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“ Circles of the *Empire*. The General, whom all
 “ the World did Justice, and who, likewise, took
 “ Care to do it himself, was extremely appreh-
 “ ensive of a Peace, which would have render’d
 “ his great Talents useless. The Misfortunes
 “ which had happen’d, in *Spain* and the *Empire*,
 “ made him fear, that the *Allies* might be more
 “ dispos’d, this Year, to give Ear to Pacifick
 “ Proposals, than they had been in the foregoing.
 “ The Intent of his Journey was not only to set
 “ aside all such Thoughts, but to excite them to
 “ continue the War, with new Vigour; And he
 “ assur’d them, in the Name of the Queen, that
 “ Her Majesty would entertain no Thoughts of
 “ a Peace, ’till the *Allies* had obtain’d all they
 “ had to ask of *France*, and ’till that Monarchy
 “ was reduced to the State it was in, under *Lewis*,
 “ XIII. Our Captain Negociator (as my Author
 “ calls the Duke) urged the Princes and Depu-
 “ ties very much to furnish their Contingents in
 “ Time, and to augment their Forces with 30,000
 “ Men, for the ensuing Campaign. The Mem-
 “ bers of the *Empire* absolutely rejected this Pro-
 “ posal. The Duke, who was never at a Loss
 “ for an Expedient, proposed, that the *Emperour*,
 “ *England*, and the *United Provinces* should fur-
 “ nish 10,000 Men each. This Proposal, the
 “ *Emperour*’s Minister highly exclaim’d against;
 “ And *Mon. de Geldermalsen* seem’d not much less
 “ surpriz’d at it. He argued, with great Vehe-
 “ mence, that the Republick was exhausted, by
 “ the extraordinary Disbursements they had been
 “ at, to keep up a Diversion in *Spain*, *Portugal*
 “ and *Piedmont*. In vain the Duke protested,
 “ that both the Queen, and himself, would leave
 “ no Stone unturn’d to engage the *Parliament*
 “ to provide for the greater Part of this Aug-
 “ mentation.

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mentation. They neither would nor could consent to any Thing. So (says a certain Historian,) the Duke of *Mairborough* return'd to *England* equally dissatisfied with his Journey to the *Rhine*, his Campaign, and his Negotiation at *Frankfort*.

" I do not (*continues my Author*) in the least Doubt, but the Admirers of this famous General will take it amiss, that I attribute the Pains the Duke was at to animate and buoy up the Minds of the *Allies*, to his Aversion to a Peace. Let such shew me what other Motive it can be ascrib'd to? Was it an Attachment to the House of *Austria*, and an Inclination to have whatever had been taken from that Illustrious Family, by *Lewis, XIV.* restor'd? Such an Attachment, in an *English Protestant*, would not fall very short of Folly. Was it a Hatred to *France*? He always behaved with great Politeness and Humanity to the *French* who fell into his Hands. Was it a Conviction, that the Safety of *England* depended upon a Depressing of the House of *Bourbon*, and Augmenting the Power of the House of *Austria*? It may be sufficient to answer to this, that he was Master of some good Sense and Penetration. Was it a Zeal for the *Protestant* Religion in general, or for the Church of *England* in particular, that urg'd him to abate the Power of *France*, that She might not be in a Capacity to undertake any Thing to the Prejudice of either? Tho' a certain Author of his Life; pretends he receiv'd the Sacrament, according to the Rites of the Church of *England*, the Eve of the famous Battle of *Hochstadt*, all the World agrees, that Piety and Devotion, and especially such fervent and

" zealous

“ zealous Piety, was never his Characteristick.
 “ Was it a Zeal for His Royal Mistress, whose
 “ Right to the Crown, *France* had call’d in
 “ Question? He knew too well the Disposition
 “ of that Crown, to give Her Majesty Satisfac-
 “ tion on this Head. We are, therefore, under
 “ a Necessity of returning to the Motives I at
 “ first alledg’d, and must own that the Duke of
 “ *Marlborough*, who was form’d under King
 “ *William*, and had imbib’d His Maxims and
 “ Tendencies, was inclin’d to War for his pri-
 “ vate Security and Interest, to which I may
 “ add, that he had so much the more Reason to
 “ be fond of it, because, ’till then, it had proved
 “ infinitely Glorious to him.

WHAT a Heap of insinulative Scandal, Malice
 or Envy, is here thrown upon the greatest Man
 of his Age; under the sacred Veil of Reason,
 and evincing Argument, tho’ not supported by
 either. Our Author’s Questions are of such a
 Nature that they answer themselves, to the Ad-
 vantage of our *Hero*; And his own Answers are
 so weak and evasive, that they need no Confuta-
 tion, I shall, therefore, only ask him a Question
 or two, in my Turn. Were not the Supineness of
 that Lethargick Body, the *Empire*, and the Back-
 wardness of all the *Allies* in general, the *Dutch*
 not excepted, more than sufficient Motives for
 the Duke to act as he did, without hooking his
 private Interest into the Question? Surely they
 were! Was not the Honour, as well as the In-
 terest, of every one of the *Allies* equally at Stake,
 and ought not the Generals and Ministers of every
 one of them, to have acted in the same Manner
 as the Duke did, in Proportion to their respec-
 tive Influences over the whole? Certainly they
 would have done it, if they had been moved by

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so fervent a Zeal for the Good of the Common Cause! What Proportion then can the Duke's private Views, if he had any, bear to these weighty Motives, of such Importance to all *Europe*? What were the Views, or rather Resolutions and Engagements of the *Allies*, at Entering into this War? Were they, at this Time, fully accomplish'd? Did *France* shew any Tendency towards giving the *Allies* that Satisfaction they expected. What more effectual Means to oblige *France* to it than those the Duke propos'd? What Reason had the *Emperour* to exclaim against the Proposal? Was not the House of *Austria* to be the greatest Gainer by the War? Why should the *Dutch* be surpriz'd at it? Or rather should not they have made it? They certainly had an immediate Benefit by it, as well by their clandestine Trade, as the Encrease of their Power. Fortresses were daily putting into their Hands, and others propos'd to be conquered, as they were in the Sequel, and all for their Security. When our Author has answer'd these Questions, I have another *Bede-Roll* at his Service. I agree with him, that the Duke came away dissatisfied; But it was at the ungenerous Return he found made to the super-abundant Readiness of *England*, to sacrifice their all, for the Good of the Common Cause.

A laudable Resolution of the States General.

THE Duke, during his Stay, at the *Hague*, communicated to the *States-General* what pass'd at *Francfort*; And their Deputies having had several Conferences with the *Imperial* Ministers, Their *High-Mightinesses* resolv'd, to use all possible Means to engage the *Empire*, to make greater Efforts for the future, than they had hitherto done. In Order to this, they wrote a pressing Letter to the Diet of *Ratisbon*, wherein
after

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after having represented the great Deficiencies, and Delays of the *Germanick* Body, from Time to Time, in the Performance of what They were, by Treaty, bound to, and the evil Consequences, which had hitherto attended them, they concluded by saying; " That Their *High Mightinesses* would continue to contribute Their Utmost, towards bringing about the great Work, They had, jointly with them, undertaken; But that They expected the like, from His *Imperial* Majesty, and the *Empire*, seeing they were obliged to it by Their Alliances and Common Interest; And, in Case of Non-Performance, Their *High Mightinesses* protested against all the ill Consequences thereof.

THUS have we seen, that this Year did not prove very prosperous to the Arms of the *Allies*, as I just hinted, at the Beginning of this Chapter: Yet, tho' no Conquests were made in the *Netherlands*, it tended to the Honour of the Duke of *Marlborough*, whose excellent Judgment, and unwearied Application, were visible in every Transaction even of this barren Campaign, and must be acknowledged by every unprejudiced Person.

A Remark on the Campaign in the Netherlands.

I SHALL not need to say much here, with Respect to the Affairs of other Parts, during this Campaign, having premised something, as an Introduction to this Year's Transactions. For the Affairs on the *Upper Rhine*, I shall only add; That after the *Elect* of *Hannover* was prevailed upon, as I have said above, to take upon him the Command of the *Imperial* Army, by that Prince's Vigilance and good Conduct, the Face of Affairs was entirely changed, in Favour of the *Confederates*, towards the End of the Campaign, and seemed to promise fair for the next.

Some Observations on Affairs in other Parts.

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THE Grand Design of the *Allies*, this Campaign, was the Siege of *Toulon*, which, tho' it proved so far unsuccessful, that they were obliged to raise the Siege, yet they made their Retreat with an inconsiderable Loss, which was more than ten-fold recompensed by the Loss the *French* suffered in their Shipping, and was greater than they ever sustain'd in any Naval Fight, and which they have not recovered to this Day; For a particular Account of which, I refer the Reader to *Lediard's Naval History*.

THE *Allies* had, however, some Acquisitions to boast off, this Campaign, and those not inconsiderable: I mean the Reduction of the whole Kingdom of *Naples*, to the Obedience of the *Emperour*,^o with the *Spanish* Towns on the Coast of *Tuscany*, and the Taking of *Susa*, in *Piedmont*.

The Duke of Marlborough returns to England.

The Duke of *Marlborough* having concluded several weighty Affairs with the *States General*, embark'd for *England*, and came to *St. James's*, the seventh of *November*, O. S. The Importance of this Year's Transactions, as far as the Duke of *Marlborough* was concern'd in them, not being so considerable as to be taken Notice of in *Parliament*, in his Grace's Favour; I should have had nothing of *Parliamentary* Affairs to mention this Year, had not a memorable Debate arisen, in the *House of Peers*, which too nearly concerned the Duke, and his Honour, to be pass'd by in Silence; I shall, therefore, mention as much of it, as immediately related to his Grace.

A memorable Debate in the House of Lords, about the Earl of Peterborough and the Affairs of Spain.

THE nineteenth of *December*, there was a long and memorable Debate in the *House of Lords*, in Relation to the Affairs of *Spain*, the Queen being present *incognito*, till Five of the Clock, in the Afternoon: The Earl of *Rocheſter* spoke first, and, having commended the Earl of *Peterborough's*

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Courage and Conduct, and enumerated his Services, said it had been a constant Custom, that when a Person of his Rank, that had been employed abroad, in so eminent a Post, as his Lordship had, return'd Home, he had either Thanks given him, or was called to an Account: Urging that the same ought to be done in Relation to the Earl of *Peterborough*. The Lord *Hallifax* who spoke next, enlarg'd likewise on the Earl of *Peterborough's* successful Services, but dexterously put off the returning him Thanks, 'till the whole Tenor of his Conduct had been examined, than which the Earl himself profess'd, he had nothing more at Heart. The Lord *Haversham* was not silent: But having highly extolled the Earl of *Peterborough's* Valour, Skill, and Successes, made a Side-Wind Reflection on the Earl of *Galloway*, saying, *'Twas no Wonder our Affairs in Spain went so ill, since the Management of them had been entrusted to a Foreigner.* Hereupon several Members shew'd the Necessity of carrying on the War, 'till the whole Monarchy of *Spain* was recover'd, and King *Charles* settled on his Throne; And, among the Rest, the Earl of *Peterborough* said, *that they ought to give the Queen nineteen Shillings in the Pound, rather than to make Peace upon any other Terms, Adding, that if it was thought necessary, he was ready to return to Spain, and serve even under the Earl of Galloway.* This naturally brought on the Consideration of Ways and Means to retrieve the Affairs of *Spain*, in relation to which the Earl of *Rocheſter* said: *That we seemed to neglect the principal Business, and mind only Accessories;* Adding, he remembred the Saying of a great General, the old Duke of *Schomberg*, viz. *That the Attacking of France in the Netherlands, was like Taking a Bull by the Horns.*

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The Duke of
Marlborough's
Speech.

And therefore his Lordship proposed, *That we should stand on the Defensive in Flanders, and send from thence 15, or 20,000 Men into Catalonia.* That noble Peer was seconded by the Earl of Nottingham, who complained of *Spain* being in a Manner abandoned. But the Duke of Marlborough shew'd, with some Warmth, the Danger of such an undigested Council, and the Necessity of augmenting rather than diminishing our Forces in *Flanders*. The two chief Reasons his Grace urg'd were, First, *That most of the Enemies strong Places there might be kept with one Battalion in each; Whereas the great Towns of Brabant, we had conquered, required twenty Times that Number of Men, for their Preservation.* Secondly, *That if our Army in the Netherlands was weakened, and the French, by their great Superiority, should gain any considerable Advantage, which it was not improbable they might, the Discontented Party in Holland, who were not a few, and bore with Impatience the necessary Charges of the War, would not fail crying aloud for Peace.* Hereupon the Earl of Rochester said, *He wonder'd that noble Peer, who had been ever conspicuous for his Calmness and Moderation, should now be out of his Temper; Adding, that there being an absolute Necessity to succour Spain, his Grace would oblige their Lordships, if he would let them know, where they might get Troops to send thither; and the more, because the Earl of Peterborough had, that very Day, assur'd them, he had heard Prince Eugene say, That the German Soldiers had rather be decimated than sent into Spain.* The Duke of Marlborough wisely answered the Reproach of having shew'd some Warmth, by saying, *The Thing was of too great Importance to be spoken of without Concernment; And as for the Question proposed by the Earl, he added, That*

as tho'

altho' it was improper to disclose secret Projects in so great an Assembly, (to which that Day many Strangers had been admitted by the Favour of the Queen's Presence) because the Enemy would not fail being inform'd of them; Yet, to gratify their Lordships, he might assure them, that Measures had been already concerted with the Emperor, for the forming an Army of 40,000 Men, (whom he specified under the Command of the Duke of Savoy) and for sending powerful Succours to King Charles; Adding, it was to be hoped, that Prince Eugene might be prevailed with to go and command in Spain, in which Case the Germans would gladly follow him thither. The only Difficulty which his Grace said might be objected against this Scheme, was the usual Slowness of the Court of Vienna, to which Purpose he took Notice, That if the 7000 German Recruits, which the Emperor had promised for the Army in Piedmont, had arrived Time enough, the Enterprize against Toulon, might have been attended with Success; But that it was to be hoped, and he durst engage his Word for it, that for the future, his Imperial Majesty would punctually perform his Promises. Upon which the Debate ended.





C H A P. VII.

The Campaign in Flanders, with other Transactions, before the Battle of Oudenarde.

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Several Transactions at Home, the Beginning of this Year.



CONCLUDED the foregoing Chapter with an Account of a Memorable Debate in the *House of Lords*, in which the Duke of *Marlborough* had a large Share, and which, indeed, was chiefly level'd at Him. Complaints were also made of his Grace, by his Enemies, for continuing the War, tho' at the Conclusion of the Year 1706, the *French* had offer'd to yield up *Spain* and the *West Indies*; But this, says a late Author, was a false Suggestion. All these Heats, in Parliament, after they had got this Vent, were abated, upon Assurances given by the Queen, that all past Errors should be redress'd for the future. The Duke of *Marlborough*, and his Friends had, however, at this Juncture, several Uneasinesses to encounter with; For the better Understanding of which, I must previously inform the Reader of some Things, which were, as I may say, a Prelude to what ensued.

The Duchess of Marlborough declines in the Queen's Favour.

THE Duchess of *Marlborough*, who hitherto had almost engross'd the Queen's Favour, began now very much to decline in Her Majesty's Esteem, and in the Credit she had formerly had.

Her

Her Grace had introduced one Mrs. Masbam into the Queen's Service; And this Lady had found Means to insinuate herself so far into the Queen's good Graces, that she began to eclipse the Ducheſs, and to become almost Her Majesty's only Favourite. Mr. Harley (afterwards Earl of Oxford) then Secretary of State, and at the Head of the Party, which opposed the Duke and his Adherents, and was endeavouring to supplant them, at Court, began likewise to grow daily in the Queen's Favour, and to have great Influence over Her Measures.

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Mrs. Masbam and Mr. Harley gain Her Esteem.

Two Discoveries were made, at this Time, unluckily for Mr. Harley. One was of a private Correspondence, carried on with France, by one Gregg, a Clerk of the Secretary's Office, whom this Gentleman had not only entertained, but taken into a particular Confidence; Who was, hereupon, tried and executed for it: But it did not appear, that Mr. Harley was any Way privy to, or had given the least Countenance to this illicit Correspondence: The other, that Valiere and Bara, whom he had employed, as his Spies, to go oft over to Calais, under the Pretence of bringing him Intelligence, were informed against, as Spies employed by France, to get Intelligence from England. They were often complained of, upon Suspicion, but were always protected by Mr. Harley; Yet the Presumptions against them were so violent, that they were, at last, seized on, and brought up Prisoners for it. "These Accidents (says a late Author) might make Mr. Harley more earnest, to bring about a Change in the Conduct of Affairs, in which he relied on the Credit of the new Favourite.

Two Discoveries made to the Prejudice of Mr. Harley.

The Duke of Marlborough and the Lord Godolphin

THE Duke of Marlborough, and the Lord Treasurer (continues my Author) having discovered Complaints against him.

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*And offer to lay
down their
Places.*

*Uneasiness of
the Cabinet-
Council, on this
Occasion.*

“ ver’d many of his Practices, laid them before
 “ the Queen: She would believe nothing, that
 “ was suggested to his Prejudice; Nor would
 “ She enter into any Examination of his ill
 “ Conduct; But was uneasy when She heard it
 “ spoke off: So these Lords wrote to the
 “ Queen, that they could serve Her no longer,
 “ if he was continued in that Post. The Sun-
 “ day following, when they were summoned to
 “ a Cabinet Council, they both went to the
 “ Queen, and told Her, they must quit Her
 “ Service, since they saw, She was resolved not
 “ to part with *Harley*. She seemed not much
 “ concerned, at the Lord *Godolphin*’s Offering to
 “ lay down, and it was believed to be Part of
 “ Mr. *Harley*’s new Scheme to remove him;
 “ But She was much touched with the Duke of
 “ *Marlborough*’s offering to quit, and studied,
 “ with some soft Expressions, to divert him from
 “ that Resolution; But he was firm, and She
 “ did not yield to them; So they both went
 “ away, to the Wonder of the whole Court.
 “ Immediately after, the Queen went to the
 “ Cabinet-Council, and Mr. *Harley* opened some
 “ Matters, relating to foreign Affairs: The
 “ whole Board was very uneasy; The Duke of
 “ *Sommerfet* said, he did not see how they could
 “ deliberate on such Matters, since the General
 “ was not with them; He repeated this, with
 “ some Vehemence, while all the Rest looked
 “ so cold and fullen, that the Cabinet-Council
 “ was soon at an End; And the Queen saw,
 “ that the Rest of Her Ministers, and the chief
 “ Officers, were resolved to withdraw from Her
 “ Service, if She did not re-call the two, that had
 “ left it. It was said, that She would have put
 “ all to the Hazard, if Mr. *Harley* himself ha-
 “ not

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“ not apprehended his Danger, and resolved to
 “ lay down. The Queen sent, the next Day,
 “ for the Duke of *Marlborough*; and, after some
 “ Expostulations, She told him, *Harley* should
 “ immediately leave his Post, which he did with-
 “ in two Days, (viz. the eleventh of February;) *Mr. Harley*
 “ But the Queen seemed to carry a deep Resent- *and several*
 “ ment of his and the Lord *Godolphin*’s Beha- *others lay down*
 “ viour, on this Occasion; And, tho’ they went *their Places.*
 “ on with their Business, they found they had
 “ not Her Confidence.

“ THE Duchess of *Marlborough* did, for some
 “ Weeks, abstain from going to Court; But,
 “ afterwards, that Breach was made up in Ap-
 “ pearance, tho’ it was little more than an Ap-
 “ pearance. Both *Houses of Parliament* express’d
 “ a great Concern, at this Rupture, in the Court,
 “ and apprehended the ill Effects it might have.
 “ The *Commons* let the Bill of Supply ly on the
 “ Table, tho’ it was order’d for that Day; And
 “ the Lords appointed a Committee to examine
 “ *Gregg*, and the other Prisoners. As *Harley*
 “ laid down, *Harcourt*, then Attorney-General,
 “ *Mansel*, the Comptroller of the Household,
 “ and *St. John*, the Secretary of War, went and
 “ laid down with him. The Queen took much
 “ Time to consider, how She should fill up some
 “ of their Places; But *Mr. Boyle*, Uncle to the *Mr. Boyle*
 “ Earl of *Burlington*, was, the next Day, made *made Secretary*
 “ Secretary of State. *of State.*

A FEW Days after this Breach happen’d at *Scotland*
 Court, the Nation was alarm’d, by News, from *threatened with*
Holland, of a Design, which the *French* no longer *an Invasion.*
 kept or could keep, a Secret, that they were
 sending the pretended Prince of *Wales* to *Scot-*
land, with a Fleet and an Army, to possess him-
 self

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self of that Kingdom, in Revenge for the late Attempt the *Confederates* had made on *Toulon*.

Great Hopes
conceiv'd by
Lewis XIV.
of this Design;

LEWIS, XIV. had conceived vast Hopes from this Undertaking: He imagined, that as soon as His Fleet had set the *Pretender* on Shoar, in *Scotland*, the whole Kingdom would rise in His Favour: And that the least Advantage gain'd on this Side would soon have brought about a Superiority of His Troops in *Flanders*; For He fondly believed, *Queen Ann* would soon be oblig'd to draw at least thirty Battalions out of those Parts; And this He concluded would soon oblige the *States General* to accept of the Terms He should propose them, to quit the *Grand Alliance*, and to make a separate Peace. But this vast Project vanish'd into Air. Contrary Winds prevented their Fleet putting to Sea 'till the whole Matter was discover'd. An Ague hinder'd the *Pretender* from embarking, when he should have done; And he embark'd afterwards, when it was too late, and when all reasonable Hopes of effecting any Thing to the Purpose were lost; Insomuch that it was next to a Miracle, that he, together with his little Fleet, did not fall into the Hands of the *English*; All which gave Occasion to a Report, that *Lewis XIV.* would willingly have lost His Ships to have been rid, at the same Time, of His Guest; And that this Squadron was fitted out, with that View, if it should fail of Success: But if this was the Design, the Officers of the Fleet do not seem to have been in the Secret.

Which is wholly
frustrated.

As the Circumstances of this Matter have been lately treated, in a particular Manner, in *Lewis's Naval History*, I pass them by here, only observing, that, by the Vigilance of the Queen, and Her Ministers, the whole Design was defeated.

THE

THE Storm which threatened Great Britain being thus happily dispelled, and the necessary Measures for the Security of the Government taken, his Grace, the Duke of Marlborough, set out from London, the nine and twentieth of March, early in the Morning, and having reach'd Mar-

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gate, embark'd there, that Evening. The next Day, at two in the Afternoon, he came in Sight of the Coast of Holland: But there being no Pilot to carry in the Yatch, his Grace came, in an open Boat, with Oars, to Maeslandt-Sluis, from whence he arriv'd, late that Night, at the Hague. Prince Eugene of Savoy, who came to that Place two Days before, upon Notice of his

The Duke of Marlborough goes to Holland.

Arrival, sent him immediately a Compliment, and let him know, he would make him a Visit about nine the next Morning: But his Grace, with his usual Politeness, prevented him, and, at eight, went to see the Prince, who, returning, the Visit, about Noon, they then went together to the Grand Pensionary, Heinsius. They were entertain'd, at Dinner, by the Baron de Bothmar, the Elector of Hannover's Envoy: Whither vast Crowds of People resorted, to see these two great Generals, particularly Prince Eugene; Who, having never been in Holland before, raised an eager Curiosity, in all the Inhabitants of that Country, to behold him.

Meets Prince Eugene at the Hague.

BEFORE I proceed, I must say a Word or two of what Measures the French, on their Side, were taking, for the opening of the Campaign. The small Advantages they had obtained, the last Year, tho' they were sufficiently mortified, that the prudent Conduct of the Duke of Marlborough had not let them gain any Thing in the Netherlands, spirited them to entertain several towering Projects, and to make still greater Efforts,

Confers with him and the Grand Pensionary.

The French make Alterations in their Generals.

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forts, to regain their former Superiority ; And, indeed their Forces, this Year, seemed to be more numerous than ever, especially in the *Netherlands*, where it was believed the *Electör* of *Bavaria*, and the Duke *de Vendôme* would have again commanded : But an unexpected Alteration was suddenly made, and the King of *France* declared the Duke of *Burgundy Generalissimo* of his Forces in *Flanders* : Appointing the Duke *de Vendôme* to serve under him ; and he was to be accompanied by the Duke *de Berry*, and the Pretender, who was returned from his unsuccessful Expedition to *Scotland*. The *Electör* of *Bavaria* was to command on the *Rhine*, with the Duke of *Berwick* under him, the *Marshall de Villars* being recalled, and appointed to command in *Dauphiny*. These Proceedings of the *French King* surprized every one ; But He conceived great Hopes from these Alterations of his Generals

Conferences between the Duke of Marlborough, Prince Eugene, and the Deputies of the States.

THE twelfth of *April*, N. S. in the Evening, there was a great Conference, between Prince *Eugene*, the Duke of *Marlborough*, the Deputies of the *States* for Private Affairs, and the *Grand Pensionary*, in the Chambers of *Triers*, the usual Place of Conferences in the *States* Apartment ; Which was pitch'd upon, to avoid the Trouble of the Ceremonial : For otherwise, it must have been at the Duke of *Marlborough's*, as Ambassador Extraordinary ; Whereas Prince *Eugene* had no Character, his Credentials importing only, " That his *Imperial Majesty* had sent his first Counsellour, President of the " Council of War, and General-Lieutenant, " Prince *Eugene*, to concert the Operations of " the Campaign, in whom the *States* were " fired to put an entire Confidence." As soon

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as they were entered the Room, the Duke of *Marlborough*, in a very civil Manner, took Prince *Eugene* by the Hand, and led him to a Seat above his own, after which, the *States* Deputies placed themselves, without observing any Precedency among them. Prince *Eugene* open'd the Conference with a Speech; Wherein, in a plain, natural, but pathetick Manner, "He gave a particular Account of the *Emperour's* Forces in *Naples*, *Lombardy*, and *Piedmont*, and of those designed for *Spain*, and having mentioned the Troops, which His *Imperial* Majesty intended to employ in *Germany*, he gave, in very modest Terms, his own Opinion of the Operations of the next Campaign, both on the *Upper Rhine*, and the *Low Countries*; Concluding, that he had Instructions from his *Imperial* Majesty, to use his Endeavours to engage the Queen of *Great Britain*, and the *States General*, to approve the Scheme he had proposed, and to second, on their Parts, his *Imperial* Majesty's Efforts, both to reduce the exorbitant Power of *France*, and to restore his Brother, King *Charles*, III. to the whole Monarchy of *Spain*." The manly and nervous Eloquence, with which Prince *Eugene* express'd himself, was admir'd by all who were present; and after he had ended his Discourse, the Duke of *Marlborough* acquainted the Assembly with the Instructions he had received from the Queen, his Mistress, in Relation to the Business before them: And, at last, Mention was made of a separate Army, to be commanded by Prince *Eugene*. This Conference, which lasted above an Hour, was but a kind of *Preliminary*: For the Deputies of the *States* were not empowered to make any Answer, either to Prince

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Prince *Eugene's* or the Duke of *Marlborough's* Proposals, but only (according to the usual Methods observ'd by that wise Republick) to receive them, and to report the same to Their *High Mightinesses*, which they did, the 16th.

SEVERAL other Conferences were held, tho' more privately, between the Duke of *Marlborough*, Prince *Eugene*, and the Deputies of the *States*; The Result of which was a Mystery, and afforded Matter of Speculation to all *Europe*, for a While: But it, afterwards, appear'd to be therein resolved, "That most of the *Imperialists*

Resolutions taken in those Conferences.

"employ'd, the Year before, on the *Upper-Rhine*, with the *Saxons* and *Hessians*, in the
 "Pay of *Great Britain* and *Holland*, ~~and the~~
 "Troops, which the *Electoral Palatine* was to
 "furnish, in Consideration of His *Imperial*
 "Majesty's restoring him to the Possession of
 "the *Upper Palatinate*, with the Prerogatives
 "enjoy'd by his Ancestors, should march into
 "the *Netherlands*, to act there, under Prince
 "*Eugene*, in Concert with the *British* and *Dutch*
 "Forces, commanded, in Chief, by the Duke
 "of *Marlborough*, and, under him, by *Velt-*
 "*Marshal d'Auverquerque*." Whether Prince
Eugene, who took *Hannover* in his Way to the
Hague, then communicated the above Scheme,
 to the *Electoral* of that Name, and found him
 averse to it, or proposed other Measures to his
Electoral Highness, I cannot say: But it was
 thought fit, that Prince *Eugene*, and the Duke
 of *Marlborough*, should now both wait on that
 Prince, in order to obtain his Concurrence to
 the Resolutions taken at the *Hague*.

THE Duke of *Marlborough* intended to have gone back to *England*, before the Opening of the Campaign; But Prince *Eugene* was very
 earnest

earnest with his Grace to meet him at *Hannover*; 1708.
 And the *States General* having represented, to the Queen of *Great Britain*, the Necessity of his Presence on that Side, and how uncertain the Winds might make his timely Return, the Season being so far advanced, his Grace resolved upon the Journey to the *Hannoverian* Court. Prince *Eugene* having finish'd his Negotiations at the *Hague*, set out, the twentieth of *April*, N. S. arrived the twenty-second at *Dusseldorp*, and, having ended his Business, the next Day, with the *Elector Palatine*, and sent an Express, there-upon to *Vienna*, pursued his Journey, towards *Hannover*, the four and twentieth. The Duke *Prince Eugene* ~~of Marlborough~~ met him, the six and twentieth, and the Duke of *Marlborough* two German Miles from that Place, and arriving there, the same Evening together, they alighted at the *British* Envoy's.

THE Duke of *Marlborough* went first to *And confer with* Court, and was followed thither, soon after, by the *Elector*. Prince *Eugene*; where the several Audiences of Ceremony, which they had of the *Electoral* Family, being over, they had, together, a long Conference with the *Elector*, who gave Orders for their being accommodated in his own Palace. Their Conferences were continued, the three following Days, the Count *de Rechteren* assisting, on the Part of the *States General*. They met with some Difficulties, at first, which were removed by the dextrous and prudent Management of Prince *Eugene* and the Duke of *Marlborough*; and his *Electoral* Highness, tho' he was sensible, that, by this Scheme, for making vigorous Efforts in *Flanders*, the Army, which he was to command himself, on the *Upper Rhine*, must be extremely weakned, and he should be obliged to stand on the Defensive; Yet, at Length,

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Length, he consented to part with several Regiments, and, being satisfied with the Laurels he had already gained, chearfully sacrificed to the *Common Cause*, the Glory he might have reap'd by acting offensively.

Prudent Foresight of the Duke of Marlborough.

By this Regulation, the Duke of *Marlborough* wisely foresaw, he should surmount the Difficulties he had formerly laboured under; For, by this great Addition of Forces, he could, if Occasion required, form two Armies, and he was so well assured of the Intrepidity of his own Troops, that he resolved, if possible, to engage the Enemy, notwithstanding their Superiority; Which he might now do, without consulting the Deputies of the *States General* attending the Army, whereby he had been often disappointed in his Designs.

Mr. HOWE, her Majesty's Minister at the Court of *Hannover*, gave the following Account of the Duke's Negotiation, in a Letter to the Earl of *Manchester*.

A LETTER from E. Howe, Esq; to the Earl of Manchester.

Hannover, April 29. 1708.

MY LORD,

A Letter from " E. Howe, Esq; " to the Earl of Manchester.

HIS Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*, Prince *Eugene*, and the Count *de Rechten*, arrived here on *Thursday* Night. My Lord Duke and Prince *Eugene* met at a Post-house, two German Miles, from hence, and came together, in the same Coach, to my House; Having refreshed themselves, they went to Court, where they were lodged in the several Apartments prepared for them.

" The

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“ The next Morning, the Duke of *Marlborough*,
 “ Prince *Eugene* and the Count of *Rechteren* had
 “ a long Conference with the *Electors*, and, in
 “ the Evening, went to hear a Play. Last
 “ Night, they honoured me with their Compa-
 “ ny, and supped at my House. The *Electors*’s
 “ Baggage, that was order’d to march on
 “ *Wednesday*, was countermanded, the Day be-
 “ fore; the Waggon^s are unloaded, and remain
 “ so till farther Orders. However, the Duke
 “ of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* have pre-
 “ vail’d so far with His *Electoral* Highness, that
 “ I hope the Baggage will be sent, in a few
 “ Days, to *Frankfort*. They have performed,
 “ in this Matter, that which, I believe, nobody
 “ else could have done. Mons. *Elcetz*, whom
 “ the *Electors* had sent to *Saxony*, to treat with
 “ King *Augustus*’s Ministers, about 3,000 Horse,
 “ which were to be taken into the Service of
 “ the *Empire*, is come again, without having
 “ concluded that Treaty. I am, &c.

E. HOWE.

It will be proper to observe, in this Place, *A Stratagem*
 that, notwithstanding it was agreed, Prince *Eugene* should come into the *Netherlands*; Yet it ^{successfully put} in Practice,
 was industriously given out, that he was to act,
 with a separate Body, on the *Mosel*; Which
 obliged the Enemy to send a considerable Num-
 ber of Forces that Way, under the Command
 of the Duke of *Berwick*. The nine and twen-
 tieth, in the Afternoon, Prince *Eugene* set out
 for *Leipzig*, to confer with King *Augustus*, who ^{Prince Eugene}
 was come thither on Purpose, two Days before, ^{goes to Leip-}
 from *Dresden*. On his Highness’s Arrival there, ^{zick and Vi-}
 the first of May, he finished his Negotiations, ^{enna.}

1708. in a few Hours, and pursued his Journey, the next Day, to *Vienna*. The Duke of *Marlbrough* set out, from *Hannover*, the thirtieth of *April*, in the Morning, and arrived, the third of *May*, in the Afternoon, at the *Hague*, where his Grace communicated to the *States General* the Result of the Conferences held at *Hannover*: The Duke having concerted all farther Measures, for Opening the Campaign, with Their *High Mightinesses*, left the *Hague*, the seventh, and went to *Ghent*, where having review'd the *British* Forces, he went, the eleventh, to *Brussels*.

Ghent and
Brussels.

The Confede-
rates form their
Army;

THE Duke of *Marlbrough* having conferr'd with Velt-Marshal d' *Auverquerque*, who, notwithstanding the infirm State of Health he laboured under, preserved a vigorous Mind, and seemed resolved to dy, like a *Hero*, in the Field, gave Orders to the Troops to march to *Anderlecht*, near *Brussels*, where, accordingly, the *Dutch*, *Prussians* and *Hannoverians*, began to form the Army, the twenty-third of *May*, N. S. The six and twentieth, they march'd to *Billingen*, where the Duke of *Marlbrough* took up his Quarters, in the Abby of that Name, and the Velt-Marshal fix'd his at *Hall*, a little Town, that lay in the Front of the first Line. The *British* Forces repaired to this Camp, likewise, with all possible Expedition, as did, also, a considerable Body of Troops, in the Service of the *States General*, from their respective Garrisons in *Flanders*. And, last of all, the Field-Deputies of Their *High Mightinesses* arrived there; Who behav'd themselves this Campaign, with so much Prudence, Generosity and Resolution, that they contributed very much to the Success of it.

UPON Notice of these Motions, the Duke de Vendôme assembled his Army, the five and twentieth, between Mons and St. Gislain, and took up his Head Quarters at St. Simpronien, from whence he march'd, the next Day, to Soignies, posting his Right at Naist, and his Left, at Canchie Notre-Dame, within three Leagues of the Confederate Camp. He was joined, the same Day, by the Duke of Burgundy, who had the Chief (at least Titular) Command of the Army, together with the Duke of Berry, his Brother, and the pretended Prince of Wales, under the Romantick Name of the Chevalier de St. George.

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As do, likewise the Enemy theirs.

The Dukes of Burgundy and Berry, with the Pretender join their Armies.

BEFORE I proceed to give any farther Account of the Proceedings of these two Armies, I shall first give the Readers an Account of the Force of both, as they stood respectively, that of the Confederates, on the nine and twentieth, and that of the Enemy, on the six and twentieth of May.

The Confederate Army.

| | Battalions. | Squadrons. |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| First Line | 59 | 94 |
| Second Line | 53 | 86 |
| Total | 112 | 180 |

ARTILLERY.

| | Cannon. |
|---------|---------|
| English | 49 |
| Dutch | 68 |
| Total | 113 |

1708.

The Enemy's Army

| | Battalions. | Squadrons. |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| First Line | 62 | 103 |
| Second Line | 51 | 57 |
| Reserve | 11 | 37 |
| Total | 124 | 197 |

See Letter A.
above.

Marches and
Counter-
Marches of
both Armies.

THE nine and twentieth of May, the Confederate Army, which consisted of 180 Squadrons of Horse, and 112 Battalions, made a Motion from Bellinghen, advancing the Right to Herselinghen, the Left to Lembeq, and fixing the Head Quarters at St. Rendle, in Hopes of bringing the Enemy to an Engagement; Which, by their bold March to Soignies, they seem'd rather to seek than decline; Being Superiour, at least, in Number, to the Allies. For their Army consisted of 197 Squadrons, and 124 Battalions.

THE same Day, the Enemy received their heavy Baggage from Mons; But sent it back thither, the thirty-first; Which still gave the Confederates Hopes they should come to an Engagement; And, thereupon, the Duke of Marlborough ordered the Troops to be in a Readiness, to march, at an Hour's Warning. The same Evening, the Duke of Marlborough received Intelligence, that the Enemy's heavy Baggage, having received a Counter-Order, was actually returned to the Camp; and that they had forrag'd for two Days; From whence it was reasonably concluded, that they would not march the next Day, as Deserters had reported. The Duke of Marlborough having, hereupon, advis'd with the other Generals, resolv'd to send the Horse to forrage, the next Morning; And they went

went out, accordingly, before Break of Day; 1708.
But they had not been out an Hour, before Advice came, that the Enemy had begun, the Night before, at ten, to send their heavy Baggage, to Mons; And decamp'd without any Noise, about eleven, marching towards Nivelles. The Forragers were immediately recalled; And, to avoid all Loss of Time, the Infantry march'd first of all, about Noon from St. Renelle, and were followed by the Cavalry.

ABOUT four, they formed four Columns, in- *A Design of the*
tending to encamp the Right towards Anderlecht, *Enemy's,*
and the Left to Lake; But, upon farther Notice, that the Enemy had not encamp'd at Nivelles, but had continued their March, by Bois-Seigneur Isaac, to Braine La Leu, the Duke judged, that they could not have any other Design, than to post themselves, on the Banks of the Deule, to hinder the Allies from passing that River, and to seize Louvain; Being the very same Project, which the Duke de Vendôme had formed the last Year; but miscarried in it. To prevent the Enemy, there was no other Remedy, but to continue marching all Night; So that, on the third of June, in the Afternoon, the Army of the Allies arrived at the Camp of Terbank, very much fatigued as well by this long March, as by the continual Rains, which had fallen, for four and twenty Hours together.

THE French, having received Intelligence of *Prevented by an*
this expeditious March of the Confederates, did *expeditious*
not venture to advance farther than Genap; But *March.*
encamp'd their Right to that Place, and their Left to Braine la Leu. Upon which, the Duke of Marlborough took up his Quarters, in the Abby of Terbank, and Mons. d'Arverquerque his, in the Suburbs of Louvain. The fourth, several

1708. Bridges were laid on the *Deule*, between *Havre*, and *Louvain*. The fifth, almost the whole *Confederate* Army forrag'd in the Neighbourhood of their Camp; The sixth, being appointed, by his Grace, as a Day of Thanksgiving, for the past Successes of the Arms of the *Allies*, and to implore a Blessing upon the present Campaign, it was religiously observ'd throughout the whole Army.

A Thanksgiving
observed.

FROM this Camp, the Duke of *Marlborough* wrote the following Letter,

To the Earl of MANCHESTER.

Camp at *Terbank*, June 4. 1708.

MY LORD,

A Letter from
the Duke of
Marlborough,
to the Earl of
Manchester.

" I HAVE received the Honour of your
" Lordship's Letter, of the 18th past, and
" tho' I was at first very sorry to hear of an Ac-
" cident, that must, for some Time make your
" Stay at *Venice* less agreeable to you, than was
" desired by your Friends; Yet I hope the Steps
" the Queen has made, and the prudent Manage-
" ment you have observed, on this Occasion,
" will, at last, turn to Her Majesty's Honour
" and your Satisfaction. As to what you desire
" for your Return home, I suppose, you have
" wrote the same Thing to Lord *Sunderland*,
" with whom I shall be glad to join in any Thing
" you can desire; And if the Queen is pleased
" to gratify your Request, I shall think it a great
" Happiness if my Quarters happen to ly in
" your Way.

I am, &c.

MARLBOROUGH.

THI

THE Enemy continuing quiet in their Camp, 1708.
the Duke of *Marlborough* took that Opportunity
of reviewing his Troops, which he began to do *The Duke of
Marlborough
reviews the
Confederate
Army.*
the seventh, and continued for eight or nine
Days following; When he had the Satisfaction
to find, that the respective Bodies were all very
compleat, the Men in the most excellent Order,
flush'd with their former Victories, and eager to
engage an Enemy, that was despicable in their
Eyes.

IN this Camp it was, that the *Electoral* Prince
of *Hannover*, now our most Gracious Sovereign,
King *George II.* came to the Army, and was re-
ceived with the greatest Marks of Respect and
Distinction, by all the General Officers.

It was now plain that the Enemy had no Inclination to engage the *Confederates*: They had indeed, in View, the Recovery of the Places they had lost, in the Year, 1706. But it was by their usual Method of *Surprize* and *Treachery*: Nor were their Hopes altogether in vain: For the *Elect*or of *Bavaria*, who had gain'd some Interest, *The Enemy decline Fighting.*
in the *Provinces* in the *Netherlands*, among People *Under-band Practices of the
Elect*or of *Bar-
varia.*
of all Ranks, by his Profuseness and Popularity,
with the Assistance of the Count *de Bergeyck*, a
Person of great Credit, and no less Activity, and
other Friends of the House of *Bourbon*, easily
found Means to practise upon the Levity, and
restless Spirits of the chief Inhabitants of the Ci-
ties of *Ghent*, *Bruges* and *Antwerp*, who, being
uneasy under the *Dutch* Government, promised
to open their Gates to the Troops of *France* and
Spain, as soon as they could find a fair Opportunity.

THE Armies, on both Sides, had now remained *The French
surprize Ghent
and Bruges.*
a considerable Time, in their respective Camps,
without any Motion; The *Confederates*, for their
Part, being in Expectation of Prince *Eugene's*
taking

1708. taking the Field, with an Army composed of *Prussian* and *Hessian* Troops, 10,000 *Palatines*, and some *Imperialists*. The Motion of this Body was retarded by several Difficulties about the March of the *Palatine* Forces; Of which the *French* getting Intelligence, they concluded the *Confederates* would hardly venture to force them, in the Passes and Defilees, they were possessed of, and, therefore, commanded a Detachment to march towards *Ghent* and *Bruges*, to surprize those Towns, which they effected.

THAT the Reader may have an Idea of the Importance of these two Places, it may not be amiss to give a brief Description of them.

A Description
of Bruges;

BRUGES (ie. Latin, *Bruga*) is a beautiful, strong, and noble City of the *Low Countries*, in the Earldom of *Flanders*, the Capital of the Territory of *Bruges*, a Bishoprick under the Archbishop of *Mechlin*; It is a Place of great Trade, situate on several Canals, which are very convenient for transporting of Merchandize to the neighbouring Cities and Countries: It stands about 24 Miles *North-West* of *Ghent*, 11 *East* of *Ostend*, 34 *North-East* of *Dunkirk*, and 40 *West* of *Antwerp*.

And Ghent.

GHEENT (in Latin, *Gandavum*, and *Ganda*) is a very large City and Castle, one of the Chief of the *Low Countries*, the *Metropolis* of the Earldom of *Flanders*, and Territory of *Ghent*, a Bishoprick under the Archbishop of *Mechlin*; famous for the Birth of Emperor *Charles*, V. the 24th of *February*, 1500. It stands on the Rivers *Scheld* and *Lys*, (which divide it into 26 Islands) 27 Miles almost *South-West* of *Antwerp*, 30 *North-West* of *Brussels*, 94 almost *South* of *Amsterdam*, and 154 *North-East* of *Paris*.

Manner of
taking it.

THE fifth of *July*, N.S. a Party of the Enemy's Troops, commanded by the Brigadiers *la*

Faille

Faille, and *Pasteur*, advanc'd, before Break of Day, towards *Ghent*; And, at the Opening of the Gates, between five and six in the Morning, half a Dozen Foot Soldiers, with two or three Troopers, who were sent before, pretending to be Deserters, were admitted into the Town, by the Watch of Burghers, who were no more in Number than themselves: When they were going to be carried to the Main-guard, some of them pretended a Weariness, and setting themselves down on the Ground, desired some Brandy, to delay Time; Which being brought, they drank with the Burghers, and amused them, with a Tale of the March of the *French* Army, and their own Desertion. Soon after, another small Party of pretended Deserters came, and entertained the Watch, with the like frivolous Stories, 'till Brigadier *la Faille*, who, not long before, had been High Bailly of that City, and had yet a considerable Interest there, coming in Person, commanded the Burghers, who guarded the Gates, to lay down their Arms, and admit the *French* Troops. They began, at first, to make a Shew of Resistance; But the pretended Deserters, rising up at once, presented their Bayonets, and stop'd them. Resistance would now have been to little Purpose; So the Brigadier's Commands being immediately obey'd, he left some of his Men there, and, with the Rest, march'd directly into the Town. It being early, they only met with a few Labourers, in the Streets, some of whom took them for Deserters, and others they quieted with Gold. In this Manner, they advanced to the Gate of *Bruges*, which they seized with little or no Resistance, as they did, likewise, the Bridge of *Meulestede*. In the mean Time, *Monf. Grimaldi*, who follow'd *Monf. de la Faille*

at

at a Distance, entered the Town likewise, and march'd, with the Rest of the Detachment, to the Market-Place. All the Gates being soon after seiz'd, about ten, Mons. *de la Faille* march'd to the Town-house, and having assembled the Magistrates, and Chief Burghers, he caused a Pardon to be read to them, sign'd by the *Elect* of *Bavaria*, and underneath by the Count *de Bergeyck*; Upon which, they readily submitted.

The Castle of Ghent obtain an honourable Capitulation.

THE Enemy, being thus become Masters of the Town, caused the Governour of the Castle to be summon'd immediately to surrender; But Mons. *de Labene*, Major of Sir *Richard Temple's* *English* Regiment of Foot, who commanded in that Fortrefs, with about 300 Men, expecting either to be re-inforced by Major General *Murray*, or relieved by the Approach of the *Confederate* Army, answer'd, *That he would defend himself to the last Extremity.* The *French* began, hereupon, to make their Preparations for Attacking the Castle; And Major-General *Murray*, who was posted, at *Marienkirk*, with two *English* Regiments of Foot, and one of *Spanish* Dragoons, of Colonel *d' Audigni's*, in vain, attempted to throw a Reinforcement into the Place. Upon this, Major *Labene*, having been summoned, a second Time, held a Consultation, with the Officers under him; Where, having considered the Strength of the Enemy; the small Number of the Garrison, consisting, besides, of Recruits, and weak, sickly Men; a large old Breach unrepair'd; the Moat being fordable in that Place; the Cannon being, in a Manner, useless, for Want of Necessaries thereunto belonging, and by the Absence of the Store-keepers and Gunners; the vast Number of Women and Children, amounting to upwards of

of 900, and the Scarcity of Provisions; They thought it proper to accept of the honourable Terms which were offered them; Which, however, were to be void, in Case the Governour of the Castle should be relieved between the sixth and eighth of July: Rightly judging, that if they received no Relief, in that Time, they could not reasonably expect any at all.

SOME Hours after the Enemy had surprized *Ghent*, Count *de la Motte* appeared with a strong Detachment before *Bruges*, which surrendered, the next Day, without making the least Resistance, or putting the Enemy to the Trouble of Firing more than three Pieces of Cannon. There was indeed a Sort of a Capitulation agreed upon, in which the *Sieur Briel*, Receiver of the Contributions, and *Mr. Volmar*, his Comptroller, were included; But it appeared, by every Circumstance, that this was a Thing of Form only, and that the Articles had been long before agreed on.

*Bruges surren-
der'd to the En-
emy.*

THIS done, the Count *de la Motte* marched immediately to *Damme*, hoping to meet with the same Success there; But as this Place was fortified and garrison'd, the Governour open'd the Sluices, and put the whole Country under Water, which oblig'd the Count to retire. From thence he march'd to *Plaffendabl*, a little Fort on the Canal which leads from *Bruges* to *Ostend*, and is a Security to the Communication of these two Places. The Officer, who commanded in it, refus'd to surrender, upon which the Count attack'd and took it, Sword in Hand.

*Damme at-
tempted by them
in vain.*

MAJOR-GENERAL *Murray* having thus found it impossible to reinforce the Castle of *Ghent*, retired to the *Sas von Ghent*, where he found the Deputies of the *States General*, for the Affairs of *Flanders*,

*Plaffen-
dahl taken.*

*Motions of Ma-
jor-General
Murray's De-
tachment.*

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Flanders, and concerted, with them, the necessary Measures, for putting the Frontiers in a Posture of Defense, and securing those Posts which were most expos'd. The Governour of the *Sas* had, before, re-inforc'd the Garrison of the *Red-House*, with fifty Men, and the Deputies countermanded the Regiment of *Eberfeldt*, which was marching to *Elketo*. Major-General *Murray* posted his Troops under the Cannon of Fort *Leopold*; But, the next Morning, he receiv'd Orders, from the Duke of *Marlborough*, to march, and endeavour to join Major-General *Bothmar*, who was detach'd from the Grand Army, with three Regiments of Dragoons, and one of Horse. He passed the Canal, accordingly; But, receiving Advice, from Monsr. *Bothmar*, that the Conjunction was impracticable, he returned, the seventh, to his former Post. The Deputies, in the mean Time, reinforced the Garrison of the *Red-House*, with 100 Men, and furnish'd them with a sufficient Quantity of Provisions and Ammunition. Two Hundred Dragoons of *d' Audigni's* Regiment were detach'd for securing the Lines of *Bervliet*; Forty were sent to *Hulst*; And all the Troops, which were in *Sluys* march'd to *Damme*, except fifty Men.

The French re-
ceiv'd privately
from Braine la
Leu.

THE Duke of *Marlborough*, who was yet in his Camp, at *Terbank*, received Advice, a Day or two before the Surprizing of *Ghent*, that the Enemy had laden their heavy Baggage; The fourth of *July*, about Noon he received farther Intelligence, that a considerable Detachment was march'd towards *Tubize*; And, in the Night, that their whole Army had follow'd, at nine in the Evening. His Grace, hereupon, gave immediate Orders, for the *Confederate* Army to be in a Readiness to march. Accordingly, about three

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three in the Morning, the fifth of July, they march'd from the Camp at *Terbank*, pass'd the Canal, in four Columns, and encamp'd, with the *Left* at *Anderlecht*, and the *Right* at the Mill of *Tomburg*. Here the Duke got Intelligence of the Enemy's Design on *Ghent*, and that the Detachment they had made, for that End, was advanced as far as *Alost*, and had broken down the Bridge there, over the *Dender*: He, thereupon, order'd Major General *Bothmer*, with four Regiments of Horse and Dragoons, to pass over at *Dendermond*, in Order to observe the Enemy, and to prevent their Design upon *Ghent*; But he came too late.

The Confederates follow them.

THE Duke of *Marlbrough* was too sensible of the Importance it would be to recover *Ghent* and *Bruges*, not to be thoughtful of the speediest Methods to effect it; But none seem'd to him so conducive thereunto, as to bring the Enemy to a Battle, the happy Success of which must of Course be attended with the Recovery of those Places; He, therefore, directed all his Measures, to this End.

THE same Day, the *French* pass'd the *Senne*, at *Hall* and *Tubize*, and were passing, at the Mill of *Goicke*, till Night, within a League of the *Right Wing* of the *Allies*; Which coming very late into it's Camp, and the Army having made a very long March, thro' difficult Ways, it was not thought practicable to attack the Enemy that Night. However, the greatest Part of the Horse and Foot having been brought to the *Right*, during the Night, in Order to engage the Enemy, the whole Army was formed, the next Morning early, in Order of Battle: But their Design was frustrated by the *French*, who were employed the whole Night, with all possible Expedition,

The two Armies come very near together.

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The *French* re-
treats in the
Night over the
Dender.

pedition, in passing the *Dender*, thro' the Town of *Ninove*, and over several Bridges built near that Place, for the same Purpose: So that the Detachment sent to attack their *Rear-Guard* came too late to find any Thing but their small Baggage, which was attended by a strong Guard. These, Major-General *Schulemberg* and Sir *Richard Temple*, with ten Squadrons, and five Battalions, supported by Major-General *de Veyne*, with ten Squadrons more, soon defeated, put them to the Flight, and took a great Deal of Baggage. I do not find the Particulars of it, in any Account of ours; But *French* Authors limit their Loss to 150 Prisoners, besides kill'd and wounded, and 30 or 40 laden Mules.

Their Rear-
Guard defeated,
and Part of
their Baggage
taken.

Prince Eugene
arrives in the
Confederate
Army.

THE *Confederate* Army encamp'd, the same Night, at *Asche*, where Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy*, having made a quick March, from the *Mosel*, and left his Cavalry at *Maestricht*, (resolving to be present, as soon as possible, at whatever Action might happen, tho' his Troops should not come up in Time,) arriv'd that Evening, with Major-General *Cadogan*, whom the Duke of *Marlborough* had sent to attend him. The Arrival of his Highness, and the Approach of his Troops, not only revived the Spirits of the Soldiers, but was very acceptable to the Generals themselves, after the ungrateful News, they received, that very Day, of the *French* having surprized *Ghent*.

Unanimity be-
tween the Duke
of *Marlborough*
and Prince
Eugene.

THE Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, from the very Moment they met, acted with such Unanimity, as if but one Soul had inform'd both their Bodies. The next Day, a Council of War was held, in which it was resolved, to regulate the March of the Army, according to the Motions of the Enemy, and Pioneers were, thereupon,

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thereupon, sent, on every Side, to make Ways; The Resolution the Duke of *Marlborough* had before taken, of bringing the Enemy, if possible, to an Engagement, being again confirm'd: And so eager were the Generals for it, that it was determined, if a fair Opportunity offer'd, not to wait for the Arrival of the *Imperial* Troops. In the Afternoon, Prince *Eugene* went to *Brussels*, to pay a Visit to his Mother, the Countess of *Soissons*; And, the Day following, the Duke of *Marlborough* being much indisposed and feverish, the Orders were dispensed at Mons. d'*Auverquerque's* Quarters; And, according to these Orders, four Battalions march'd to re-inforce the Garrison of *Brussels*; And eight Battalions were ordered, with Major-General *Badogan*, and the Quarter-Masters, to make the Ways.

The Duke of Marlborough indisposed.

THE small Advantage the Enemy had in Surprizing *Ghent* proved the Occasion of their own much greater Loss; And the Governour of that Castle not delivering it, till the eighth of *July*, had this good Effect, that it amused the Enemy two or three Days, in their Camp, from above *Aloje* to *Schilebille*, on the *Scheld*. This Delay was of most fatal Consequence to them; For the *French* Generals receiving Intelligence, that Prince *Eugene* was bringing a Re-inforcement, of about 30,000 Men, with all Expedition from *Germany* to *Brabant*, bethought themselves of retiring towards their Lines, and strong Towns, before the Conjunction of the *Confederate* Troops; In Hopes, that being re-inforced with a good Body of Troops, which were coming to join them from *Alsace* (tho' not with such Speed as the *Germans*, who were remarkably Expeditionous on this Occasion, beyond their usual Custom) under the Command of the Duke of *Berwick*, they might

The Enemy's taking of Ghent, &c. proves disadvantageous to them.

Their Vanity.

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*They invest
Oudenarde.*

might afterwards be a Match for the *Confederates*, or, at least, might preserve the Conquests they had lately made with much Ease. They were also, so vain, to imagine, that they might surprize or reduce *Oudenarde*, the only Pass the *Allies* had left on the *Scheld*, since the taking of *Ghent*, before the *Allies* could be in any Readiness to prevent it; And, to this End, Count *de Chemerault*, having broke down all the Bridges on the *Scheld*, and intimidated all the lesser Places, in those Parts, they caused the Place to be invested, the ninth of *July*, early, and intended to have taken Possession of the advantageous Camp of *Lessines*.

*Preparations
made for its
Defense.*

MONS. de Sigterman, who commanded in *Oudenarde*, fearing the Inhabitants might be treacherous, as it was suspected they had been in other Places, immediately call'd a Council of War, to consider of Means how to keep them within the Limits of their Duty, if they should be otherwise inclin'd. It was there resolved to defend the Place to the last Extremity, and to declare to the Townsmen, that it was hoped they would contribute all that lay in their Power to that End; But that, if they offer'd to make the least Attempt towards surrendering the Place, they would set Fire to it, in every Part, and reduce it to a Heap of Ashes. The Inhabitants made all possible Protestations of their Fidelity; And assisted the Governour in putting the Town in the best Posture of Defense.

*A Re-inforce-
ment thrown
into it.*

THE Duke of Marlborough and Prince *Eugene*, having either Information or Suspicion of the Enemy's Design, ordered Brigadier *Chanclos*, to throw himself into *Oudenarde*, with 700 Men, detach'd from *Aeth*, *Courtray*, and *Menin*, and *Wales's* Dragoons, which was performed accordingly.

ingly. This proved a great Disappointment to the Enemy; For if they could have secured this Place, they would have cut off the Communication of the *Allies*, with *Mezin* and *Courtray*.

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THE same Day, the *Confederate* Army march'd, in four Columns, by the *Left*; All the Horse of the *Right* Wing, in one Column, on the *Right*; The Horse of the *Left*, in a Column, on the *Left*; And the Foot of both Lines, breaking in the Middle, in two Columns, in the *Center*; The Earl of *Albemarle* being left, with all the Grenadiers of the Army, and thirty Squadrons, to make the *Rear-Guard*, in Case the Enemy should have made any Motion towards *Brussels*. The Ways being in good Repair, the Army march'd with exact Order, tho' with the greatest Expedition; The Head being pass'd *Herselingen*, above five Leagues from *Ajche*, before eleven in the Morning; And the Lines perfectly closed up, without any Straggling, or any Thing left behind.

Extraordinary March of the Confederate Army.

THE Duke of *Marlbrough* gave Orders for the Army to pitch their Tents, just in their *March*, about *Herselingen*, fronting towards the Enemy; Who, being far from expecting, that the *Confederate* Army could possibly make so swift a March, did not beat their General, 'till three in the Afternoon, thinking themselves secure of the Camp of *Lessines*, in Order to cover the Siege of *Oudenarde*, for which they had their Artillery ready at *Tournay*. Prince *Eugene* having rejoined the Army at *Herselingen*, the Duke of *Marlbrough* detach'd Major-General *Cadogan*, about four in the Afternoon, with eight Squadrons, and as many Battalions, to take Possession of the Camp of *Lessines*; Accordingly, 800 Men, of this Detachment, entered the Town of

They possess themselves of the Camp of Lessines.

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Disappointment
of the Enemy.

that Name, about Midnight; And the Rest, having passed thro', at four in the Morning, posted themselves on this Side the River *Dender*. On the other Hand, the Retreat, which was the Signal for striking the Tents, being beat at seven, the Evening before, in the Camp at *Herfelingen*, the whole Army march'd immediately; And moving on, all Night, began, the tenth, about eleven in the Morning, to pass the *Dender*, over the Bridges laid there by Major-General *Cadogan*, and continued their March to the Camp of *Lessines*, on the other Side; The chief Strength whereof consists in the Rivulet which falls below it into the *Dender*. The Enemy perceiving themselves disappointed of this Camp, left their Route towards it, in which they had march'd several Hours, and alter'd their March towards *Gavre*, in Order to pass the *Scheld* there.

The Confede-
rates endeavour
to bring them to
an Engagement.

THE eleventh, in the Morning, upon Intelligence, that the Enemy had quitted *Oudenarde*, and were pursued by Brigadier *Chanclos*, with *Wales's* Dragoons, Major-General *Cadogan* was sent with sixteen Battalions, and eight Squadrons, to make the Ways and Bridges at *Oudenarde*. The Army began to march, at eight o'Clock, by the *Left*, still in four Columns, as they had encamp'd. And after the News came, that the Enemy were still passing at *Gavre*, the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* resolved to endeavour to bring them to an Engagement: In order to this, the Army continued their March, with such extraordinary Speed and Diligence, that, at two, in the Afternoon, the Head was at the Bridges, over which Major-General *Cadogan's* sixteen Battalions were then passing.

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MAJOR-GENERAL Rantzau, with the eight Squadrons, and the Quarter-Masters, being posted on an Eminence, behind a narrow, but marshy Rivulet, which runs into the *Scheld*, saw a great many *French* Squadrons drawn up on the Plain; on the other Side of the Rivulet; And the March of the *French* Army being directed towards the *Right*, they had thrown seven Battalions into the Village of *Heynem*, thro' which the Highway runs along the *Scheld*. By these Appearances they could not judge with any Certainty, whether the true Design of the Enemy was to oppose the Duke of *Marlborough's* Passage over the *Scheld*, or to gain their own Lines between *Lisle* and *Tournay*, which they might reasonably think they had Time enough to do; For they could hardly suppose, that such a vast Army could march five Leagues, in a very close Country, have their Ways made, pass a great River, and give them any Uneasiness, and that all within the Compass of four and twenty Hours! What followed this incredible March the Reader will see in the ensuing Chapter.

Another incredible March of the Confederates.





C H A P. VIII.

A particular Account of the famous Battle and Victory of Oudenarde, with the Consequences which immediately attended it.

1708.



IN the foregoing Chapter, we followed the *Confederates* in their almost incredible March to the *Scheld*, in Order to bring the Enemy to an Engagement; I shall now give the Reader the most accurate Account I have been able to procure, of the Battle and Victory which were the Consequences of it; But first I shall take Notice of a Mis-conduct or two of the Enemy, which contributed not a little to their Defeat.

THE Design of the Duke *de Vendôme*, in placing the seven Battalions in the Village of *Heynem*, and the Squadrons, that the *Confederates* had discover'd on the Plain, which were to the Number of twelve, was to have advanced towards the Bridge, over which the Allies were passing, to a certain Distance, to have waited there till half their Troops were pass'd, and then to have attack'd them, with all the Advantage, which his Superiority of Number could have given him, not doubting but he should easily have defeated them, before the other half of their Army could come to their Assistance. It was with that Intent, these Troops were advanc'd, and the Duke would soon

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soon have follow'd with the whole Army; But happily the Duke of *Burgundy* did not approve of this Project. He had all along shew'd an Inclination to retire towards *Ghent*, and this Propensity appear'd now stronger than ever; He order'd the Troop to stop short in their March, at *Gavre*, in the greatest Perplexity, not knowing which Way to move. He even recall'd the Squadrons which were in the Plain; and prepar'd to retire: And to this the *French* attribute their Misfortune which ensued.

It would have been an easy Matter for the *French*, either to have cut off the Detachment of the *Allies*, which had advanced and laid Bridges over the *Scheld*, or, at least, to have destroyed those Bridges, before the whole *Confederate* Army could come up; And if then they had supported their *Left*, at *Heynem*, posted their Horse behind the Castle of *Beveren*, towards the Mill of *Oycke*, and placed their *Center* on the Height, between *Wertigem* and *Heurne*, they would undoubtedly have had all the Advantage, the most difficult Ground could give them; And, perhaps, the Choice would have been on their Side, whether to engage in a general Action or not? But the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Vendôme*, who had been at Variance for some Days before, what Course they should take, still differed in their Opinions, and were both yet strangely at a Loss, what Measures they should resolve upon, and what Dispositions to make. This Irresolution lasted 'till three in the Afternoon, when most of the young Commanders in the *French* Army, who had more Fire than Prudence, and who, to make their Court to the Duke of *Burgundy*, thwarted all that was advised by the Duke de *Vendôme*, declared loudly for an Engagement, which in a great Measure,

Mis-conduct of the Enemy before the Battle. See Letters H. and I. below.

Dissentions among their Generals.

See Letter I. below.

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ture, determined the Duke of *Burgundy*, and the Duke de *Vendôme* was obliged to submit.

See Letter I. below.

A Description of Oudenarde.

OU DEN ARDE, (in Latin *Aldenarda*) from whence this famous Battle and Victory has its Name, is a rich and very strong Town of the *Low Countries*, in the Earldom of *Flanders*, the *Metropolis* of the Territory of *Oudenarde*; A Bishoprick under the Archbishop of *Cambray*; Drives a considerable Trade, and is famous for a Manufacture of *Tapisty*. It stands on the River *Scheld*, 13 Miles South of *Ghent*, 13 North-West of *Aeth*, 36 West of *Brussels*, and 37 almost North of *Mons*.

The Enemy prepare to begin the Attack.

But are discouraged.

MAJOR-GENERAL *Grimaldi* was, therefore, ordered, by the Duke of *Burgundy*, with the Horse of the King's Household, to begin the Attack, on the *Right*, and dislodge Major-General *Rantzau*, from the Eminence, on which he was posted; But when they came to the Rivulet, and found it marshy, they were discouraged from attempting the Passage, and retired towards their own *Right*, tho' their Army had 12,000 Men more in Number, than the *Confederates*, and several other Advantages. This Attack the Duke de *Vendôme* disapprov'd of; And, therefore, sent *Monf. Jennet*, his *Aid de Camp*, to the *Left*, to attack the *Allies*, on that Side. But the Duke of *Burgundy* countermanded it, upon Information, as it was said, that there was an unpassable Morass on that Side; Which, however, the Duke de *Vendôme* had pass'd over, but an Hour before. The Marquis de *Quincy*, to clear the Duke of *Burgundy* from the Imputation of this Miscarriage, pretends, that *Monf. Jennet* was kill'd going from the *Right* to the *Left* of their Army; and that, therefore, the Duke de *Vendôme's* Orders not being delivered, could not be executed which

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which (continues he) gave the *Allies* a great Advantage. Upon this, Major-General *Cadogan*, who had pass'd the River, with twelve of his sixteen Battalions, between three and four o' Clock, attack'd the Village of *Heynem*, with such Resolution (Brigadier *Sabine*, with his Brigade, being at the Head) that they soon made themselves Masters thereof, and found seven *French* Battalions in it, three of which entire, and the greater Part of the other four, were taken Prisoners. The *French* to palliate the Loss of these seven Squadrons, tho' they allow that they were defeated, pretend the *Allies* took only a few of them Prisoners, and that the Rest retir'd.

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See Letter I. below.
Major-General Cadogan begins the Attack.
See Letter C. below.

THE Duke of *Burgundy* now plainly saw, that there was no Possibility of retreating without the greatest Confusion, with the *Allies* at their very Heels: A Battle being, therefore, unavoidable, He put His Troops in Motion, for that End, and began to range them in proper Order: But it was now too late.

IMMEDIATELY after, Major-General *Rantzau*, with the eight Squadrons, and the Quarter-Masters, pass'd the Rivulet, and advanced into the Plain, where the *French* Horse had been drawn up, between the Villages of *Singhem* and *Mullen*. Several of the Squadrons of their *Rear-Guard*, (*French* Authors say four) being still passing thro' the Plain, the eight Squadrons, with the Quarter-Masters, attack'd them with great Vigour, and drove them into the close Ground, and the High-Way, which led into the March of their own Army.

And is seconded by Major-General Rantzau.

IN this Action, the *Electoral* Prince of *Hanno-* (His present Majesty of Great-Britain,) who had joined the Army, the twenty-second of June, to serve as a Volunteer, gave distinguished Proofs

Bravery of His present Majesty of Great-Britain.

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of his early Courage and Activity. He charg'd, Sword in Hand, at the Head of a Squadron of *Bulau's* Dragoons; His Highness's Horse was shot under him, and Colonel *Lyschky*, who commanded the Squadron, was kill'd fighting bravely by him. Lieutenant-General *Schulenburg*, and several other Volunteers, behaved with great Resolution, and led up the Squadrons. Here the French Regiment of *La Breteche*, and several other Regiments, were entirely broken; And the Colonel himself, being dangerously wounded, was taken, together with a great many other Officers; And twelve Standards and Kettle-Drums.

Part of the French Army defeated.

See Letter C. below.

All the Confederate Horse pass the Scheld.

THE Confederate Army continued, in the mean Time, to pass the Bridges, with all imaginable Diligence. The *Prussian* Horse formed themselves upon the Right, in the same Plain, where the advanced Guard was, and the Rest of the Horse, as they pass'd, followed the *Prussians*, thro' the Village of *Heurne*, into the Plain; But the Foot, because of the Length of the March, and the Horse having galloped a good Part of the Way, came later to the Bridges; So that none but the above mentioned sixteen Battalions were there, 'till five o' Clock.

The Engagement continued.

THE Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, being at the Head of the Horse, which were forming in the Plain, and observing the great Want there was of Infantry, sent Orders, to the Foot, which had been employed in attacking the Village, to leave their Post there, and fling themselves into the Hedges, on the other Side of the Plain, whither the Enemy seem'd to be marching, with great Diligence. On that Side of the Plain were no more, than two Battalions, of Major-General *Colliar's*, and Brigadier

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dier *Grumkau's*, and those the Enemy attack'd, 1708.

with Great Fury; But they maintained their Post with equal Bravery, till more Foot came up to their Assistance. The Duke of *Marlborough*, hereupon, dispatch'd Orders after Orders to the Foot, to press their March, the Enemy being then forming, and ready to attack the Infantry which was already there, with very unequal Numbers. In the Interim, the Duke of *Argillon* arrived, with twenty Battalions; Which were hardly posted, when the *French* attack'd them very briskly, and drove some *Prussian* Battalions from their Post; But, notwithstanding the Inequality of Numbers, about six, in the Evening, they retook it again, Sword in Hand. By this Time, Count *Lottum* was coming up, to sustain this Attack, with the Remainder of the Foot of the *Right*; And the Duke perceiving, that the great Stress of the Battle would ly on the *Right*, sent to the *Left* for twenty Battalions. The *Left* Wing arrived something later than the *Right*, and, having pass'd their Horse through *Oudenarde*, and their Foot on Bridges below the Town, had formed themselves into two Lines, with the Village of *Moreghem* behind them.

The Confederate Infantry comes up.

THE Success, which the *Confederates* had already obtained, in the several Engagements, near the Villages of *Heynem*, *Mullem* and *Heurne*, made the *French* Generals sensible they should soon be attack'd on all Sides: They, therefore, found themselves under a Necessity of making a Stand, to which End, they posted their Foot very advantageously, before the Villages of *Wa-* And seek Shelter.
nigen, *Lede*, and *Huyze*, having, in their Front, several *Defiles*, fenced with Inclosures of Hedges, Ditches, or Thickets, and placed most of their Cavalry

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Cavalry on their *Right*, near the Villages of *Oycke* and *Wirtigem*.

The Attack general.

As soon as the *Confederate* Foot arrived, they formed themselves into two *Lines*, before the Horse, and then attack'd, in very good Order, the Inclosures and Villages, in their Front, where the *French* were posted; Insomuch that, about seven o'Clock, the Fire grew general, both on the *Right*, and on the *Left*; And tho' the Enemy gave Way, in most Places, yet being sustained with fresh Troops, the Action was maintained very obstinately, a good while after.

The Fight very obstinate.

Bravery of the Prince of Orange-Nassau.

THERE was, before the *Left*, of the *Left* Wing, a Kind of an Opening, thro' which run a Road, that led into the *Plain*, on the Top of the Hill, and which the Prince of *Orange-Nassau*, at the Head of the *Dutch* Foot, cleared, with great Vigour and Resolution. At the same Time, the Duke of *Marlborough* dispatch'd Orders to the Velt-Marshal d'*Auverquerque*, and the Count de *Tilly*, who were on the Top of the Hill, near *Oycke*, to press the Enemy, as much as possible, on that Side. These Orders were punctually obeyed, and Monsieur d'*Auverquerque* order'd Major-General *Weeck*, to march, with the Brigades of *Wassenaer* and *Oudenburg*, which being supported by Count *Tilly*, with the *Danish* Cavalry under his Command, passed thro' a narrow Defilee, into a Field, where all the *French* Household were drawn up. The *Confederate* Troops no sooner approach'd, than the *French*, who did not, in the least, apprehend being attack'd on that Side, retired, and endeavoured to shelter themselves under the Hedges, between *Wirtigem*, and the Castle of *Beveren*, or *Broan*, towards the Main Body of their Army, where the

The French Household retires.

See Letter H. below.

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the Fire was very hot: But the Prince of Orange-Nassau, with Count Oxenstiern, coming up, with four Brigades of Infantry, led them on with great Gallantry, pass'd some Defilees, attack'd the Enemy in Flank, and obliged them to give Way. Those who were thus retiring, being forced back, into the Inclosures, in great Disorder; And it growing, besides, dark, many Battalions, and more Squadrons, flung themselves out, in a desperate Manner; Some of them, piercing thro' others, were cut in Pieces; Others pass'd thro' unperceiv'd, and again others desired to capitulate.

And is drove to Despair.

DURING these Transactions, on the Left, the Duke of Marlborough, who till then, had been the whole Time in Company with Prince Eugene, visiting the Field of Battle, leading on, posting and ranging the respective Bodies of Troops, but thinking now it would be more advantageous to separate, and direct in different Places, arrived there; Having left the Care of the Right to Prince Eugene, who shewed great Pleasure and Satisfaction, in leading on the English Troops, whom he saw perform Wonders; Insomuch that, at last, the Enemy, finding themselves charg'd, and born down, on all Sides, by the Confederate Forces, retired, in the utmost Confusion, leaving great Numbers of Prisoners behind them.

The Enemy's Arm retires, in the utmost Confusion.

Their Dragoons favour'd their Retreat, and, to save the Troops of the Household, received several Discharges from the Confederate Infantry, and were most of them either kill'd or taken.

Their Dragoons almost all cut off, or taken. See Letter H. below.

THE Night coming now on, and the Fire being directed so many several Ways at once, that it was impossible to distinguish Friends from Foes, the Confederate Generals gave positive Orders to their Troops to give over Firing, and to let the routed

Night puts an End to the Slaughter.

1708.



See Letter C.
below.

routed Enemy escape, rather than to venture putting themselves into Disorder. This put an End to the Slaughter, and saved the Remainder of the Enemy's Army: For had there been but two Hours more of Day-light, in all Probability, their whole Body of Foot, and their *Right Wing* of Horse, would have been entirely cut off, they being surrounded almost on every Side.

Just Encomiums of the Confederate Generals.

DURING this whole Memorable Action, the Duke of *Marlborough*, and Prince *Eugene*, dispens'd their Orders, with so much Compos'dness of Mind, and Clearness of Judgment, as seem'd peculiar alone to those two *Heroes* of the Age. They expos'd their Persons to the greatest Dangers, when Necessity required it; And yet had both the good Fortune to come off unhurt: Nor did the *Electoral Prince* of *Hannover* (now our most Gracious Sovereign) come far short of their Glory, considering his Youth. At the Head of His Father's Cavalry, He charg'd the celebrated Troops of the *French King's Household*, bearing down all that oppos'd His Career of Glory. Next to Him, *History* must justly commemorate the due Praise, of the Young Prince of *Orange-Nassau*, Stadtholder of *Friezeland*, and Father of the Prince of *Orange*, now so nearly allied to the Crown of *Great Britain*, by his Marriage with our Illustrious Princess *Ann*, who distinguish'd himself equally by his Martial Ardour, Bravery, and Conduct. The brave Velt-Marshal d'*Auverquerque*, tho' worn out with the Fatigues of above thirty Campaigns, and in a languishing Condition, exerted his expiring Vigour, and was on Horseback, at the Head of his Troops, in the hottest of the Fire. Count *Tilly*, the Prince of *Wirtemberg*, Lieutenant-Generals

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nerals *Rantzau* and *Natzmer*, Major-Generals *Webb* and *Cadogan*, Brigadier *Sabine*, and, in short, all the Generals and Officers animated the Soldiers, every where, by their own brave Example.

THE different Troops, of which the *Confederate Army* consisted, fought with such an unparalleled Galantry, and generous Emulation of each other, that it was difficult to determine which deserved the greatest Applause; Yet it was observed, that the *Prussian Gens d'Armes* signalized themselves, in several vigorous Charges, which they made and sustain'd against the *French Cavalry*, in which they lost near half of their Number.

IF we may believe some of the *French Writers*, the Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry*, and the *Pretender*, had a great Share in this Battle; But if the *Dutch Accounts* are to be credited, they, or, at least, the two latter, only beheld the Engagement from the Steeple of an adjacent Village; And consulted betimes for their Safety, by a Retreat. As for the other Generals of the Enemy's Army, they committed several egregious Faults (some of which I have already observed) as well before as during the Action, whether for Want of Unanimity or Judgment, I shall not determine: But for their Troops, it must be acknowledg'd, that, in general, they fought better, at this Time, than they had done upon any other Occasion.

THE *French* endeavour'd, by their partial Relations, to palliate their Defeat, and make a drawn Battle of it: For which they had the only one poor Pretence, that of having saved their Baggage, as well they might, since they left it behind them, as they did, likewise, their Artillery,

Behaviour of the French. See Letter I. below.

The Victory indisputable on the Side of the Allies.

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See Letters

G. H. and I.
below.

Artillery, having only made Use of four or five Pieces of Cannon, during the whole Action: But the *Field* where the Battle was fought, of which the *Confederates* remained Masters, with six or seven Hundred of the Enemy's Officers, and about 6,000 (some Accounts say 7,000) private Soldiers, that were taken Prisoners, together with ten Kettle Drums, and above 100 Standards and Colours taken, were all Evidences of an indisputable Victory, on the Side of the Great Duke of *Marlborough*, and his Companion in Glory, Prince *Eugene*.

The Enemy retreat in the Night.

THE Enemy retired, under Favour of the Night, by the Road which leads thro' the Village of *Huyse*, from *Oudenarde* to *Ghent*. The Duke of *Vendôme* proposed to take Advantage of the Night, and halt, to bring his scatter'd Army into some Form, that they might make an orderly Retreat; But he was not heard; The General Officers were so terrified, that *Monf. d'Avreux* alone was of his Opinion. Seing, therefore, that all Argument was lost, on Men who had given themselves up to Fear, *Monf. de Vendôme* consented to a general Retreat, and the Word was no sooner given, than every one, as well General and other Officers, as common Soldiers, took the Road towards *Ghent*, and fled, with the utmost Precipitation. All the General could do, was to keep together a Body of 25 Squadrons of his best Troops, and a proportionable Number of Foot, to form a *Rear-Guard*.

THE *Confederates*, in the mean Time, continued under Arms, hoping to renew the Engagement again the next Morning; And impatient, in the mean Time, for Day, that they might have a true Information, how far their Victory had

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had extended, of which the Darkness of the Night left them in Ignorance. To this End, as soon as it was Light, the Duke of Marlborough order'd forty Squadrons, from the Right, commanded by the Lieutenant Generals *Bulan* and *Lumley*, with a considerable Body of Foot, to follow and attack the Enemy's *Rear-Guard*, which they did with great Vigour; But several Companies of *French* Grenadiers being advantageously posted, along the Highway leading to *Ghent*, kill'd and wounded several of the Officers, and Private Men, of the *Confederates*, especially of the Regiment of *Pentz*, and obliged them to leave off the Pursuit; There being but one Road, secured by Hedges and Ditches, lined with the Enemy's Grenadiers; But no Place for the *Confederate* Cavalry to form themselves in. On this Occasion, several Officers of the Grenadiers, commanded by Major *Erwing*, were killed or wounded; And General *Meredith* was likewise slightly wounded; But the Enemy, on their Side, were much greater Sufferers. The Regiment of *Risbourg*, which clos'd their *Rear*, was entirely ruined, and two whole Companies of it taken Prisoners; As was likewise Brigadier *Pourienne*, who commanded the hindermost Brigade, with several other Officers.

As to the killed and wounded, on either Side, the *Allies* reckoned among the first, Major General *Berensdorf*, the Colonels *Adercasz* and *Bolzen*, Count *Rantzau*, and Sir *John Matthews*, with Captain *Dean* of the *British* Guards, and about 800 Private Men; And among the Wounded, Lieutenant-General *Natzmer*, Major Generals *Gaudecker*, and *Berner*, the Colonels *Groves*, *Pennyfather*, and four others, 160 other Officers, and about 2000 private Soldiers: Which

Loss

The Life of JOHN,

See Letter K.
below.

Loss was abundantly repair'd, by Deserters and Prisoners, *Germans, Switzers, and Savoyards*, who list'd themselves voluntarily in the Service of the *Allies*. The *French* endeavour'd to conceal their Loss, with all possible Industry ; But that it was infinitely greater than that of the *Allies* is evident from the several Pieces annex'd, to which I refer for the Particulars ; And shall only observe here, in general ; that (according to most Accounts) the Number of Prisoners taken from the Enemy amounted to 7000 Men, among whom were two Lieutenant-Generals, two Major-Generals, five Brigadiers, about thirty Colonels, above 100 Officers of the State-Major, and 400 Subalterns ; Together with 70 or 80 Standards or Colours. The largest List, I have seen, on our Side, makes their Loss to be 9800 Prisoners, Officers included ; 4,200 killed and wounded ; 2,400 Deserted, Together, 19,400. Taken, besides, 10 Pieces of Cannon, 56 Pair of Colours, 52 Standards, 8 Pair of Kettle-drums, and 4,500 Horses : On the other Hand, the lowest Computation I have seen, amounts together, to 14,700 Killed, Wounded and Prisoners, without mentioning Deserters ; And the lowest Calculations, given by the *French* themselves, allows their Loss to have been above 10,000 Men.

The French intrench themselves at Lovendeghem. See Letter I. below.

THE Dukes of *Burgundy* and *Berry*, with the *Pretender*, reach'd *Ghent*, the Morning after this memorable Battle, by five o'Clock : And, about nine, the Duke de *Vendôme*, who brought up the *Rear*, arrived there also. As they were apprehensive of being pursued, by the whole *Confederate* Army, the Duke immediately commanded his shattered Troops, to march thro' *Ghent* to *Lovendeghem*, on the Canal, not far from

from that City; Where, for their greater Security, they cast up Retrenchments, and planted upon them, their Artillery, which they had left at *Gavre*, with their heavy Baggage. In this strong Camp they recovered, in some Measure, the Fright and Terror of the late Engagement; But, as it usually happens in Disasters, the former Animosities and Differences revived and encreased among their Generals, who laid the Fault one upon the other; Especially between the Dukes of *Burgundy*, and *de Vendôme*, who, notwithstanding the Interposition of the Court, could never be brought to a Reconciliation.

Differences between their Generals revived.

See Letter I.

below.

IN a Thanksgiving Sermon preach'd, on Occasion of this Victory, before the Queen, at *St. Paul's*, by the Lord Bishop of *St. Asaph*, afterwards of *Ely*, his Lordship takes Notice,

Character of the Duke of Marlborough by the Bishop of St. Asaph.

“ THAT our Forces were led by a Commander whom they loved to follow, and
 “ hazarded every Thing to preserve a Life, with
 “ which each Soldier of the Army thinks his
 “ own fast bound; By a *Princely Captain*, whom
 “ both in giving Orders, and in Heat of Battle,
 “ they might not unhappily mistake for *their*
 “ *Own*, so that they seemed to have their General
 “ always in Sight, because he was commonly
 “ in every Place of Danger; by a most
 “ *Valiant, Wise, and Fortunate Commander*,
 “ crowned with Fresh Laurels every other Year,
 “ because it seems they wither faster in our
 “ kindly Climate than elsewhere.

SEVERAL Medals were struck on Account of this Victory, of which the following are the most remarkable:



The Life of JOHN,

I.

AT LONDON.

Medals struck
on this Occa-
sion.

ON the FACE; the Queen's *Busto*, with Her Title, as usual.

ON the REVERSE, a Monumental Pillar, on the Top of which stands *Victory*, adorn'd with Trophies of the Standards and Colours of France, and two Captives, with this Legend. GALLIS. AD. ALDENARD. VICTIS. That is *Gallis ad Aldenardam victis*. In English; *The French vanquish'd at Oudenarde*.

IN the EXERGUE, xxx Junii MDCCVIII. That is, *The 30th of June 1708*.

THERE appear'd, on this Occasion, in Holland, two Medals.

I.

THE first represents the Town of *Oudenarde*, on an Eminency, and, at the Foot of it, the French Cavalry retreating before Prince *Eugene*, with the Inscription:

VANDOMUS, IN FLANDRIA, SICUT IN ITALIA,
VICTUS, VICTOREM AGNOSCIT EUGENIUM.

The Duke of Vendôme, being conquer'd, in Flanders, as he was in Italy, acknowledges Prince Eugene to be his Conquerour.

IN the Exergue, are the following Words:

MULTORUM MILLIUM GALLORUM CLADES AD
ALDENARDAM, DIE XI. JULII, 1708

The





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Duke of MARLBOROUGH, &c.

275

1708.

*The Defeat of many Thousands of French at
Oudenarde, July, 11. 1708.*

ON the Reverse is represented Prince *Eugene*
and the Duke of *Marlborough*, on Horseback,
by the Emblem of *Castor and Pollux*, each with
a Star over his Head, and the Inscription :

SALUTARIUM SIDERUM APPARITIO.

The Appearance of the two auspicious Stars.

THIS Emblem is applied, in the *Exergue*, in
the following Words :

EUGENII ET MARLBOROUGH FELIX CONJUNCTIO.

The happy Junction of Eugene and Marlborough.

II.

THE second represents our two Generals,
each treading a vanquish'd Enemy under his
Feet, and congratulating one another, in the
following Words :

SUSTITIAQUE FATUM DOMITAS SIC PLECTERE
GENTES.

*This is the Fate of Nations when overcome by the
Force of just Arms :*

And, in the *Exergue* :

STRAGES GALLORUM PROPE ALDENARDAM,
11. JULII, 1708.

1708.

*The Slaughter of the French, near Oudenarde,
July, 11. 1708.*

ON the *Reverse* is Victory winged, pointing to a Pile of Trophies, raised of the Spoil of the Enemy; With the following Distich round it, and continued in the *Exergue*:

HORRIDA QUÆ FUERANT INVICTI FULMINA
MARTIS,

VICTORIS QUIS NUNC ESSE TROPÆA PUTET?

Who would think that these Spoils, which were the Thunder of the invincible Mars, should now be the Trophies of his Conquerour.

*Several Letters and other Pieces, relating to the
Battle of Oudenarde.*

A.

*The Duke of Marlborough's Letter to the States
General.*

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

*A Letter from
the Duke of
Marlborough
to the States
General.*

“ I GIVE myself the Honour of Congratu-
“ lating Your *High Mightinesses* upon the
“ good Success, with which it hath pleased the
“ good God to bless the Arms of the *High*
“ *Allies*. The Lords, the Deputies, and the
“ Field-Marshal, will impart to Your *High*
“ *Mightinesses* all the Particulars, that are at pre-
“ sent, known. The Pursuit of the Enemy be-
“ ing not yet over, we cannot give an exact
“ List of the Prisoners, whose Number is very
“ great,

“ great, nor of the Loss on our Side. I am 1708.
“ with true Affection, and Respect,

YOUR HIGH MIGHTINESSES

*From the Camp,
at Oudenarde,
July 12. 1708.*

Very humble, and

Very obedient Servant,

The Prince and Duke of Marlborough.

B.

Their High Mightinesses Answer.

SIR,

“ THE Compleat Victory obtain'd near Oudenarde, by the Army of the High Allies, *Their Answer.*
“ under the wise and brave Conduct of Your
“ Highness, has fill'd Us with Joy. Victory,
“ which is us'd to attend upon You; has not
“ fail'd to follow You on that great Occasion,
“ and has plac'd new Laurels on Your Head,
“ which will be no less bright than the former.
“ We bless God, from the Bottom of Our Hearts,
“ for so great and happy a Success, and hope, thro'
“ His Mercy and Assistance, that the same will
“ be attended with advantageous Consequences.
“ We thank Your Highness for having imparted
“ the same to Us, in your Letter of the 12th
“ Instant. Our Deputies, and our Velt-Marshal,
“ have acquainted Us with the Circumstances
“ thereof, and it is with a most particular Satis-
“ faction, that We congratulate You on the new
“ Glory you have gained, in that memorable
T 3 “ Day,

1708.

“ Day, which encreases the Satisfaction We receive from that Victory itself. We pray God
 “ to bless, more and more, your Designs, and
 “ are, and always will be, with the greatest
 “ Esteem and truly, &c.

Hague, July 14. 1708.

LETTER of the Field-Deputies of the STATES.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

The Field-Deputies Letter to the States-General.

“ BY Reason of the Shortness of Time, we
 “ could only let Your *High Mightinesses*
 “ know Yesterday, that we engag’d the Enemy
 “ about four in the Afternoon. Wherefore we
 “ give our selves the Honour, of sending Your
 “ *High Mightinesses* farther Advice; That our
 “ Army, having march’d, on Sunday Night,
 “ from *Ashe*, took the Rout of *Lessines*, in Order
 “ to pass the *Dender* at that Place, without Opposition from the Enemy, whom we had prevented, by a sudden March; And arriving, there, on Tuesday Evening, we understood, That the Enemy were march’d from *Alost* towards *Gavre*, where they caused Bridges to be made, in Order to pass the *Scheld*, which made us believe they design’d to post themselves upon the Height of *Oudenarde*, and hinder us from passing the *Scheld*; And tho’ our Army was very much fatigued, by the foregoing March, yet we resolved to proceed on our March Yesterday, and if possible to prevent the Enemy. We detach’d, therefore, 16 Battalions, in the Night, to take Post on the other Side of the *Scheld*, near *Oudenarde*, and