately commanded the grand fleet, which still remained in Quiberon bay, to watch and detain the French vessels, which had run into the mouth of the river Villaine, after the defeat of Conflans.*

IN the mean time, a numerous body of forces were assembled at Portsmouth. Transports were collected, and the troops actually embarked, with an excellent train of artillery. Generals were appointed to the command of the enterprize; and the attention of the whole nation was engrossed by this armament, which had been prepared at a vast expence, and of which the destination remained a profound secret. The whole summer, however, was permitted to glide away in idle parade and inactivity, and the death of the king put an entire stop to the projected expedition, if any was ever intended.

NOTHING excites so great a clamour in the British nation, as when mighty preparations are followed by idleness and inaction. Such was the case at present; and, in a country where every subject is at liberty to decide on the measures of government, it may well be conceived what bit-

* The squadrons on the French coast were not totally inactive. On the 5th of July, Admiral Rodney destroyed five flat-bottomed boats belonging to the enemy. These vessels were 100 feet in length, and each of them capable of containing 400 men. There were upwards of 100 of them in readiness at Caen in Normandy; but the disaster which happened to these five, prevented the farther use of the rest. Sir Edward Hawke, sensible of the inconveniencies to which the fleet was exposed, for want of fresh water, detached Lord Howe to reduce the little island of Dumet, which abounded in that necessary of life. The island made little or no resistance; and the possession of it was a considerable saving to the nation, as the water had hitherto been sent in transports from Britain, at a great expence.

1760.

EUROPE.

ter invectives were thrown out. What might have been achieved, was opposed to what was actually done, which was indeed very little.

THE British cruisers, however, still maintained their wonted superiority. On the 2d of April, the Biddeford, Captain Skinner, and the Flamborough, Captain Kennedy, both frigates, set sail from Lisbon, and fell in with two large French frigates, which, notwithstanding their superior force, they determined to engage. The battle began about half an hour after six in the evening, and was continued with the greatest fury till eleven. The frigate engaged with the Flamborough, bore away with all the sail she could carry, and escaped, with a considerable loss, into Lisbon. The Biddeford, after a most severe conflict, compelled her antagonist to sheer off; but was so disabled in her rigging, as to be incapable of pursuing. The gallant Captain Skinner, equally remarkable for his humanity and courage, was unfortunately killed. The Honourable Lieutenant Knollis, who assumed the command, and maintained the fight with great spirit, fell likewise. The crew, tho' deprived of their officers, discovered no symptoms of fear, or of disinclination to continue the engagement. The master took upon him the command; and the fire was kept up with such alacrity, that the enemy's guns were at last entirely silenced: but when it was imagined they were just going to strike, they crowded all their sail, and escaped, from the inability of the Biddeford to follow.

Detached
naval trans-
actions.

1760.
EUROPE.

THO' the British navy suffered little from the French, it sustained great damage from the weather. The most considerable of these losses, was that of the *Ramilies*, a 90 gun ship, belonging to the squadron stationed on the French coast. A series of stormy weather had obliged the fleet to return from Quiberon bay to Plymouth. The *Ramilies*, having overshot the entrance to the Sound, was embayed near a point called the Bolt-head; and, her cables and anchors giving way, she was dashed to pieces among the rocks. Her whole crew (one midshipman and 25 seamen excepted) amounting to 700 men, perished.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXIX.

Situation of the French and allied armies—Fritzlar taken—Cassel besieged by the allies—Battle of Kirch-Denkern—Wolfenbüttele taken by the French—Embsen and Osnabourg laid under contribution—Conclusion of the campaign.

THE last campaign had proved by no means favourable to the allies. The French armies were disposed in such a manner, that it required only a small advance, to surround the army commanded by Prince Ferdinand; and they were become masters of the whole territory of Hesse. In that country, are many posts, capable of being vigorously defended. Some of these the French had strengthened with additional works, and had erected magazines in such places as were most convenient for that purpose. The allies were driven from the Lower Rhine, which lay on the left of the French army, who had become masters of Gottingen on their right, and in it they had placed a strong garrison.

THUS the French armies were disposed in the form of an immense crescent, the two points of which were at Gottingen and Wesel, while the body extended into Hesse.—Within this circle lay the allied army. The situation was dangerous, and the plan of operations difficult; but no action whatever could be attended with worse consequences, than inactivity. Prince Ferdinand, therefore, deter-

1761.

EUROPE.

1761.
EUROPE.

mined to act with the greatest vigour. He assembled his army on the 9th of February. His design was, to break the communication of the French army with that of the empire; to open one for the allies with the King of Prussia; and to cut off all intercourse between the French and their garrison at Gottingen. The allied army was divided into three parts. Prince Ferdinand himself commanded the centre; the Hereditary Prince, and the Marquis of Granby, commanded on the right; and General Sporken on the left.

As the plan of operations was very extensive, these three bodies were necessarily separated to a considerable distance from each other. The first penetrated into Hesse, and, marching by Zierenberg and Nuremberg, advanced towards Cassel. The second left the country of Hesse to the eastward, and penetrated directly into the heart of the French quarters. The third entered Thuringia, by Duderstadt and Heligenstadt. The French were now thrown into the utmost consternation. They fled before the allies, in every quarter. Had they been in an open country, their army would probably have been destroyed; but they had taken care to secure their retreat. They had thrown into Cassel, a very considerable body of troops, by way of garrison; and in Gottingen, also, they had 7 or 8000 men: and these were places which the allied army were obliged to pass by. Beyond these also they had fortified Fritzlar, Ziegenhagen, and Marburg, towns of considerable strength, besides some other inferior posts.

1761.
EUROPE.

THE first attempt on any of the French posts, was made by the Hereditary Prince. His party was the most advanced, and he hoped to surprise Fritzlar. For this purpose, he took with him only a few battalions and cannon; but the garrison having received intelligence of the design, his attempt miscarried. Marburg was attempted with the like bad success; and General Breidenback, an Hanoverian officer of great bravery and experience, who commanded there, lost his life.— These two repulses determined the allies to proceed with more caution. Cannon and mortars were brought before Fritzlar; and the place was surrendered, upon honourable terms, on the 15th of February. At the same time, the Marquis of Granby reduced several strong castles in the neighbourhood. The French army were now almost driven back to the Maine. They had set fire to their magazines, as they passed along; but the allies advanced with such celerity, that they saved five of them from the flames, besides a large one which they had found in Fritzlar.

Fritzlar
taken.

THE reduction of Cassel, however, was the main object the allies had in view. It was defended by 17 battalions, under the Count de Broglio, brother to the marshal. This strong garrison was the great hope the enemy had, of being able to hold out against the allies. The fortifications were not calculated to resist a siege, carried on in the modern manner. The walls were high, which was formerly an advantage; but, since the invention of artillery, a very great disadvantage, as thereby they are more ready to be thrown

1761.
EUROPE.

down by the continual battering of the cannon. With their height, however, the walls were extremely strong; and, with the addition of some works done in the modern manner, the place, even with an ordinary garrison, was capable of making a considerable defence.

Cassel be-
sieged.

THE siege of Cassel was therefore instantly resolved on. Prince Ferdinand having driven Marshal Broglio quite out of Hesse, ceased to pursue him any further. Two bodies were ordered to the blockade of Marburg and Ziegenhagen, which still held out obstinately. The army commanded by himself, was then formed into a chain of cantonments, extending towards the river Lahn, and from thence to the Fulda. The siege of Cassel was carried on by the Count of Lippe Scaumburg, a sovereign prince of the empire, and reputed one of the best engineers in Europe. Trenches were opened on the first of March, and great things were expected; but a sudden revolution of fortune obliged the allies to abandon the blockades of Marburg and Ziegenhagen, raise the siege of Cassel, and retire behind the Dymel, almost in the same situation they were at the beginning of the campaign.

THE reason of this bad success, was the great superiority of numbers in the army of the enemy; so that the allies, in their divided state, were not able long to cope with them. M. Sporken, who, as we have already observed, commanded the left division, met at first with great success. Being joined by a body of Prussians, the united forces soon drove some detachments of French and

1761.

EUROPE.

Saxons, from the important posts they had on the rivers Werra and Unstrut. In doing of this, a sharp action ensued. The allies proved victorious. The Prussians took prisoners, three whole battalions; and M. Spörken, two. The enemy's loss was computed at 5000 men, besides that of a number of cannon, and a large magazine. After this victory, the combined army separated into bodies, before which the French army fell back on the right, and that of the empire on the left, totally abandoning a large tract of country.

THE allies continued to advance, it would seem, with more courage than conduct. Their number was too small to admit of leaving sufficient detachments, to guard those countries thro' which they had passed. The numerous garrison of Gottingen, was left behind. The commanding officer took advantage of the temerity of the allies. With a strong detachment, he attacked and routed an Hanoverian convoy, took the town of Duderstadt, and several other considerable places. Thus M. Spörken's retreat was cut off, and he was prevented from acting separate from the main army.—M. Broglio also recalled a detachment he had been obliged last year to send against the Hereditary Prince, in order to relieve Cassel. As the allied army, therefore, was necessarily in a divided state, it was plain, that the whole French power could not be resisted by a part of it.

PRINCE FERDINAND, therefore, having three strong posts of the enemy in his rear, and their grand army perfectly united in front, was obliged to call in M. Spörken's corps, which could best

1761.
EUROPE.

be spared. But Marshal Broglie did not lose the advantage he had gained. He attacked and defeated the troops under the Hereditary Prince, near the village of Stangerode, took two thousand prisoners, and several standards, &c. The attack was made by the dragoons, which broke the foot in an instant; so that very few were killed on either side.

AFTER this severe check, the allies could no longer keep their ground in Hesse; but were obliged to retreat, as already mentioned. By the spirited exertions they had made, however, especially by their getting possession of so many magazines, the French army was rendered incapable of further operations, till the season was pretty far spent.—The first object M. Broglie had in view, was to effect a junction of his army with the Prince de Soubise; after which, it seemed to be a matter of little doubt, that they would obtain decisive advantages over the allies, who were already much weakened. On the 29th of June, the French attacked M. Sporken, who was posted in an advantageous situation, on the river Dymel. His corps was instantly routed; with the loss of 19 pieces of cannon, 800 men taken prisoners, 400 horses, and 470 waggons. Prince Ferdinand retreated to the Lippe, and M. Broglie made himself master of Warburg, Dringelburg, and Paderborn.

THE allies soon made themselves amends for this misfortune, by routing convoys, destroying magazines, &c. But, in the mean time, M. Broglie having resolved on attacking the allied

Military Memoirs



Marquis of Granby.

1761.

EUROPE.

army, united his troops with those of Soubise, at a place called Soest, between Lipstadt and Ham. Prince Ferdinand, sensible of his danger, posted his army very advantageously, and in such a manner as to secure a retreat, in case of any misfortune. The centre and right wing were covered in front by a river, and the left by rivers on both its flanks. The left wing consisted of the flower of the army, and in it the Count de la Lippe had placed the greatest part of the artillery. For, as this wing was most exposed, it was supposed the French would make their most vigorous effort against it.

ON the 15th of July, Lord Granby, who commanded in the right wing, was furiously attacked by the French; but, after a long and vigorous action, the latter were repulsed and driven into the woods. Next morning, preparations were made on the part of the enemy, for a more general attack. M. Broglie commanded the right wing, which was opposed to the left of the allies. The left wing, and the centre, were commanded by the Prince de Soubise. The engagement began at three in the morning, and was continued with great obstinacy till after nine; when the enemy retired in disorder, with the loss of about 5000 men. The loss of the allies amounted to about 300 killed, 1000 wounded, and 200 prisoners.

Battle of
Kirch-
Denkern.

French ar-
my twice
repulsed.

THIS engagement, though it did honour to the courage and conduct of the allied army, was far from being decisive. The French were still greatly superior in numbers, and, notwithstanding their

1761.
EUROPE.

retreat, soon advanced again.—It happened, during the course of this war, by a seeming fatality, that the defeats the French received, served, upon the whole, to advance their affairs. It is true, Broglio and Soubise endeavoured to throw upon one another, the blame of the late disgrace they had received at Kirch-Denkern. The former accused the latter, of being too late; and the latter, the former, of being too precipitate in the attack.* Their loss of men, however, was soon repaired; but that of the allies, was irreparable. Their army divided into two bodies. One part, under the Prince de Soubise, passed the Lippe, and made dispositions for the siege of Munster. The other, under Marshal Broglio, passed the Weser, and threatened to invade Hanover. Thus Prince Ferdinand was obliged to follow their example. The Hereditary Prince, with part of the army, covered Munster, whilst Prince Ferdinand observed the motions of M. Broglio. The latter carefully avoided a battle; but several smart skirmishes en-

* The characters of the two French generals, are represented, by their countrymen, in the following light.—M. Broglio is passionately fond of his country, of his prince, and of glory. His disposition is mild, his temper even, his manners decent. He banished from the army, the tastes, the habits, and the fashions of the court, which seemed to render the want of discipline among the officers incurable. Affable, polite, even obliging, he has no pride, nor severity, but for the maintenance of military discipline, and for the exactness of the service.—The Prince de Soubise is endowed, in a high degree, with almost every amiable quality, and is universally beloved. His birth is an excuse for his ambition to command armies; and the uprightness of his intentions, makes his ill success lamented. A man of his rank, is not easily persuaded, that he does not understand a trade, till he has learned it. He loves to think, that there is ill luck in the case; and that, by dint of perseverance, he shall tire fortune. However, it is generally acknowledged, that he is a much better citizen, than a soldier.

lued, in which the allies had almost always the advantage. In one of these, which happened on the 20th of July, Prince Henry of Brunswic was mortally wounded, to the great grief and disappointment of the whole army.

1761.
EUROPE.

SOUBISE, notwithstanding some checks, persevered in his design of attacking Munster, and made the necessary preparations at Dorsten. This place was attacked by the Hereditary Prince, on the 30th of August; and, after a vigorous defence, obliged to surrender. The garrison were made prisoners of war; the ovens, which were established here, destroyed; and thus the siege of Munster was not only prevented, but the French were compelled, for some time, to retire from the Lippe.—Prince Ferdinand resolved not to oppose Broglio directly, but to advance as far into Hesse, as he should do into Hanover; and, by stopping the subsistence of his army, oblige him to retreat. But though this plan succeeded pretty well at first, Prince Ferdinand soon found the disadvantage of not being able to form two armies, that might act separately. Marshal Broglio being master of most of the strong posts in the country of Hesse, placed himself in such a situation, that he could watch Prince Ferdinand's motions, and either fall back into Hesse, or advance into Hanover, as he thought proper. He then sent out detachments, which acted with prodigious effect. One of these entered the Harts Forest (the remains of the ancient Hercynian) and demolished the strong castle of Schartsfelts, laying the whole country under severe contrilution. Another, under Prince Xavier

Soubise's
design a-
gainst Mun-
ster fru-
strated.

1761.

EUROPE.

Wolfen-
bottle ta-
ken by the
French;

of Saxony, bombarded Wolfenbottle; and as the town was built mostly of wood, it was obliged to surrender in five days. They next advanced to Brunswic. The reigning prince, unable to oppose their progress, fled to Hamburgh, where he met the Landgrave of Hesse, who had in like manner been driven from his territories.

but reco-
vered by
the Heredi-
tary Prince.

ALARMED at this rapid progress, Prince Ferdinand detached the Hereditary Prince to the relief of Brunswic; and this active commander soon performed what was expected from him. He not only compelled the French, to raise the siege of that place, but also to abandon Wolfenbottle, and retire with precipitation, after having lost 1000 men, and several cannon.

Osnabourg
and Emb-
den oppres-
sed by the
French.

By the removal of the Prince of Brunswic's army, the Prince de Soubise had no longer any enemy to contend with. He over-ran and ravaged the whole country of Westphalia, in the most cruel manner. The city of Osnabourg was taken and pillaged without mercy, because the contributions imposed on it were not immediately paid. Embden was invested, and capitulated on the first summons. The place was defended by two English companies of invalids, but the inhabitants refused to stand a siege. Notwithstanding this, however, the French laid a heavy contribution, not only upon this town, but the whole country of East Friesland; and at length tyrannized to such a degree, that the boors rose at once, with a design to expel their oppressors.

THE extreme insolence and rigour of the French, when victors, proved detrimental to their cause. A detachment of their army, under the

Prince of Conde, made themselves masters of Mappen, where the allies had a considerable magazine, and invested Bremen. From this place the allies derived all their subsistence; and had the French become masters of it, the loss would have been irreparable. The allies would have been locked up in a barren country, surrounded by their enemies; and, in all probability, the whole army would have been obliged to capitulate. The inhabitants, however, dreading the fate of those towns which had already submitted to the French, resolved to defend themselves to the utmost. Accordingly they joined the garrison; the French were repulsed with loss, and a strong reinforcement was soon after thrown into the town. Prince Ferdinand, in the mean time, kept his army in such a position, that though he had two armies to act against him, it was impossible for either of them to gain any material advantage. He could not indeed follow their motions, without hazarding the King's electoral dominions; but, by sending out detachments on every side, which always exerted themselves for the defence of such places as were attacked, the French were prevented from making any permanent conquest during the whole campaign.—Both armies now retired into winter-quarters. Broglie quartered his army in Cassel, and that neighbourhood. Soubise's forces were distributed about Dusseldorp, and along the Lower Rhine. The allies established their quarters at Hildersham, Munster, Hamelen, and Eimbeck. The British cavalry wintered in East Friesland; and the infantry, in the bishopric of Osnabourg.

1761.

EUROPE.

Spirited
conduct of
the allies,
in defence
of Bremen.

Armies goe
into winter-
quarters.

C H A P. XXX.

Situation of the Prussian Monarch—Resolves to act on the defensive—Colberg invested, and taken by the Russians—Schweidnitz surprised by the Austrians—Conspiracy against the King of Prussia detected.

1761.
EUROPE. BY the two glorious victories of Lignitz and Torgau, the Prussian monarch had ended the last campaign, pretty much to his advantage. He had retrieved his affairs in Silesia and Saxony, when they seemed to be entirely desperate; and, by his great preparations for the ensuing campaign, it was expected, that the present year would have been more bloody, than any one since the commencement of the war. Quite the reverse, however, was the case. This active and enterprising monarch seemed at last wearied out, and all his proceedings bore the marks of inactivity and languor. Indeed, should we make the supposition, that, wearied out with the toils of war, he could no longer act with the same vigour as formerly, it could by no means be thought very unreasonable. History can scarce afford a parallel to what he had already done. Since the close of the year 1756, there had been fought, on the Prussian monarch's part, no fewer than 19 pitched battles, besides a vast number of bloody skirmishes. In ten of these he commanded in person, and in seven of the ten he was victorious. All the rest were fought by

his generals; and in all of them, except one, the Prussians had been defeated. It is, however, by no means probable, that any past exertions of the Prussian monarch, contributed in the least to his inactivity during the present year. His situation points out a much more natural and evident cause. The Russian army was, this year, as well as the former, divided into two strong bodies, under Tottleben and Butterlin. The first marched towards Pomerania; the second entered the Upper Silesia, and advanced towards Breslau. Opposite to the latter, Baron Laudohn entered the country last mentioned, in order to join the two Russian armies. The King of Prussia, not being able to cope with so many armies at once, kept himself entrenched in a strong position, in Upper Silesia, not far from Schweidnitz; while Prince Henry commanded an army in Saxony, that was likewise strongly entrenched under the walls of Leipzig.

1761.
EUROPE.

Situation
of his Prus-
sian Maje-
sty.

THE remarkable draught in the beginning of the season, greatly facilitated the junction of the Russian armies, which the King of Prussia found himself unable to prevent. The Russians overran the whole open country of Silesia, from which they exacted heavy contributions. A body of them cannonaded the city of Breslau, from seven batteries; while Laudohn exerted all his skill, to draw the King from his post, and engage him at a disadvantage. All his attempts, however, proved ineffectual; and the Prussian monarch continued immovable in his entrenchments.

1761.

EUROPE.

Colberg in-
vested by
the Rus-
sians.

THE Russians under Tottleben, in the mean time, advanced without opposition into Pomerania. That general, however, being suspected, and, as it was said, convicted of carrying on a secret correspondence with the King of Prussia, was removed, and Romanzow appointed in his room. The Russians now proved much more formidable enemies to the Prussian monarch, than before. Romanzow formed the siege of Colberg by land, while a fleet of 40 sail blocked it up by sea. On the other hand, this city was now in a better state of defence, than it had ever been since the beginning of the war. The former unsuccessful attempts of the Russians, had shewn where any weakness lay; and the Prussians, sensible of its importance, had not failed to take advantage of their instructions, by adding to the strength of its fortifications. As the Prince of Wurtemberg also was entrenched under its walls with a body of six or seven thousand men, the place seemed capable of eluding all attempts of the enemy, or at least of making a very vigorous defence.

THE siege of Colberg was an event of a very alarming nature to the King of Prussia. This city was the key of his dominions to the north; and so much employment was found for himself by Butterlin and Laudohn, that it was impossible for him to come to its relief.—Notwithstanding this, however, he resolved to send a considerable detachment, under general Platen, to the relief of this important place. He ordered this general to march through Poland in his way to Colberg, in order to destroy the magazines belonging to the

Russians, lying on the frontiers of that kingdom, and from which the army in Silesia were wholly subsisted. Platen succeeded in the enterprise: he ruined three capital magazines; attacked a large convoy of waggons; destroyed 500, and burned or rendered useless the provisions they contained; killed, or took prisoners, 4000 men who escorted them; and then pursued his march into Pomerania, with the utmost expedition.

1761.

EUROPE.

THE success of General Platen, proved in effect the ruin of Colberg. The Russians under Butterlin, who had joined Laudohn on the 25th of August, found themselves now unable to subsist; and therefore, separating from the Austrians, they repassed the Oder, and retired into Poland, to save the remainder of the magazines. Here, however, M. Butterlin remained no longer, than till he had established his convoys; after which, he immediately set out for Pomerania, to join Romanzow before Colberg; and, on his march, sent out detachments, which cruelly wasted all the adjacent country. Thus an army of Russians was assembled in Pomerania, so powerful, that the King of Prussia could by no means oppose them in the field. He sent another detachment under General Knoblock, to join Platen; and, though he could not hope that their united force would be able to raise the siege of Colberg, he thought, that, by their intercepting, or at least distressing, the Russian convoys, the town might be able to hold out, till the severe setting in of winter should render the operations of a siege impracticable.

THE garrison, in the mean time, made a glorious defence; but at last they began to be greatly

1761.
EUROPE.

distressed for want of provisions. General Platen, who had joined the troops commanded by the Prince of Wirtemberg, therefore quitted the entrenchments, in order to cover the convoys, which the Russian detachments had long kept at a distance. He had the misfortune, however, to meet with a body of forces, much superior in number to his own; by whom he was entirely defeated, part of his convoy taken, and he himself escaped with great difficulty to Stetin, with the remainder. —Knoblock had established himself at Treptow; but, after the defeat of Platen, he was quickly invested by Romanzow. His situation was quite desperate; the town having scarce any walls, and his enemies prodigiously superior in number. For five days, however, he made a gallant defence; but, being at length overpowered by numbers, he was obliged to surrender himself prisoner of war, with all his men, about 2000 in number.

By these successes, the spirits of the Russians were greatly elevated; and they pushed on the siege of Colberg with redoubled vigour, notwithstanding the extreme rigour of the season. On the other hand, the garrison was thrown into despair. They found themselves besieged by an army of 50,000 men; they were in want of provisions, and there was no probability of having that want supplied. The bad success of Generals Platen and Knoblock had shewed them the impossibility of supply by land; and though, by a fortunate accident, the Russian fleet might be driven off the coast, any supply from sea was too precarious and uncertain to be depended upon.—So desperate did matters now appear, that the Prince of Wirtemberg, look-

ing upon the town to be inevitably lost, thought proper to consult his own safety, and that of the troops he commanded, by breaking through part of the Russian army, and leaving the garrison and inhabitants to make the best terms they could with the victors. This he accomplished with little or no loss; after which, the garrison, finding their situation altogether hopeless, surrendered to the Russians on the 16th of December, after a siege of near six months. The governor (the gallant Heydon, who had successfully repelled all the former attacks of the Russians) was made prisoner of war, with all the garrison. He had been distinguished by his master, for his successful defence of the place; and, now, had the satisfaction to receive the same assurances of royal favour, notwithstanding those misfortunes, which no human valour or prudence could prevent.

1761.
EUROPE.

Colberg
surrenders.

THE loss of Colberg, was not the only disaster which befel the King of Prussia, in the course of this ruinous campaign.—On the retreat of the Russians under Butterlin, that monarch, having now no enemy but Laudohn to contend with, removed from his strong camp near Schweidnitz, and approached nearer the Oder, in order to be more readily supplied with provisions. Apprehending no danger, in the mean time, to Schweidnitz, he drafted 4000 men from that garrison, in order to supply the place of those detachments he had sent off under Generals Platen and Knoblock. With these he had moved but a very short way, when the Austrian General took advantage of his absence, by making an attempt on Schweidnitz by a *coup de main*. The assault began on the 1st

1761.

EUROPE.

of October, at three o'clock in the morning. An attack was made at once on all the four out-works; to which the Austrians advanced so cautiously, that the garrison did not observe them. They scaled all the four at the same time, and with such expedition, that the garrison had scarce time to fire a few cannon shot. The Austrians advanced in perfect silence, without discharging a single gun. A powder magazine, however, happened to blow up, which destroyed about 300 Austrians, and as many Prussians. At day-break, the enemy found themselves masters of the place; and the garrison, consisting of five battalions, (about 3000 men), were made prisoners. A great number of cannon, and a large magazine of meal, also fell into their hands; while their loss, by their own account, amounted to no more than 600 men.

Schweid-
nitz taken
by surprisè.

THE loss of Schweidnitz was a terrible blow to the Prussians, as, by the possession of it, the Austrians were enabled to take up their winter-quarters in Silesia; nor was it in the king's power, while they remained masters of Schweidnitz, to make a single motion for the relief of any other part of his dominions, without endangering the certain and irrecoverable conquest of the whole of Upper Silesia. The Prussian monarch was at first disposed to attribute this affair to the treachery of General Zastrow, who commanded in the place; but as that officer had hitherto served him with fidelity, he soon recovered his temper, and said, with a smile, "It is a fatal blow; but we must endeavour to remedy it." He wrote to General Zastrow; "We may now say, what Francis I. of France wrote to his mother after

1761.

EUROPE.

“ the battle of Pavia, *We have lost all, except our*
 “ *honour.* As I cannot comprehend what hath
 “ happened to you, I shall suspend my judgment ;
 “ the thing is very extraordinary.”—It is pro-
 bable, however, that all the activity and courage
 which this monarch possesses, would not have
 been sufficient to retrieve his affairs, after two such
 terrible blows as the loss of Schweidnitz and Col-
 berg ; as it was impossible for him, now, to make
 a single movement, which his enemies might not
 make use of to his destruction. But he was
 relieved by an accident altogether unexpected,
 which happily took off the Russians, the most dan-
 gerous enemies he had, from the general alliance
 against him. This event will be particularized in
 the occurrences of the ensuing year.

At this period, a conspiracy was formed against
 the person of his Prussian Majesty, which he, how-
 ever, had the good fortune to detect. The Baron
 de Warkotch, a man of considerable rank and
 fortune in Silesia, and one Francis Schmedt, a
 priest, had concerted a plan to seize the king,
 when he should come forth unattended, and con-
 vey him to the Austrian camp. One of the ba-
 ron's domestics, being charged with a letter from
 his master to the ecclesiastic, and suspecting the
 contents, delivered it to the Prussian monarch.
 By this means, the mystery was unravelled ; the
 baron was apprehended, and his papers secured :
 but he afterwards found means to escape through
 a window. Schmedt was also fortunate enough
 to elude punishment by flight. It is not yet de-
 termined, whether this kidnapping scheme was
 countenanced by the court of Vienna.

Conspiracy
 against his
 Prussian
 Majesty.

Detected.

C H A P. XXXI.

American affairs—Dominique taken—Siege and conquest of Belleisle.

1761.

AMERICA.

THE French having lost all footing on the continent of America, the operations there were confined to an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, under the direction of Colonel Grant. By carrying on the war entirely in their own manner, that is, ravaging the country with fire and sword, those barbarians were at last compelled to sue for peace, and a new treaty was concluded with them.

Dominique taken.

IN the West Indies, the island of Dominique was attacked, and reduced, by a small body of troops commanded by Lord Rollo, conveyed thither from Guadaloupe by Sir James Douglas, with four ships of the line, and some frigates. The inhabitants made but a poor defence. They delivered up their arms, and took the oaths of allegiance to his Britannic Majesty, on the 7th of June.

AFRICA.

ON the coast of Africa, the town of Goree was consumed by fire; and an attempt was made on James fort, in the mouth of the river Gambia, by two French ships, which proved unsuccessful.

IN the mean time, negotiations for peace were carrying on between the belligerent powers, which, however, did not retard the operations of the war. Both parties proceeded with vigour; and their demands rose, or sunk, in proportion to their reciprocal successes. Before we enter into the intricacies of that negotiation, we shall particularize the events which took place during its progress.

AN expedition against the island of Belleisle, had, for some time, been a favourite scheme of the minister. Some objections, however, arose against this expedition. It was thought to be of very little consequence, as the island was in itself by no means an object of importance. It is, indeed, the largest of all the European islands belonging to France, being between 12 and 13 leagues in circumference; but contains only one little city called Le Palais, three county towns, 103 villages, and about 5000 inhabitants. It has three nominal harbours, every one of which has some capital defect, either in being exposed, shallow, or dangerous at the entrance; and the only kind of trade carried on in the island, is the curing of pilchards.

1751.

EUROPE.

Expedition
against
Belleisle.

FOR these reasons, Belleisle was, by many, thought to be no desirable conquest, especially as it would probably make an obstinate defence. The town of Palais, which has its name from a castle belonging to the Duke de Belleisle, in its neighbourhood, was converted into a strong and regular fortification, fronting the sea. It was composed principally of horn-work, and was provided with two dry ditches; the one next the counterscarp, the other contrived in such a manner as to secure the interior fortifications. The citadel was divided from the largest part of the town, by an inlet of the sea, over which there was a bridge of communication. From the other part of the town, and which was the most inhabited, it was only divided by its own fortifications, and a glacis.

NOTWITHSTANDING, however, these unfavourable appearances, it was resolved to attempt the

1761.
EUROPE.

conquest of Belleisle. It was urged, that though the harbours were bad, yet small privateers might issue from thence, which would greatly molest the French trade; and that the fleet might ride between it and the continent, in a well protected road. They imagined, that the loss of this island, though not of very essential detriment to France, would nevertheless be a grievous wound to her pride; and that the same reasons which had induced that court to expend a good deal of money on the fortifications of this place, would also cause a proportional value to be set upon it in the treaty.

THE fleet destined for this expedition, therefore, set sail from Spithead on the 29th of March, under the command of Commodore Keppel; the land-forces being commanded by General Hodgson. They arrived before Belleisle on the 7th of April; and, the following day, it was agreed, to attempt a landing on the south-east part of the island, in a sandy bay near the point called Lochmaria. The landing, here, was attended with extreme danger. The enemy were in possession of a small fort; they had entrenched themselves on an excessively steep hill, the foot of which was scarped away. The British forces, however, made the attempt with great resolution: a few grenadiers got on shore, and formed themselves; but as they were not supported, most of them were made prisoners. The rest of the army, after several great efforts of valour, being unable, either to force the enemy's lines, or make good their own landing, were obliged to retire with loss; and, to add to this misfortune, several of

the flat-bottomed vessels were destroyed or damaged by a hard gale, which followed on the retreat of the troops.

IN this first attempt, the loss on the British side amounted to near 500 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners. The troops, however, were not dispirited; and the commanders determined to persevere with the utmost steadiness, 'till they found some other place where a landing might be more easily effected. This, indeed, ~~was~~ not very likely to be found. Almost the whole island was naturally a fortification; and the deficiencies of nature, in this respect, had been amply supplied by art. The commanders, therefore, at last resolved to make an attempt to land; not where the coast was least strong, but where it was evidently most so, and where the enemy were consequently least attentive. This was at a bold rocky shore near the point of Lochmaria, already mentioned. Besides the attack on this place, two feints were made, at the same time, to distract the enemy. The men of war directed their fire on the hills, with great judgment and effect; and thus Brigadier-General Lambert, with an handful of men, got an opportunity of climbing up a very steep rock, without molestation. Having gained the top of the hill, they immediately formed themselves in good order. Three hundred French instantly attacked them; but the British troops defended themselves, till the whole corps belonging to General Lambert, who had in like manner climbed up, came to their assistance, and repulsed the enemy.

Troops
landed.

1761.

EUROPE.

Siege prosecuted with vigour.

Citadel capitulates.

THIS happened on the 26th of April ; and soon after, all the troops made good their landing with very little loss. The enemy made some faint resistance, but were always repulsed with loss. The only difficulty the British had now to encounter, was in bringing forward the cannon. These were first to be dragged up the rocks, and afterwards, for two leagues, along a very rugged and broken road, which necessarily took up some time. The siege was then carried on with vigour ; and the garrison, under the command of the Chevalier de St. Croix, a brave and experienced officer, made an obstinate defence, sometimes falling out with considerable effect. In one of these sallies, Major General Crawford was taken prisoner ; but our troops were rather animated, than discouraged by such checks. The enemy's lines, by which the town was covered, were next attacked, and carried without much loss ; chiefly by the intrepidity of a corps of marines, which had been but newly raised. But, though the town was now totally abandoned, and the defence confined entirely to the citadel ; and though the British fleet, by cutting off all communication with the continent, deprived the besieged of every hope of succour, the Chevalier de St. Croix determined to hold out to the last extremity. He, therefore, did not offer to capitulate, till the 7th of June, when, there being not the slightest prospect of succour, and the place no longer tenible, it was yielded to the English, and the garrison marched out with the honours of war.—The conquest of Belleisle cost Britain 1800 men killed and wounded. A-

mong the former, Sir W. Peere Williams was most regretted. He was a young gentleman of great talents and expectations, who had made a distinguished figure in parliament. He had but newly entered into the service, and was shot in the night, by approaching too near one of the enemy's centinels.

MANY were of opinion, notwithstanding all the reasons urged in favour of this expedition, that the British forces might have been much more advantageously employed. The conquest of a barren rock, without produce, harbour, convenience, or consequence, was thought to be but a poor compensation for the loss of near 2000 choice troops, and an immense sum of money.

C H A P. XXXII.

Detached naval transactions in the year 1761.

1761.

EUROPE.

THE naval operations compose the most brilliant portion of the war on the part of Britain ; but, from their sameness, and the professional terms in which they are necessarily involved, they afford little pleasure in the relation. The considerate reader will easily conceive the difficulty of varying the description, and excuse the similarity so visible in the accounts of sea engagements.

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Richmond
and Felicite

THE Richmond frigate, commanded by Captain Elphinston, of 32 guns, and 220 men, stationed on the coast of Flanders, fell in with the Felicite, a French frigate of the same force, on the 23d of January. Next day, about ten in the morning, a severe engagement began near Grave-sande, about eight miles distant from the Hague. The young Prince of Orange, the British and French ambassadors, and a great number of people, assembled to view the combat, in the issue of which the honour of the two nations was materially interested. After an engagement of two hours, both ships ran ashore ; and, in that situation, the battle was continued for a considerable time, till the French deserted their quarters, and abandoned the ship, which was greatly damaged, having lost their captain, and about 100 men. The Richmond got off without sustaining any considerable damage, no more than three men be-

1761.

EUROPE.

ing killed, and 13 wounded. The French ambassador loudly exclaimed against this attack as a violation of the Dutch neutrality, and demanded satisfaction for the insult; but, though the States General remonstrated to the court of London, the affair gave way to matters of greater importance.

CAPTAIN WOOD of the *Minerva* frigate, cruising in the chops of the channel, on the 23d of January, descried a large two-decked vessel, steering to the westward. She proved to be the *Warwick*, an English sixty-gun ship, taken by the French in the course of the war. She now mounted 35 guns, and her crew amounted to about 300 men, including a detachment of soldiers intended to reinforce the garrison of Pondicherry in the East Indies. Captain Wood, notwithstanding the superiority of his antagonist, attacked her without hesitation, and met with a warm reception. Both ships lost several masts, and fell foul of each other; so that both crews were encumbered by their broken masts and shattered rigging. The waves at length separated them, and the *Warwick* fell to leeward. Captain Wood, however, soon cleared his ship, and renewed the engagement, which lasted about an hour; at the expiration of which, the *Warwick* struck, having lost about 14 men killed, and 35 wounded. The *Minerva* lost nearly the same number, and all her masts went by the board; notwithstanding which, her prize was conveyed in triumph to Spithead.

Action between the
Minerva
and *Warwick*.

On the 13th of March, Captain Nightingale, in the *Vengeance* frigate, encountered, near the Land's-end, a French ship called the *Entreprenant*,

1761.

EUROPE.

Action between the
Vengeance
and Entreprenant.

pierced for 44, but mounted only with 26 guns, having 200 men on board, and a rich cargo, bound to St. Domingo. The action was supported on both sides with uncommon fury, until, the Vengeance being set on fire by the enemy's wadding, the French took the advantage of the confusion produced by this accident, and attempted to board her. In this attempt, however, they miscarried, through the courage and activity of the English captain, who cleared his vessel, and stood aloof, in order to repair his rigging. No sooner was that in some degree effected, than the engagement was renewed, and lasted a full hour, when the Entreprenant bore away. The Vengeance, again disabled in her rigging, was speedily repaired, and began a third attack, more furious than any of the preceding, which lasted an hour and a half, when the enemy called for quarter. The Entreprenant lost 15 men killed, and 24 wounded. The English lost about half that number.

In the Mediterranean, the cruisers belonging to the squadron commanded by Admiral Saunders, were equally successful. In the beginning of April, the Isis of 50 guns, commanded by Captain Wheeler, descried the Orislamme, a French ship of 40 guns, off Cape Tres Forcas. The English captain gave chase, and came up with her about six in the evening; and a running fight was maintained till half an hour after ten. In the beginning of the engagement, Captain Wheeler was unfortunately killed; and the command devolved on Lieutenant Cunningham, who, perceiving that the enemy's design was to reach the Spanish shore,

1761.

EUROPE.

boarded her immediately; and her commander submitting, she was brought into the bay of Gibraltar. Forty-five of her men were killed or wounded; the loss of the *Isis* did not exceed four killed, and nine wounded.—Captain Proby, in the *Thunderer*, together with the *Modeste*, *Thetis*, and *Favourite* sloop, belonging to the same squadron, were ordered to cruise upon the Spanish coast, with a view to intercept the *Achilles* and *Bouffon*, two French ships of war, which lay in the harbour of Cadiz. On the 16th of July, they were descried by the British cruisers. About midnight, the *Thunderer* came up with the *Achilles*, and, after a bloody engagement of half an hour, obliged her to strike. In this short engagement, the *Thunderer* had 40 men killed, and 100 wounded; among the latter, was the captain. About seven next morning, the *Thetis* engaged the *Bouffon*, and the fire was maintained on both sides with great vivacity for half an hour, when, the *Modeste* ranging up, and firing a few guns, the French captain submitted. The prizes were carried into the bay of Gibraltar, much damaged in their rigging, and diminished in their crews.

Success of
the British
cruisers in
the Medi-
terranean.

THE importance of the following engagement, will justify the minute relation which is given of it.—On the 10th of August, the *Bellona*, a ship of the line, commanded by Captain Faulkner; and the *Brilliant*, of 30 guns, commanded by Captain Logie; sailed from the river Tagus in Portugal, for England. On the 14th, being off Vigo, they discovered three sail of ships, one of the line of battle, and two frigates, standing in for the land.

1761.

EUROPE.

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Bellona and
Courageux.

These vessels no sooner perceived the British ships, than they bore down upon them, till within the distance of seven miles. A hazy atmosphere made the English vessels appear much larger than they really were; and the three French ships (as they proved to be) dreading the issue of an encounter, suddenly wore round, filled all their sails, and crowded away. The English captains immediately gave chase, until sun-set, when, one of the French frigates hauling out in the offing, Captain Faulkner displayed a signal to the Brilliant to pursue in that direction. The chase was continued all night, and, at five in the morning, they approached so near as to discern the strength and size of the French ships. They proved to be the Courageux of 74 guns, and the Malicieuse and Hermione of 36 guns each. The French commodore was at such a distance, that he might still have avoided an engagement; but he no longer declined it. The mist was now dispelled, the air perfectly serene and clear, and he perceived that one of the English ships was a frigate; and the Bellona, from her peculiar construction, appeared at a distance considerably less than she really was. He accordingly made a signal for his two frigates to close with and attack the Brilliant, hauled down his studding sails, wore round, and stood for the Bellona under his topsails. Captain Faulkner, having manned his quarters, and made every necessary disposition for engaging, advanced towards the Frenchman with an easy sail. The sea was undulated by a gentle breeze; and the ships, fully prepared for action, approached each other with

1761.

EUROPE.

a profound and awful silence. Never was there a more equal match. Both ships were commanded by officers of approved courage and ability; and their burthen, number of guns, and weight of metal, were the same. The *Courageux* had 700 men, the *Bellona* 550. The fire on both sides was suspended, until they were within pistol-shot of each other, when the action commenced with a most dreadful discharge of cannon and musketry. In a very few minutes, the rigging of the *Bellona* was entirely cut and shattered by the shot, and the mizzen-mast fell over the stern, with all the men on the round top, who saved their lives with great difficulty, by clambering into the port-holes. Apprehensive that the enemy would seize the opportunity of his being disabled, to sheer off, Captain Faulkner gave orders for immediate boarding; a measure, however, which was rendered altogether impracticable by the position of the two ships. The *Courageux* was now falling athwart the bow of the *Bellona*, and would infallibly have raked her fore and aft, as the haul-yards, and most of the other ropes by which the *Bellona* could be worked, were already shot away. By the dexterity of Captain Faulkner, the ship was wore round with the studding sails, and fell upon the opposite quarter of the *Courageux*. His officers and men, perceiving this change of position, immediately flew to the guns on the other side, now opposed to the enemy, from which they poured a most terrible discharge, and continued it without intermission or abatement. The calmness of the sea permitted the full use of the

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Bellona and
Courageux.

1761.

EUROPE.

heavy artillery, and the execution it did on the *Courageux* was dreadful. The engagement continued, in this furious manner, for twenty minutes, when the French ensign was hauled down.

THE battle ceased; the British sailors left their quarters; and the officers were congratulating on the success of the day, when a shot was unexpectedly fired from the lower tier of the *Courageux*. The seamen immediately ran to their quarters, and, without orders, poured in two broad-sides upon the enemy, who now called for quarter, and an end was put to the engagement. —The *Bellona* had suffered considerably in her rigging, but her hull was scarcely touched; and the number of the killed and wounded, did not exceed 40. The *Courageux* appeared like a wreck on the water. Nothing was left standing, but her fore-mast and bowsprit; large breaches were made in her sides, many of her guns dismounted, and her decks were strewed with carnage. Above 220 of her men were killed; and half that number was brought ashore, wounded, to Lisbon, to which place the prize was conveyed.

Dexterity
of Captain
Logie.

THE valour and address of Captain Logie in the *Brilliant*, contributed, in a great measure, to the success of the *Bellona*. He had two frigates to engage, the least of which was of equal strength with the ship he commanded. He could not attempt to board, or expect to make prize of either; he therefore determined to amuse them both, so as to prevent their assisting the *Courageux*. This he effected with great dexterity, and obliged them both to sheer off, considerably damaged in their masts and rigging.

To what cause must we ascribe this continued superiority of the English, in naval engagements? "Is it not," says a celebrated French writer, "that the sea is the essential element of the English, whereas the French can do without it; and that every nation always succeeds best in those things of which it stands in absolute need? May it not arise from London's being a sea-port, whereas Paris sees only a few boats passing upon the Seine? Or, may not the English climate and soil produce men of a more robust and vigorous habit of body, and minds more fitted to labour and fatigue, than that of France, in the same manner as it produces dogs and horses more proper for the chase?"

Allowing this to be case; how shall we account for the inferiority of the French sailors, in managing their guns? They are regularly taught the practical part of gunnery, an advantage which the English have seldom the opportunity of acquiring. To what then must it be owing, but to that bravery and resolution, which no education or discipline can bestow, and which never forsakes them in the moment of danger. By these they remain in full possession of their faculties, at a time when the French are frequently rendered incapable of any vigorous exertion either of mind or body.

• Voltaire.

C H A P. XXXIII.

Negotiation for peace—Interference of Spain—Conferences broke off—Resignation of Mr. Pitt—War declared against Spain.

1761.

EUROPE.

NOTHING, but repeated misfortunes, and the inability under which France found herself to maintain the war, could have disposed her councils to peace. The pacific sentiments of Britain, were influenced, by her having obtained, during the war, its original object, security for her American possessions, to which the war in Germany was no more than secondary. In the beginning of the year 1761, the belligerent powers agreed to renew certain negotiations, which had been abruptly broken off in the end of the year 1759; and Augsburg in Germany was appointed for the place of conference, the Duc de Choiseul being appointed the French plenipotentiary. It soon appeared, that the negotiation, through the complication of interests concerned in it, must be inextricable, unless matters were previously adjusted between Great Britain and France. It was agreed, therefore, that the British and French ministers should enter upon a treaty, by agency; and accordingly M. Bussy was sent to London, as Mr. Stanley was to Paris, for that purpose.

M. Bussy, the French minister, on his arrival in Great Britain, perceived a diversity of disposition in the people, as to the object of peace: the

1761.

EUROPE.

one more flexible, earnest, and gentle; the other more firm, indifferent, and blunt. To discriminate those two parties, we shall rank the first under the name of Lord Bute,* and the last under that of Mr. Pitt.

THE principles of the former, were as follow. Our German connections, had been an old and popular complaint; and our career of glory and success, had furnished us with acquisitions, not only to accomplish the end for which the war was undertaken, but also to gratify us with the prospect of large and additional advantages. In this situation, it was no unnatural event, that minds of the best and noblest dispositions, should be inclined towards establishing the peace and repose of Europe. This inclination derived accumulated force and vigour from the prospect of national felicity, arising from the introduction to government, of a young prince, whose good and benevolent dispositions might be less obstructed by the hurry and accidents of a turbulent uncertain state of war, and more extensively diffuse themselves, and endear the growing affections of his people, by easing them of the burthens and taxes they so chearfully complied with, enlarging their commerce, and giving them all the blessings of a prosperous peace, under the influence of public virtue, and the advancement of the elegant

Principles
of Lord
Bute and
his party,
respecting
a peace.

* This nobleman may be said to have cultivated the mind of his Majesty from his cradle. He was the constant companion of his solitude, and was now admitted to a share in the administration. He succeeded the Earl of Holderness as secretary of state for the northern department, and was supposed to stand with Mr. Pitt, as joint manager of public affairs.

1761.

EUROPE.

and polite arts. Peace was the only means of attaining those blessings in view ; and therefore an immediate negotiation for that purpose was necessary, lest the present state of affairs might be changed for the worse.

Principles
of Mr. Pitt
and his
party.

MR. PITT, and those comprehended in his system of conduct, differed materially in their principles from the above. They were not averse to peace. In the midst of our glory and conquests, the British court generously manifested its equity and humanity for preventing the farther ravages of war, by making overtures to that of France, for coming to an accommodation. These overtures were rejected by that petulant and haughty court, with the scorn and contempt of conquerors. From this recent event, from the duplicity and insincerity of the French in all their transactions, from their movements and machinations at all the other courts of Europe, and from their unintermitting approaches towards the most intimate coalition and union of interests with Spain, it was evident, that their professions were little to be depended on. It was, therefore, natural for minds of the most exalted greatness, to think, that, as they had conducted the war with unexampled vigour, which had been followed by unparalleled success, they should improve this success, and continue the exertion of this vigour, till the enemy should be brought to relent, and become sincere in their desires after peace ; not indulged in negotiations to amuse and relax our spirit, whilst they were drawing breath, improving by our inattention, and looking out for auxiliaries, and fresh associates, to

1761.

EUROPE.

renew the war. They should be pushed in every strong and attainable post, till reduced to fix at once the capital terms of peace, in clear and well-executed preliminaries.

Bussy improved upon this spirit of opposition; and, while he rendered himself agreeable, by his courtesy and address, to the speculators of negotiation, he dexterously threw into a farcical light, every virtue of those who were for pushing on our advantages with unremitting vigour. He plied Mr. Pitt with the common places of compliments and soothing expressions; but the genius of that minister disdained those mechanical arts, which the court of Versailles, and some perhaps at that of St. James's, thought to be essentials.*

EVERY thing being thus prepared, Bussy presented to the British minister, what he called a private memorial, intimating, that his Catholic Majesty should be invited to accede to the guaranty of the treaty, and that his concerns likewise should be included in this negotiation. Those were comprized under the three following heads. *First*, Satisfaction for Spanish captures made by the English flag, for which there was little or no colour of complaint. *2dly*, The claim of the Spaniards to fish upon the banks of Newfoundland; †

Spain interferes in the negotiation.

* It has been thought, that, at the beginning of the negotiation of Mess. Bussy and Stanley, the former had in reserve, the unexpected interposition of Spain to retard the conclusion of the treaty; and that the chief object of his mission, was to irritate and force the partizans of peace to discover themselves.

† The history of the Spanish claim to fish upon the banks of Newfoundland, is curious.—Newfoundland is not the most inviting country in the world, and has occasionally passed through several hands,

1761.
EUROPE.

Conference
broke off.

and, *lastly*, The demolition of the English settlements made in the bay of Honduras.—From this, and the Duc de Choiseul's declaration about the same time, it appears, that the courts of France and Spain had combined together, and entered into deliberate, strong, and intimate engagements; by which the crown of Spain was to direct and guaranty our peace with France, and the French king adjust our differences with Spain. But vigour animated the court of Britain. Mr. Pitt, by order of the king, returned to M. Bussy his memorial, as totally inadmissible; and broke off the conferences, by intimating the recal of Mr Stanley, and the dismissal of M. Bussy. He called on the Spanish ambassador to disavow the memorial given in by Bussy; but the Spaniard, instead of disavowing, openly acknowledged and justified the step taken by the Frenchman. He declared, that the kings of France and Spain were

Nothing is more indisputable, than that the original right of it, by discovery, belonged to the crown of England, so far back as the reign of Henry the 7th. But the climate was so uninviting, that the English, though they never made any formal cession of it, about the year 1570, neglected it so greatly, that the Biscayneers, or, as they are called, the Guipuscoans, for the benefit of the Spanish lent-observers, fished on the banks of Newfoundland, and otherwise carried on a considerable trade there in furs and skins, till, in the year 1579, the English re-asserted their right to the place; and, in the year 1583, Sir Humphrey Gilbert, a Devonshire gentleman, took an exclusive possession of it, by a commission under Queen Elizabeth.—Notwithstanding these facts are incontestable, the Spaniards never lost sight of the right of pasturage they pretended to on this sea-common, the most fertile and profitable of any in the world. They mentioned it at the treaty of Utrecht, where it was not thought worthy of a serious discussion; and it remained dormant, till, to the amazement of the world, it was revived in the negotiation at London in the year 1761, between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Bussy.

1761.

EUROPE.

united, not only by the ties of blood, but by mutual interest. He insisted much on the sincere desire of peace, the only motive which influenced the conduct of the two monarchs; and concluded, in the true style of Spanish rhodomontade, that, if his master had been actuated by any other principles, his Catholic Majesty, giving full scope to his greatness, would have spoken from himself, and as became his dignity.

ORDERS were immediately communicated to Lord Bristol at Madrid, to remonstrate, with energy and firmness, on the unexampled irregularity of that court; to desire a proper explanation, with regard to the naval armaments, which had been so long preparing in the various ports of Spain; and to come to some explicit and categorical eclaircissement, with regard to the destination of her fleets, as well as with respect to her dispositions to maintain and cultivate friendship and good correspondence with Great Britain.—The dispatches from Lord Bristol arrived on the 11th of September, transmitting a paper of M. Wall, the Spanish minister, containing the sentiments of that court, which fully, amply, and affectionately owns and vindicates her whole proceedings with France, and intimates the warmest attachment and adherence to the interests of that court.

MR. PITT seems to have seen clearly, at this time, the ultimate and secret views of Spain; and, in this prospect, he stood recollected in all his innate vigour and firmness. He considered this explanation of the Catholic king's sentiments, as a full declaration of his engagements and resolutions