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ceived Advice, that upon the *British* Troops, which were landed at *Ostend*, taking Post at *Leffinghen*, Count *de la Motte* (whose first Design was to surprize *Brussels*) had been re-inforced with several Brigades of Horse, and Foot, to intercept the Convoy; His Grace rightly foresaw, that the six Battalions, and 800 Horse, detached under Brigadier *Landsberg*, with ten Squadrons more, under Brigadier *Starkenbergh*, and six Battalions under General *Els*, would not be sufficient to oppose the Enemy. Major-General *Webb*, with Brigadier Count *Nassau-Woudenburg*, Son to the Velt-Marshal *d' Auverquerque*, were ordered to march the six and twentieth, by Break of Day, with twelve Battalions more, to join the above-mentioned Detachments, on the Road between *Menin* and *Ostend*, with Directions to march as far as *Ichtegem*, in the Country call'd the *Franc of Bruges*, about four Leagues from *Leffinghen*; And, at the same Time, Major-General *Cadogan* march'd with another Detachment of Horse and Foot, to meet the Convoy, upon their passing the Canal of *Bruges*. On the other Hand, Lieutenant-General *Erle* (who had brought the *British* Forces, which were, at first, design'd for a Descent on the Coast of *France*, to *Ostend*) was not idle; For being join'd by a Detachment, he drained the Water between *Ostend* and *Newport*, and built a Bridge over the Canal of *Leffinghen*; By which Means, he open'd a Communication with the Grand Army, towards which the Grand Convoy began their March, the six and twentieth, in the Evening, and continued passing the Canal the next Morning. A considerable Party of the Enemy's Forces advanc'd hereupon, to post themselves at *Oudenburg*; But found that Place possess'd by a strong Detach-

The French
repuls'd at
Oudenburg.

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ment, whom they attack'd. Being repulsed with great Loss, and consequently disappointed, in this Attempt, they retired to a considerable Body of their Troops, under the Command of *Colent de la Motte*, who march'd from *Bruges*, with a Design to intercept the *Confederate* Convoy. This brought on the famous Battle and Victory of *Wynandale*, of which I shall give the Reader an Account, as written by Major-General *Webb* himself; Interspersing, however, in *Parentheses*, and adding at the Conclusion of it, such other Circumstances, and Observations, as I shall find elsewhere.





CHAP. X.

The Battle of Wynendale.



BEFORE I proceed to give this Account, it may not be amiss to observe, that the Prince of *Hesse*, in his Letter, which I have given above, to the *States General*, ascribes the

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Some Reflections on the Battle of Wynendale.

whole Honour of this Glorious Action to Major-General *Cadogan*, without so much as mentioning Major-General *Webb*; And the *London Gazette*, of the twentieth, and twenty-third of *September*, O. S. by wrong Information, has the same Mistake. This induced Major-General *Webb*, to come over to *England*, to set this Matter in a true Light; And, the sixth of *October*, he had the Honour to present to Her Majesty the Relation, I am now about to give, which was afterwards publish'd, by Authority, in the *Gazette*. Reflections were, on this Account, cast on a Great Man, who was esteem'd a Friend and Patron of Major-General *Cadogan*, as if done designedly to advance his Glory and Reputation, by eclipsing that of his Competitor; But this Report seems, to have been more the Effect of Malice and Envy, than grounded on any reasonable Foundation. *Wynendale*, which gave Name to this remarkable Action, is an inconsiderable Place in *Spanish Flanders*, adjoining to a Wood, call'd

The Life of JOHN,

the *Wood of Wynendale*, hardly worthy of Notice, but on Account of this memorable Battle. It is eleven Miles *South-West* of *Bruges*, and 28 *North* of *Lisle*.

A Relation of the Battle of Wynendale, written by Major-General Webb.

*An Account of
that Battle and
Victory.*

AFTER that the Detachments, which were sent to cover the March of the Waggons from *Ostend* to the Siege of *Lisle*, had joined at *Turout*, the seven and twentieth of September, General Webb (who, as eldest Major-General, commanded in Chief) received Advice, that Major Savary, of the Regiment of *Gettem*, had possess'd himself of the Post at *Oudenburg*; Whereupon, he sent 600 Grenadiers, under the Command of Colonel Preston, a Battalion of *Orkney's*, under the Command of Colonel Hamilton, with that of *Fune*, commanded by Colonel Vogt, the whole under the Command of Brigadier Landsberg, to re-inforce that Post. The eight and twentieth, at eight in the Morning, all the Horse (under Major-General Cadogan) were ordered to *Hoglede*, to wait the Arrival of the Convoy there, except 150 Horse, which were sent, the Night before, under the Command of Count Lottum, to *Oudenburg*, to carry Orders to the two Battalions, and 600 Grenadiers, to guard the Convoy to *Cocklaer*, and afterwards to rejoin the Foot, at *Turout*. About Noon, Count Lottum returned to *Turout*, with Advice, that, in his Way to *Ichtegem*, he met with an advanced Guard of the Enemy, which he pushed into the Plain, where he observed sixteen Squadrons, mounting in great Haste, on the Alarm,

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“ Alarm, which their advanced Guard gave them; Whereupon he thought it necessary to return, in all Haste, to give the General an Account of it.

“ ON this Advice, all the Foot, consisting of two and twenty Battalions, Count *Lottum*; with his 150 Horse, making the advanced Guard, with the Quarter-Masters, and Grenadiers that were not detach’d, were ordered to march immediately, to gain the Village of *Ichtegem*, by the Way of *Wynendale*. As soon as the advanced Guard got to *Wynendale*, they perceived the Enemy, in the Opening of the Plain; Whereupon, the Quarter-Masters, and Grenadiers, were drawn up in Order of Battle. Major-General *Webb*, and Count *Nassau-Woudenburg*, at the Head of the 150 Horse, advanced to reconnoitre the Enemy, giving Orders, at the same Time, to the Foot, to advance, and form themselves, as fast as possible, in the Plain. The 150 Horse were left, at the Opening of the Plain, under the Command of Count *Lottum*, to amuse the Enemy; And, to embarrass them, the more, the Quarter-Masters and Grenadiers were posted in a Low Coppice, on that Side of the Plain where the Enemy were expected to pass.

“ As soon as our Troops pass’d out of the Defilee, into the Plain, Major-General *Webb* drew them up in Battle, posting them in the Opening, between the Wood of *Wynendale*, and the Coppice, on the other Side, where the Quarter-Masters and Grenadiers were posted. We had scarce got six Battalions into the Opening, when the Enemy began to cannonade us, with forty Pieces of Cannon, whereof ten were of three Bores.” (*A Relation printed*

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at the Hague, by the Printer in Ordinary to the States, from which Mons. Rouffet has likewise copied, says only nineteen Pieces, nine whereof were of a triple Bore) “ But notwithstanding the “ great Fire of the Enemy, the 150 Horse kept “ their Ground, which produced the desired “ Effect, in giving the General Time, to form “ his Foot, in two Lines. The *Left Wing* was “ extended beyond the Low Coppice, as well “ to prevent the Enemy from passing that Way, “ as to cover our Flank. On our *Right Flank* “ was posted, in the Wood of *Wynendale*, the “ Regiment of *Heukelum*; And, on our Flank, “ on the *Left*, the Regiment of the Hereditary Prince of *Prussia*, commanded by Colonel *Rbader*, with Orders not to discover themselves, nor fire, ’till they could take the Enemy in Flank. Some Platoons of Grenadiers were advanced forty Paces upon the *Right* and *Left*, with the same Orders; And the Quarter-Masters were also posted in a Road, on the *Left*, that crossed thro’ the aforementioned Low Coppice.

“ THE Enemy, after three Hours Cannon- “ ading, advanced towards us, on the *Plain*, in “ twelve Lines, six whereof were Foot, and six “ Horse.” (*The Hague Relation, which I have mentioned above, says only four Lines of Foot, and as many of Horse.*) “ Count *Lottum* was, here- “ upon, ordered to retire, and post himself 300 “ Paces behind the Foot, which he did in very “ good Order. The *French* continued to march “ straight up to us, with forty Battalions, and “ sixty Squadrons;” (*The Hague Relation says only eight and forty Squadrons.*) “ But the General “ perceiving they extended themselves to the “ *Right*, in the Coppice, he sent Count *Nassau*

“ to

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“ to observe their Motion, who immediately
 “ ordered thither the Regiment of *Grumkau*,
 “ commanded by Colonel *Beschefer*; And *Briga-*
 “ dier *Eltz*, being come up, with the last Regi-
 “ ment, was posted, on the *Right*, in the Wood
 “ of *Wynendale*.

“ ABOUT half a Quarter of an Hour before
 “ the Engagement began, Brigadier *Landsberg*,
 “ with the two Battalions, and 600 Grenadiers,
 “ that had been detached, having Advice, that
 “ the Enemy advanced to attack us, rejoined us
 “ just Time enough to form a third Line. Some
 “ Minutes after, the Enemy began the Attack,
 “ marching within 150 Paces (*The Hague Rela-*
 “ *tion says fifteen*) of our Flank, on the *Right*,
 “ where the Battalions who hid themselves,
 “ (*another Account says they lay flat on the Ground*)
 “ according to the General's Order, and who
 “ were not to fire 'till the *French* Flank came
 “ opposite to them, gave them such a warm
 “ Welcome, that their *Left* Wing gave into
 “ their Center; And the Regiment of the Here-
 “ ditary Prince, which was posted on the Flank,
 “ on our *Left*, much about the same Distance,
 “ did not miss the Opportunity of their Disor-
 “ der, to give them a very vigorous Discharge,
 “ which put their whole Line in Confusion.
 “ Nevertheless, the Enemy push'd on, and put
 “ two of our Battalions in Disorder; But the
 “ *Swiss* Regiment of *Albemarle*, under the Com-
 “ mand of Colonel *Hirtzell*, advancing upon
 “ their Horse, that were endeavouring to pene-
 “ trate, engaged them long enough to give
 “ Time to the General, and Count *Nassau*, to
 “ bring up the Regiments of *Bernsdorf*, *Gauvain*,
 “ and *Lindeboom*,” (*the Hague Relation does not*
 “ mention *Gauvain's* Regiment) “ to supply the
 “ Room

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“ Room of those that were pressed, which was
 “ done in a Moment. However, the Enemy,
 “ supported by so many Lines, made another
 “ Attempt to penetrate; But our Battalions
 “ rather advanced than gave Way; Tho’ the
 “ General gave Orders against advancing, fear-
 “ ing lest that might render the Fire of our
 “ Flanks useless. This Precaution had all the
 “ desired Success; the Regiments and Grena-
 “ diers making such a continual Fire, as forced
 “ their two Wings upon their *Center*, and obliged
 “ the whole to retire, in the greatest Confusion,
 “ notwithstanding all the Efforts their Officers
 “ could make, by Encouragement, or Violence,
 “ to keep them up; So that they only fired, at
 “ a great Distance, on our Lines, which ours re-
 “ turned, advancing by Platoons, as at their
 “ Exercise, with all the Order imaginable.

“ MAJOR-GENERAL *Cadogan*, who came up,
 “ some Time after the Action began, offered to
 “ charge the Enemy, in their Disorder, with two
 “ Squadrons of Horse, the other Four, which
 “ he had sent for, not being arrived ’till near
 “ seven at Night; But it was not thought ad-
 “ visable, to expose so small a Number to charge
 “ the Enemy, who had brought up all their Horse,
 “ to favour their Retreat. The Battle lasted
 “ two Hours, and was very hot, in which we
 “ had 912 Officers and Soldiers kill’d or woun-
 “ ded.” (*According to a List sent to the States-
 General, the Allies had three Colonels, and two
 Lieutenant-Colonels, wounded; Two Majors killed,
 and one wounded; Four Captains killed, and sixteen
 wounded; Four Lieutenants killed, and eight and
 thirty wounded; 111 private Men kill’d, and 682
 wounded.*) “ The Enemy, as we were assured
 “ by Letters from *Ghent* and *Bruges*, and by Re-
 “ port

“ port of Prisoners and Deserters, lost between 1708.
 “ 6 and 7000 Men.” (*The Hague Account says only 3 or 4000*) “ They made their Retreat in so
 “ great Confusion, that they left most of their
 “ Cannon in a Wood, which they did not carry
 “ off ’till next Day, at eleven o’ Clock, after
 “ hearing that our Convoy were pass’d *Rousselaer*. We remained on the Field of Battle,
 “ ’till two o’ Clock, the next Morning, having
 “ first carried off all our wounded, and several of
 “ the Enemy. This Victory is the more surprizing, that, by Reason of several Detachments, we had not above 6000 Men, in the
 “ Action, and the Enemy, by their own Accounts, had 24000.” (*The Hague Account says between 6 and 7000, and the Enemy between 23 and 24000.*)

THE *Spanish* Troops were the greatest Sufferers in this Action ; And they made terrible Complaints of the *French*, who form’d the *Left Wing* of the Enemy’s Detachment, for not having supported them, as they might, or ought to have done ; But the *French*, on their Side, were as forward in complaining of the *Spaniards*, and laid the ill Success of this Enterprize on their Want of Courage and Conduct. *The French and Spaniards lay the Blame on each other.*

THE Marquis de Quincy, who allows the *French* Detachment to have been far superior to that of the *Allies*, and gives General Webb the Honour of the Victory, pretends this Misfortune was owing to the Orders given by Mons. de la Motte not having been duly executed : And lessens the Number of the killed and wounded, on their Side, to about 2500 Men ; But even this Account, partial as it is, does great Honour to our brave *British* Officers, and the Troops under their Command.

NOTWITHSTANDING this great Superiority of the Enemy, Major-General Webb made this bold and Praise.

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*His eminent
Service publick-
ly acknow-
ledg'd.*

and noble Stand, with so much Presence of Mind, posted his Men so advantageously, ask'd the Advice of the Officers under him, with such Modesty, (*a rare and commendable Virtue in so young a Commander!*) and sustained the Enemy's repeated Efforts with so much Bravery, Resolution and Conduct, as will tend to his immortal Honour: And, as this Critical Victory, which prevented the Raising of the Siege of *Lisle*, was owing chiefly to his prudent Management, and other Military Abilities; So that eminent Service was afterwards deservedly acknowledg'd, not only by the unanimous Thanks of the *Commons of Great Britain*, But also, in a distinguishing Manner, by the King of *Prussia*, who bestowed upon him the *Order of Generosity*. To give this brave and prudent Commander the Honour justly due to him; Tho' he could not venture, being so inferiour in Number, to leave the advantageous Ground he was in, to pursue the Enemy, which, in the Consternation they were in, might probably have ended in the total Destruction of their whole Detachment; Yet so unequal an Action, and so shameful a Flight of the Enemy, with such a considerable Loss, was look'd upon as one of the most extraordinary Things which had happened during the whole War.

The Convoy under his Command arrives safe in the Army.

WHILST Major-General *Webb* engaged the Enemy, with so unequal a Force, at *Wynendale*, the Convoy march'd on undisturb'd, arrived that Night, in Safety, at *Rouffelaer*, the next Day, at *Menin*, and on the last of *September*, N. S. pass'd thro' the Duke of *Marlborough's* Army, (which the Day before, moved from *Lannoy* to *Ronsq*, with the *Right* at *Pont à Marque*, and the *Left* at *Menin*) in its Way to the Camp before *Lisle*.



C H A P. XI.

Continuation of the Siege of the Town and Citadel of Lisle.

THE same Day that the Grand Convoy arrived at the Camp before *Lisle*, Prince *Eugene*, being almost recover'd of his Wound, began to go abroad, and appear again to his Troops, both which combined to raise their Spirits, which began to sink, by the Length and Difficulties of the Siege. The third of *October*, Lieutenant-General *Wilke*, being in the Trenches, the Duke of *Marlborough* went to the Camp before *Lisle*, where the Disposition was made for attacking the Ravelin on the *Right*; For which Purpose, 300 Grenadiers were detach'd from the Army under his Grace's Command, to join the Troops of the Siege order'd for that Service. The Attack began about Noon, and succeeded so well, that by half an Hour after One, the Besiegers made a very good Lodgement on the Ravelin, and obliged such of the Enemy's Troops, as were behind the Traverses, to leap into the Water, where the greater Part of them were either killed or drowned, by which the Confederates made themselves entire Masters of the two Counter-guards and Ravelin, in which they took two Pieces of Cannon. The Besieged, who had Notice of the Preparations making for this Attack, did not expect it 'till the Evening, and,

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Continuation
of the Siege of
Lisle.

The Besiegers
make them-
selves Masters
of the Ravelin
and Counter-
guards.

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Preparations
made for a ge-
neral Storm.

and, therefore, were not so well provided for it, as otherwise they might have been.

FROM this Time, to the twentieth, the Besiegers gain'd some Advantage, every Night, made several new Lodgments, and carried on their Saps, Mines, and other necessary Preparations for a General Storm, the Besieged seeming resolute to dispute the Passage of the Ditch, with all their Might. They continued to drain and fill the Ditch, to make Apertures in the Walls, work on the Galleries, perfect their Lodgments and Places of Arms, and to finish their Batteries, which now consisted of five and forty Pieces of Cannon, and five and forty Mortars and *Hawbitzers*, to supply which, a new Convoy of 200,000 Weight of Powder, with a great Number of Bombs, Cannon-Balls, and Hand-Grenadoes, arrived at the Siege, from *Ostend*. Thus employed, I shall leave the Besiegers, to return to the *Confederate*, and the Enemy's Armies.

Animosities be-
tween the
French and
Spaniards.

THE late Victory of *Wynendale* not only broke the Heart of the *French* Troops, but raised great Animosities between them and the *Spaniards*. The latter, as I have said above, complained they were not well seconded, and the former pretended they should have had the Post of Honour, which the Count *de Bergheyck* would not allow them. The Duke *de Vendôme*, enraged at the Count *de la Motte's* shameful Retreat, march'd, in Person, towards *Bruges*, with a strong Detachment, pass'd thro' *Ghent*, the fifth of *October*, N. S. and came, the next Day, to *Oudenburg*. As he was very sensible of what Importance it would be, to cut off the Communication between the Duke of *Marlborough's* Army and *Ostend*, he attempted to effect it, in the following Manner: He drew together a Body of

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of about 30,000 Men, from the Garrisons of *Bruges*, *Ypres*, and *Dixmuyde*, and other Troops: With these, he took Post all along the other Side of the Canal, between *Plassendabl* and *Newport*; He then caused the Dykes to be cut, in several Places, which laid a great Tract of Land under Water, and re-inforced the Garrison of *Newport*, with a considerable Number of Horse and Foot, which he design'd should dislodge the Allies from *Leffinghen*, and other Posts, on this Side of the Canal.

The Duke de Vendôme endeavours to cut off the Communication between Ostend, and the Duke of Marlborough's Army.

GENERAL Erle, in the mean Time, was vigilant in observing all the Enemy's Motions, and made such a Disposition of his Body of Troops, which were encamp'd at *Raversein*, as he thought would be most proper, in Order to maintain his several Posts, and to give the Enemy a warm Reception, if they should offer to make any Attack. The seventh, in the Night, the Duke de Vendôme caused a Bridge to be laid over the Canal, between *Plassendabl* and *Ostend*; And the Enemy, having burnt their Camp, made a Motion, as if they would pass over to the other Side. A Detachment went over accordingly, and advanced as far as *Bredeney*; Which gave the Confederates Apprehension, that their Intent was to burn the Transports in the Harbour of *Ostend*, and all necessary Precaution was used to prevent it; But, the next Morning, the Detachment repass'd the Canal, and their Army encamp'd between *Snareskirch* and *Ghistel*, having left some Men, in divers Posts, along the Canal.

THE Duke of Marlborough receiving Intelligence of the Duke de Vendôme's Motions, and the Report being, that this Army consisted of sixty Battalions, and seventy or eighty Squadrons,

Motions of the Duke of Marlborough's Army thereupon.

his

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his Grace gave Orders, the sixth of *October*, that the greatest Part of his Army should decamp, in the Night, and, marching by the *Left*, pass the *Lys* at *Menin*. To prevent Confusion, the Duke, likewise, ordered, that the Troops of different Nations should march an Hour, one after another, without Beat of Drum, or Sound of Trumpet. Accordingly, his Grace march'd early, the seventh, with sixty Battalions, and a Hundred and thirty Squadrons, to the Camp at *Rouffelaer*, placing his *Right* to *Rombecq*, and his *Left* to *Hoglede*; In the Camp at *Roncq*, he left twenty Squadrons, under the Command of Major-General *La Leck*, and the same Number of Battalions, under Major-General *Hobndorff*, with Directions to obey Prince *Eugene's* Orders, and, in Case of Necessity, to march into the Line of Circumvallation. The Duke, upon his Arrival at *Rouffelaer*, received Advice, that the Duke de *Vendôme* was still encamp'd at *Oudenburg*; Upon which, his Grace resolv'd to march, with all possible Speed, designing to engage the Enemy, or oblige them to quit that Post. King *Augustus*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, repaired, likewise, to his Grace's Army, in Hopes of an Action, which was the rather expected, because they had certain Intelligence, of the Duke de *Vendôme's* having written to His most Christian Majesty, That he engaged his Honour, the Allies should have no farther Communication with Ostend. The same Night, the Quarter-Masters of the Army set out from *Rouffelaer*, under a Guard of eight Battalions, to secure such Posts as they should think convenient, to facilitate the March of the Army.

THE eighth, by Break of Day, they moved by the *Left*, and advanced to the Heath of *Wy-*

nendale

nendale, where they halted for some Time, 'till the Duke had a Confirmation of the Intelligence he received the same Morning, that the Duke *The Enemy retreats with Precipitation.* *de Vendôme*, being advis'd, of the March of the *Confederates*, decamp'd before Break of Day, with the greatest Precipitation imaginable, from *Oudenburg*, and pass'd the Canal of *Bruges* near that City, having first given Orders for piercing the Dykes, in several Places. The Duke, here-upon, thought it to no Purpose, to march farther, and, therefore, gave Orders for the Army to encamp, with the *Right* at *Turout*, and the *Left* at *Ichtegem*; Sending, at the same Time, Part of the Cavalry back to *Rouffelaer*, to be nearer the Siege. The ninth, in the Morning, his Grace returned, with the Rest of the Troops, to *Rouffelaer*, where the Army encamp'd, in the same Manner, as it had done two Days before; *The Duke encamps again at Rouffelaer.* But all the Infantry of the second Line, commanded by Count *Lottum*, General of the *Prussians*, march'd to *Morselle*, to be near the Siege.

THE tenth, upon Advice, that the Enemy were drawing more of their Troops from the *Scheld*, towards *Ghent* and *Bruges*, the Duke of *Marlborough* sent Orders to Count *Lottum*, to rejoin the Army, with the Troops under his Command, which he did, the eleventh, accordingly. That Morning, his Grace went to *Meun*, where he met Prince *Eugene*, with whom, *The Duke of Marlborough confers with Prince Eugene.* together with the Field-Deputies of the *States*, he held a long Conference, and then returned, in the Evening to *Rouffelaer*.

THE twelfth, upon Advice, that a large Con- *Major-General Cadogan conveys Ammunition and Provisions over the* voy of Ammunition and Provisions was lately arrived at *Ostend*, from *Great Britain* and *Holland*, and ready to set out for the Army, the Duke

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Duke of *Marlborough* sent Major-General *Cadogan*, with eight Battalions, and nine Squadrons, to *Cocklaer*, for the Security of its March, and to assist in getting it over the Inundation. At the same Time, Brigadier *Grumkau*, with five Battalions more, was ordered to *Cortemarque* to be at Hand to join him, if necessary. As the Enemy had drowned the Country, on the other Side of the Canal of *Newport*, it was with great Hazard and Difficulty, that they carried about 500 Barrels of Powder, over the Inundation, in Boats provided for that Purpose, at *Ostend*, to Places where the Waggon from the Army waited to transport it to the Camp. The fourteenth, this Convoy passed by *Rouffelaer*, in its Way to *Menin* and *Lisle*; And, the next Day, Major-General *Cadogan* sent an Officer to acquaint the Duke of *Marlborough*, that he had taken Post with his Detachment at *Cocklaer*, expecting a new Supply of Ammunition over the drown'd Country. Upon this, his Grace immediately ordered Lieutenant-General *Fagel*, with twelve Battalions and twenty Squadrons, to post themselves at *Cortemarque*, to sustain Major-General *Cadogan*; And being, at the same Time, informed, that the Duke de *Vendôme* intended to intercept that Convoy, he ordered his Army to be ready to march, at an Hour's Warning.

Transports arrive at Ostend, from England.

THE sixteenth, some Transports arrived at *Ostend*, from *Great Britain*, having on Board the Regiments of *Hill* and *Mackartney*, with about 400 Soldiers belonging to other Regiments; And, upon Advice, that the Enemy made some Motions, which look'd as if they intended to attack either the Troops of the *Allies*, at *Lessinghen*, or the Camp at *Raversein*, General *Erle* sent a Re-inforcement to *Lessinghen*, and, removing

Motions of the Troops under Lieutenant-General Erle.

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ing his Forces nearer Fort *Albert*, posted some of his Men in the Downs, that the Enemy might not send some Men, at *Low Water*, to attack him in the *Rear*, while the Infantry should attack him in Front. The *French*, on the other Hand, taking into Consideration the Importance it was of, entirely to cut off all Communication between *Ostend* and the Siege, sent six Half Gallies, from *Newport*, on the Canal of that Name; By which Means, they erected a Battery, on an Island, formed by the Breaking down of the Dyke, from whence they cannonaded as well a Redoubt, which the *Confederates* had cast up at *Lessinghen*, as the Boats employed to carry over Ammunition and Provisions. This did not, however, hinder Major-General *Cadogan*, from getting a farther Supply of near 1600 Barrels of Powder, and a great Quantity of Brandy, Salt, and other Provisions for the Sutlers of the Army, over the Inundation, of which he himself gave an Account to the Duke of *Marlborough*, the nineteenth. He acquainted his Grace, at the same Time, that the Communication with *Lessinghen* and *Ostend*, would be, for the future, more difficult, if not entirely lost, as well on Account of the Waters being risen much higher by the Spring-Tides, as of the Precautions taken by the Enemy.

And of the French.

More Ammunition and Provisions carried over the Inundations.

THE Day before, the Duke of *Marlborough* went to *Menin*, to confer with Prince *Eugene*, and the Field-Deputies of the *States*; And, during this Interview, Velt-Marshal *d'Auverquerque* expired, in his Quarters at *Rousselaer*, in the sixty-seventh Year of his Age, worn out with his former Fatigues, and his late Indisposition, being very much lamented by every one, on Account of his great Abilities, extraor-

Death of Mon-sieur d'Auverquerque.

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Count Tilly
takes the Com-
mand of the
Dutch Troops.

The Village of
Leffinghen
bravely defend-
ed against the
French.

dinary Zeal for the Interest of his Country, his Generosity and Disinterestedness. By his Death, the Command of the *Dutch* Troops fell of Course, provisionally, on the Count *de Tilly*, as eldest General in the Service of Their *High Mightinesses*.

It was with no small Mortification the Duke *de Vendôme* observed, that, notwithstanding the great Inundation he had caused, Major-General *Cadogan*, by Favour of the Troops at *Leffinghen*, found Means to convey great Quantities of Ammunition and Provisions to the Army; He, therefore, resolved to make himself Master of that Village, at any Rate; To which End, he formally invested, and laid Siege to it. To give a particular Account of this Siege in Miniature, would be as ridiculous, as it was inglorious in the *French*, to make an Attack in Form, on so defenseless a Post, while the Siege of the most important of all their Frontiers was carrying on, without their daring so much as to attempt the Relief of it: And yet the Marquis *de Quincy* gives as formal an Account of this mighty Siege, and extols the Valour and Conduct of his Countrymen in the several Attacks of it, as if it had been a Place of the greatest Importance. I shall, however, only observe, that, tho' it was allowed, at all Hands, not to be terrible against a vigorous Attack, Lieutenant-Colonel *Rapin*, and Major *Hemert* defended it bravely, for eight Days, against all the Skill and Force the Duke *de Vendôme* employed against it, killed and wounded a great Number of his Men, and took several Officers Prisoners; And, among the latter, Major-General *de Croissy-Colbert*, taken by an *English* Grenadier, who generously refused 200 Pistoles, and a Commission, in the
French

French Service, to favour his Escape. Thus, I say, was this Place bravely defended for eight Days, 'till the fatigued Garrison being relieved by Colonel *Caulfield*, with several other Officers, and 1250 fresh Men, this new Commander, by some unaccountable Misconduct, not yet deter-
 mined, by our Historians, suffer'd himself to be surprized, the very next Day, and surrendred, with his Garrison, Prisoners at Discretion. The Marquis *de Quincy*, however, accounts for this Surprise, by saying, that the new Governour and his Officers, with the whole Garrison, having been making themselves merry, on Account of the Surrender of *Lisle*, which happen'd two Days before, the *French* found the Soldiers all drunk, and the Officers quiet in their Beds; so that they got into the Place, before the former could get into a Posture of Defense, or the latter their Cloaths on.

But, at Length,
 surrendr'd.

THIS small Conquest made the Enemy, however, but poor Amends, for the great Loss they sustained, two Days before, by the Surrender of the Town of *Lisle*; as I have just hinted above. Every Thing being ready for the General Storm, the twenty-second, at four in the Afternoon, the Garrison beat a Parly, and offered to capitulate for the Town. Hostages were immediately exchange'd, and it was agreed, that the Marshal *de Bosslers* should capitulate with Prince *Eugene*, for whatever related to the Garrison; And that the Magistrates and Council of the Town should propose their own Terms, for themselves, and the Castlany of *Lisle*, and agree about the same, with the Field-Deputies of the *States-General*, which was done accordingly. The twenty-third, in the Morning, the first Capitulation was concluded and sign'd, containing in Substance:

The Town of
Lisle surren-
 der'd to the
 Allies.

1708.

Substance of the
Capitulation.

“ THAT the *French* should, that Afternoon,
“ surrender the *Magdalen-Gate*, and all the Maga-
“ zines of Provisions and Ammunition, in the
“ Town ; That all their Sick and Wounded
“ should either be transported to *Douay*, or re-
“ main in *Lisle*, for their Recovery, at their own
“ Charge ; That the Horse who had enter’d the
“ Town, since the Siege, might be sent to
“ *Douay*, with the Wives and Families of the
“ Officers and Soldiers, &c. That all Prisoners,
“ taken during the Siege, be restored, on both
“ Sides ; And that the Troops of the *Allies*
“ should not enter into the Town before the
“ five and twentieth of *October*, by which Time
“ the *French* Garrison was to withdraw into the
“ Citadel.”

Reasons alleg’d
for the Length
of the Siege.

MANY Causes were assign’d for the Length of this Siege, besides the Strength of the Place, and the brave Resistance of the Garrison. Much Blame was laid on the Conduct of some of the Chief Engineers, which fell very short of what had been experienced, in *Colborn*. It was suspected, that there was Treachery among some of the Officers of the *Allies*. It was openly said, that the City was attack’d in the very strongest Part of it. It was assured, that the Besieged had always Intelligence of the Time and Place, when and where any Attack was to be made ; Because they were always found in a perfect good Posture of Defense. It was even affirmed, that the Fire of the Besieged was more ready and more violent, than that of the Besiegers ; And that many of the Bombs of the latter had but very little Effect ; Because they frequently went quite over the Town ; And that, in Attacks, the Besieged were so prepar’d for their Defense, that they fired upon the Assailants, from several Places, and made

made them endure a greater Fire, than was that from without. 1708.

• To determine the exact Loss, on either Side, during this Siege of ten Weeks, might not be very easy; However, as the *French* in general own, that they had 12,000 Men in Garrison, (which the Marquis de Quincy, indeed, reduces to 10,000) not including near 3,000 Burghers, who did constant Duty, with the regular Troops, of which no more than 4,500 Men retired, with the Marshal de Boufflers, into the Citadel, and 2,000 more were reckoned to be either sick or wounded, their Loss must have amounted, at least, to 5 or 6,000 Men; And Monf. de Quincy allows their Loss to have amounted to 4,400 Men, Infantry, and 600 Horse and Dragoons. As for the *Confederates*, they owned, that they had 3632 killed, and 8322 wounded, of whom if we suppose one half to have died, the whole will not come up to full 8,000; a far less Number than fell before *Namur*. Here the Marquis de Quincy gives another flagrant Instance of his Partiality, and Disingenuity, and pretends, that some of the General Officers of the *Allies* themselves own'd, that they had 18,000 Men kill'd or wounded, not reckoning 9 or 10,000 Men, who died of Sickness, or who were sick in their Hospitals, when the Place surrender'd. The slow, but more effectual, Way of saving having saved the Lives of many Soldiers, Prince Eugene resolved to follow the same Method in the Siege of the Citadel; Whither the *French* retired, according to Capitulation, the five and twentieth.

At the same Time, the Prince of Holstein-Beck, The French who was appointed by the States General to be Governour of the Town, march'd in, with Major-General Soutland, Messieurs du Boisset and du Troussel, Garrison retires into the Citadel.

1708.

Trouffel, Brigadiers, and fifteen Battalions. While the *Confederates* were taking Possession, not only of the Gates of the Town, but also of all the Avenues leading to the Citadel, a small Dispute arose between the *Confederate* Generals, and the Marshal *de Boufflers*, the latter laying a Pretence to some Works, belonging, as he said, to that Fortress, and the former insisting on the same as belonging to the Town; But the Enemy's Cavalry, which, according to Articles, was to be conducted to *Douay*, and was then marching out, being detained, the *French* gave up their Pretence; And the same Night, the *Confederates* broke Ground, and carried on their Approaches.

The Allies fortify La Bassée.

As soon as the Enemy had evacuated the Town, the Hereditary Prince of *Hesse-Cassel* march'd, with thirty Squadrons, into *Artois*, and, encamping between *Lens* and *La Bassée*, employed Pioneers to fortify the latter; Which done, and having left the Command of the Troops to Count *Wackerbart*, he returned to the Army under Prince *Eugene*. The Cessation of all Acts of Hostility, between the Town and Citadel of *Lisle*, which was to have expired, the six and twentieth, was continued three Days longer; During which Time, at the earnest Request of the Inhabitants, all possible Endeavours were used to induce the Marshal *de Boufflers* to capitulate; But their Demands were so extravagant and Romantick, that they could not but be rejected by the Allies, with Disdain. Some Civilities pass'd, in this Interval, between Prince *Eugene*, and the Marshal; But that did not hinder either Side from making all possible Preparations, one for Attacking, and the other for the Defense of the Place; Nor did either Side neglect the necessary Works for that End.

1708.

THE nine and twentieth of *October*, N. S. the Negotiations for the Surrender of the Citadel being entirely broken off, the Besieged began the Hostilities, about four in the Afternoon, by the Discharge of five Pieces of Cannon, with which they continued: And, on the other Hand, the *Allies* contracted their Line of Circumvallation, and erected Batteries of Cannon, Mortars and *Hawbitzers*, within their first Parallel; Tho' they did not design to batter in Breach, 'till they were Masters of the Outworks, for which Purpose they carried on their Approaches by the Sap. The Favourableness of the Season, tho' so far advanced, put the *Allies* upon this cautious Method, to save a great Number of Men, which otherwise must have perish'd in the Attacks, the Body of the Citadel being surrounded by three Ditches, and two Cover'd Ways. In the mean Time, they repair'd the Breaches and Fortifications of the Town.

The Siege of the Citadel of Lisle begun.

THE Duke of *Marlborough's* Army continued, all this While, encamp'd at *Rouffelaer*. The second of *November*, N. S. nine Battalions were ordered to march, and join the Forces in *Lisle*, to assist in carrying on the Siege of the Citadel, with the greater Vigour. The third, the Army made a general Forrage, near the Walls of *Ypres*, which the Enemy attempted to disturb, by the Cannon from the Town; But they all returned, in the Evening, without any Loss, and furnish'd with Provisions for many Days. The fifth, nine Squadrons of the Troops, which march'd, the first of *November*, from *Cocklaer* to *Longuemarque*, were ordered to join the Count de *Wackerbart*, at *la Bassée*. In this Interval, the Marquis de *Surville*, a French Lieutenant-General, in the Citadel of *Lisle*, having received a Shot thro'

Proceedings in the Duke of Marlborough's Army.

Lieutenant-General de Surville wounded.

the



1708.



The Earl of
Stairs detach'd
to bring in
Corn.

the Body, as he was viewing the Approaches of the *Allies*, Prince *Eugene* consented to his being brought into the Town of *Lisle*, and afterwards to be removed to *Douay*, for his Cure.

THE seventh, the Duke having received Information, that the *French* had summoned the Villages and open Towns, about *Dixmuyde*, and, *Furnes*, to bring their Corn, and other Provisions, into *Ypres*, and other fortified Places, the Earl of *Stairs* was detach'd from *Rouffelaer*, with six Squadrons; And, being join'd by four more, with ten Battalions, from the Detachment encamp'd at *Cortemarque* and *Longuemarque*, took Post in *Dixmuyde*. From thence, his Lordship sent Orders, enjoining the Inhabitants of the District, to carry their Corn and Forrage, immediately, to the *Confederate* Army, where they should be paid for the same; But threatening them, in Case of Non-Compliance, with Military Execution. This had the desired Effect; For not only the Inhabitants of that District, but, likewise, those of *Furnes*, *St. Omer*, *St. Winoc-Berg*, and *Bourbourg*, supplied the *Confederate* Army, with Cattle, Corn, and other Necessaries, in great Plenty. The ninth, the Earl of *Stairs* attack'd the Fort of *Haut-Pont*, near *Dixmuyde*, which he took, after a short Resistance, and made the Garrison, consisting of 200 *Grenadiers*, commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel, Prisoners of War. The tenth, Brigadier *Evans* march'd from *Longuemarque*, with five Battalions, and six Squadrons of Horse, to re-inforce the Earl of *Stairs*, who, thereupon, advanced to *Loo*, and sent out Detachments to gather in more Corn, and Forrage.

His Lordship
takes Haut-
Pont.

The Duke de
Vendôme
causes the
Country to be
over-flowed.

THE Duke de *Vendôme*, upon Notice hereof, sent two Brigades of Foot, one of Horse, and another

1708.

another of Dragoons, which lined the Canal, from *Newport* to *Furnes*, and made thirteen *Cou-pures* in it, by which Means, the Country was over-flowed, on both Sides, and hindred the *Allies* from penetrating farther that Way. The thirteenth, the Count *de Mouroux*, a Major-General, who commanded that Body, having got Information, that a Detachment of *Prussian* Troops (consisting of a Battalion of *Grumkau*, and one of the *Markgrave* of *Albrecht*, a Squadron of the Regiment of *Catte*, and another of *Heyden*) was advanced between *Furnes* and *St. Winox-Berg*, march'd in the Evening, and, the fourteenth, in the Morning, surprized them, in the Village of *Beauvorde*, and having surrounded them, forced them, after some Resistance, to yield themselves Prisoners of War: For which, their Commander, Colonel *Catte*, was afterwards tried at *Berlin*, but honourably acquitted.

Some Prussian Troops surpriz'd and taken by the Enemy.

UPON this unfortunate Accident, General *Fagel* was ordered, to march from *Cortemarque* towards *Dixmuyde*, with a large Body of Troops, to gather in the Remainder of the Provisions, which could be found, in that Neighbourhood; And, on the other Hand, Major-General *Cadogan*, and the Prince *d' Auvergne*, were detach'd, the seventh, towards *Artois*, from whence they brought a great Quantity of Corn to *Lisle*.

Other Detachments made to bring in Corn.

THIS done, Major-General *Cadogan*, and Monsieur *Croonstrom*, went, the twelfth, to *Turcoin*, to confer with two *French* Commissioners about an Exchange of Prisoners, and, in two Days, the Treaty was concluded; By which, it was agreed, "That the private Men and Officers, from Colonels downwards, should be exchanged against others, of the same Character, as far as they went, and the Rest to remain Prisoners,"

Exchange of Prisoners agreed on.

WHILE

1708.

A Design of the Duke de Vendôme's frustrated.

WHILE these Things were transacting on this Side, the Duke *de Vendôme* caused, the eight and twentieth, and nine and twentieth, of *October*, a few Bombs to be thrown into *Damme*; After which, he appear'd, with a Body of Troops, before *Ostend*; And, at the same Time, some Squadrons of Horse march'd, along the Sands, from *Newport*, as if their Design was to cut off Lieutenant-General *Erle's* Camp: But that Commander retreated very seasonably, into the Outworks of *Ostend*, the eighth of *November*.

Misunderstanding between the Dukes of Burgundy, and de Vendôme.

DURING these Transactions, there was a great Misunderstanding between the Dukes of *Burgundy*, and *de Vendôme*. The latter took so much upon him, that the other Officers complained of his Neglecting them; And they, therefore, made their Complaints to the Duke of *Burgundy*, and laid the Blame of all his Miscarriages on the Duke *de Vendôme*. He kept close to the Orders he had from *Versailles*, where his Accounts, and the Advices he offer'd, were held in greater Regard, than those which were sent by the Duke of *Burgundy*. This gave him great Uneasiness; He was impatient of Contradiction, and pretended to a great Eagerness to be in Action; Tho' it appeared, that he was never very forward in exposing his Person; Nor did his Conduct, during this Campaign, promise very much in his Favour.

Character of the former.

Prince Eugene in Danger of his Life.

AT the Citadel of *Lisle*, as well the Besiegers as the Besieged were good Husbands of their small Stock of Ammunition, which drew the Siege, indeed, into some Length; But was, at the same Time, the Occasion, that it was carried on, with a very inconsiderable Loss. However, the eleventh of *November*, Prince *Eugene*, who still continued to expose himself, was in great Danger

Danger of his Life, his Gentleman of the Horse being kill'd by his Side, by a Musket-Ball. 1708.

The thirteenth, the Besiegers made a Lodg-
ment, by the *Pallisadoes* of the first Covered
Way, with a very small Loss; And, the next
Day, they made themselves Masters of the whole
Counter-scarp, excepting two *Places of Arms*,
which the Enemy abandon'd the fifteenth; And,
the seventeenth, they lodg'd themselves on the
Glacis of the second Cover'd Way, without any
Loss.

*The Counter-
scarp of the Ci-
tadel of Lille
taken.*





CHAP. XII.

A Design of the Enemy on Bruffels frustrated, the Rear of their Army defeated, and the Citadel of Lisle surrender'd.

1708.

St. Venant
taken by the
Allies.



OUR Days before the taking the Counterscarp of the Citadel of Lisle; the Prince d'Auvergne was detach'd, by the Count de Wackerbart, from La Bassée, with a Body of Horse and Foot, to attack the Fort of St. Venant, upon the Lys, on the Frontiers of Artois, in which the Enemy had posted a Hundred Men, who, upon his Approach, made only one Discharge, and then retired towards Aire. The Prince d'Auvergne took, hereupon, Possession of the Place, and having left 800 Foot, with 300 Horse, in Garrison there, under the Command of Colonel Lambert, returned to La Bassée, the next Day.

Vain-Glory of
the French.

THE Siege of the Citadel of Lisle being carried on slowly, for the Reasons I have already mentioned, the Enemy were vain enough to imagine, they had taken such infallible Measures for distressing the Allies, as well by their Inundations between Bruges and Newport, as their Intrenchments along the Scheld, that their Publick Ministers, in several Foreign Courts, were not backward to give out, with great Confidence; That the Confederate Army was so coop'd up, they would soon either be famished, or obliged to abandon Lisle; Nay, it was reported, that the Duke de Vendôme

An
Exact Plan of
BRUSSELS
is humbly Dedicated
to the R^t Hon^{ble}
GEORGE EARL of
CARDIGAN

by his most Obedient Serv^t
Tho. Lediard

A Scale of Fathoms

50 100 150 200 250 300



Vendôme talk'd of having the whole Confederate Army deliver'd into his Hands, as Prisoners of War, for Want of Bread and other Necessaries: But the Event shew'd, they reckoned without their Host, and that our Two Great Generals, being indefatigably intent, each upon their proper Business, the Duke of Marlborough in providing Corn, and Prince Eugene in Husbanding what was sent him, both Armies subsisted in a parsimonious Plenty.

THE Enemy, finding themselves disappointed in these their Hopes, opened a new Scene: Their Parties made Irruptions into the District of *Boisleduc*, burning and ravaging Part of the Open Country. And the *Electör of Bavaria* (who was returned from an unactive Campaign in Germany) approach'd *Brussels*, at the same Time, with a Body of about 2,000 Men, taken from several Garrisons. It was reasonable to imagine, that the *Electör*, whose good Intelligence and Influence had occasion'd the Loss of *Ghent* and *Bruges*, could not want it in a Place where he had resided, and had undoubtedly secured a very great Party. The *Allies* were, likewise, not without Apprehensions, that the *Electör of Bavaria's* secret Projects might have as great Influence in *Antwerp* as in *Brussels*, to the infinite Prejudice of the Common Cause, not only in the *Spanish Netherlands*, but, by the Consequences, which might be equally pernicious in *Spain* and *Italy*.

THE *Electör of Bavaria*, therefore, no sooner made a Shew of marching an Army towards *Brabant*, than the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene concerted Measures to pass the *Scheld*; And, as it was yet uncertain, whether *Antwerp* or *Brussels* was most in Danger, Orders were

The Electör of Bavaria forms a Design upon Brussels.

Care taken for the Security of Antwerp and Brussels.

1708.

were sent to the *British* Regiments of *Hill*, *Mac-*
kartney, *Wynne*, *Hamilton* and *Townshend*, under
 the Command of Brigadier *Wynne*, and the *Wal-*
loon Regiment of *Davila*, to be forthwith trans-
 ported from *Ostend* to *Antwerp*; and the *States-*
General commanded other Troops to march from
Naerden, *Heusden*, *Grave*, and other Places, and
 dispatch'd some of their own Members thither,
 with General *Fresheim*, an experienced Officer.
 The Duke of *Marlborough* sent, at the same Time,
 an Express to Lieutenant General *Pascal*, Go-
 vernour of *Brussels*, to assure him, that, in Case
 he should be attack'd, both he, and Prince *Eugene*,
 would certainly march to his Relief. Upon
 this Encouragement, the Deputies of the *States*
 resolved to remain in *Brussels*; Which contribu-
 red not a little to the Preservation of that impor-
 tant Place. On the other Hand, his Grace re-
 called the Troops commanded by General *Fagel*,
 who joined the Army at *Rouffelaer*, the twenty-
 second of *November*, and brought with him two
 Hostages for the Performance of an Agreement
 made with the Dependences of the District of
Furnes; By which they had bound themselves to
 furnish 6,000 Sacks of Corn, into the Magazines
 of *Menin*. The same Day, Advice came, that
 the Enemy had detach'd some Troops from the
 Bodies they had near *Oudenarde* and *Ghent*; And
 that the Dam they were making, near *Gavre*, to
 stop the Course of the *Scheld*, in Order to make
 that River over-flow its Banks, and render its
 Passage more difficult, was broke, and carried
 away by the Rapidity of the Stream, in the
 Night between the twentieth, and the twenty-
 first. This was a great Disappointment to the
 Enemy; For they depended upon this Dam,
 to lay the Borders about *Avelghem* and *Tournay*
 under

See Letters B.
and C. below.

The Enemy's
Dam in the
Scheld broken.

under Water. To this End, they had made use of Boats fill'd with Stones, which they sunk, besides several other Machines, that cost immense Sums, as well as Labour; But all to no Purpose; For the Current carried away all their Dykes, and they found it impossible, by that Means, to render the Passage of the *Scheld* impracticable. However, they had such Confidence in the several Bodies of Troops, which they had entrench'd along the *Scheld*, that they did not believe the *Allies* would dare to attempt the Passage of that River: But we shall soon find that they were mistaken.

THE same Evening, likewise, the *Elector* of *Bavaria* arrived in the Neighbourhood of *Brussels*, with a Body of about 10,000 Horse and Foot, sixteen Battering Cannons, and twelve Field-Pieces; And, the twenty-third, at Noon, whilst his Men were breaking the Ground, and drawing Lines, his *Electoral* Highness sent in a Trumpeter, to the Governour, with the following Instructions.

“ HE shall summon the *Commandant* of the City of *Brussels*, to surrender to His *Electoral* Highness; Who is about to attack him, with his Army and Artillery, which is coming up. His *Electoral* Highness knows, that the *Commandant* is not in a Condition to defend himself, with the few Troops he has: Wherefore, if he obliges his *Electoral* Highness to begin the Attack, he shall have no Capitulation, for himself, or his Garrison. Let not the *Commandant* flatter himself, that he can retire, with his Garrison, to *Antwerp*, if he delays to surrender; For he is to know, that he will soon find Troops posted to hinder his Retreat.”

1708.

THE Governour, who had nine Battalions, and 1000 Horse, under his Command, return'd the following Answer, by the same Trumpeter :

Monseigneur,

*The Governour's
Answer.*

“ THE Commandant of *Brussels* is very unfortunate, in not having the Honour to be known to Your *Electoral* Highness. He dares assure You, That he will do all that a Man of Honour ought to do ; That he is satisfied with his Garrison, and that he has the Honour to be, with a profound Respect,

Monseigneur,

Your Electoral Highness's

Most humble Servant,

P A S C A L.

*He prepares for
a stout Defense.*

GENERAL *Pascal*, accordingly made all the necessary Dispositions for a vigorous Defense, in Concert with the Major-Generals *Murray*, and Baron *Wrangel*, the Deputies of the *States*, the Council of State, and the Magistrates of that City : And the better to encourage the Troops, to the Performance of their Duty, he ordered a Pound of Flesh, two Quarts of Beer, and four Glasses of Brandy, to be distributed, every Day, gratis, to each Soldier. The twenty-third, the Enemy encamp'd, from the Villages of *Ixelles*, and *Itterbeck*, to *Scarbeck*, within a Quarter of a League of *Brussels*. The four and twentieth and five and twentieth, they employ'd in erecting Batteries ; But the Cannon of the Town, being extremely

extremely well served, some of theirs were immediately dismounted. 1708.

THE six and twentieth, about nine in the Morning, they began to play from their Batteries against the City, and several Balls, which went over the Ramparts damaged the Tops of some Houses. Towards Evening, they began to fire, from two Mortars, into the Outworks; But only two or three of the Bombs fell into the Town, and they did no Mischief. About seven, the Enemy began to fire, with their small Shot, against the Men in the Outworks, who returned the Compliment, which was redoubled about nine. The Enemy then began a false Attack on the Counterscarp, near the Scarbeck-Gate, and, at the same Time, another, between the Louvain and Namur-Gates, whereupon ensued one of the most furious, obstinate, and bloody Encounters, that ever was known. The Enemy enter'd the Covered Way twice; But were, both Times, beaten out again, and made only a small Lodgment on the Glacis, from whence they were, likewise, driven, by 100 Men of Sir Thomas Pendergast's Regiment, who distinguish'd themselves, in an extraordinary Manner. They renew'd their Attacks several Times, and the Action lasted, with great Slaughter, for thirteen Hours 'till ten the next Morning; When the Enemy retreated, on every Side, with the greatest Confusion; Being quite discourag'd, by the courageous and obstinate Resistance of the Confederate Troops, who were encouraged by the Presence and Example of the Generals Pascal, Murray and Wrangel, Colonels Egelin and Lescheraine, and other Officers of Distinction.

THE seven and twentieth, some Cannon-Shot were exchanged, on both Sides; And General

The Enemy make a vigorous Attack on Brussels.

See Letters A. B. and C. below.

But are repuls'd, after 13 Hours Engagement.

The Enemy raise the Siege with great Precipitation.

1708.

See Letters B.
and C. below.

Their Loss in
this fruitless
Expedition.

Pascal, not doubting but the Enemy would renew the Attack, in the Evening, with greater Numbers, and more Vigour than before, caused the Troops, which guarded those Posts, that were most exposed, to be re-inforced, and a Reserve to sustain them: But, in the Afternoon, instead of renewing the Attack, the *Elect*or of *Bavaria* demanded a Suspension of Arms, under Pretence of burying the Dead, and drawing off the Wounded; Which, however, proved but a Stratagem to raise the Siege, with the less Disadvantage: For, upon the Arrival of two Couriers from *Mons*, with Intelligence, that the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene* had pass'd the *Scheld*, and were marching to relieve *Brussels*, His *Elect*oral Highness sent away his Baggage, and march'd his Troops off, in the Night, without Beat of Drum, or Sound of Trumpet; And with such Precipitation, that they left, in their Camp, twelve Pieces of Cannon nailed up, two large Mortars, and about twenty Barrels of Powder. They likewise left about 800 wounded Men, in the Villages of *Ixelles* and *Itterbeck*, and in the Abbey of *Cambre*; And the Hussars and Dragoons, who went out the next Morning, in Pursuit of them, brought in a great many Prisoners, and some Baggage.

THIS fruitless Expedition, what with their killed, wounded, Prisoners and Deserters, was reckoned to have cost the Enemy above 3,000 Men. Among their Slain, were the Count *de Saillant*, Governour of the Castle of *Namur*, *Monf. de Boisfermé*, a Colonel, *Monf. de Beaumorel*, *Aid de Camp* to the *Elect*or of *Bavaria*, the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment of *Benavides*, with several other Officers; And of seven Engineers, whom they had, five were killed,

led, and two taken Prisoners, in the Action. The *Elect*or of *Bavaria* was enraged at this Disappointment, and complained loudly of the Court of *France*, which, he said, sacrificed him, in the Midst of his Enterprize, when they might have supported him by putting a Stop to Prince *Eugene's* and the Duke of *Marlborough's* Passage over the *Scheld*: And he had the more Reason to be dissatisfied, if, as the Marquis de *Quincy* says, he was put upon this Enterprize, by the *French*, against his Will. The *Allies* lost between 5 and 600 Men, killed and wounded, and, among the former, *Monf. Pascal*, Major of the Regiment of Dragoons of *Dodigni*, who fought on Foot, with extraordinary Courage and Resolution. The Enemy expected, that the Populace would have risen in their Favour, but by the Vigilance and prudent Conduct of General *Pascal*, assisted by the Lords of the Regency, and the Magistrates, all remained quiet in the City; And the Officers and Soldiers, in the Out-works, behaved with all the Bravery and Unanimity which could be wished or expected.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL *Pascal*, for this brave and vigorous Defense of *Brussels*, was justly advanced, by his Sovereign, King *Charles, III.* to the Honour and Dignity of a Marquis: But, tho', by this single Action, he gained immortal Glory; Yet it is certain, that it would have been next to an Impossibility for him, to have maintained the Place above a Day or two longer, his Garrison being scarce 5,000 Men strong, and the Place of a vast Extent, and open almost on every Side. The Preservation of *Brussels* was therefore, chiefly owing to the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*, who, with a profound Secrecy, and almost incredible Diligence, passed

General *Pascal* rewarded with the Dignity of a Marquis.

The Preservation of *Brussels* chiefly owing to the Duke of *Marlborough* and Prince *Eugene*.

1708.



the *Scheld*, the seven and twentieth of *November*, in the Morning, with little or no Opposition. This the *French* own, in all their Accounts, adding, that if the Duke had not surpriz'd and forced the Passage of the *Scheld*, the Inhabitants of *Brussels* would have declar'd in Favour of the *Elect*, and have oblig'd the Garrison to surrender: But this seems to have no Grounds, if we may believe the Account given by the Deputies of the *States*, in their Letter, of which the Reader will find a Translation below. Thus the *French*, to their eternal Shame, abandoned, in a Pannick Fear and Distraction, those Lines, which they had employed three Months Time in erecting. This extraordinary March and Passage, which was too important to be pass'd over in Silence, was executed in the following Manner.

*Their Motions,
in Order to pass
the Scheld.*

*Difficulties of
the Attempt.*

THE Duke of *Marlborough*, having received repeated Advices, that the *Elect* of *Bavaria* was marching towards *Brussels*, was sensible of the Necessity of relieving that Place; and that there was no other Way of doing it, but by passing the *Scheld*; He, therefore, resolved to attempt that Passage at all Events. The Design was very hazardous, and attended with many Difficulties. The *French* Army, which was in no Respect inferiour to that of the *Allies*, lay encamp'd before *Oudenarde*, cover'd with a strong Intrenchment, and they had rais'd three, one behind the other, below the Town, on the Banks of the River, strengthened with Batteries; And tho' all the Attempts they had made to stop the Course of that River, and cause an Inundation there, had proved ineffectual, there were considerable One's above the Town. Notwithstanding this advantageous Situation of the Enemy, the Duke of *Marlborough* was not deter'd from his Resolution.

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tion; But sent the Artillery and Baggage, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth, from *Rouffelaer* to *Menin*; And, in the Night of the latter, detach'd Lieutenant-General *Dompere*, having twenty Squadrons, and ten Battalions, under his Command, with Orders to march to *Harlebeck*, the next Morning. Within a few Hours after, the whole Army was in Motion, from *Rouffelaer*, and pass'd the *Lys*, at *Courtray*, in two Columns. The *Right* Wing arrived at *Harlebeck*, the same Day; But, by Reason of the bad Roads, narrow *Defiles*, and almost continual Rains, the *Left*, which made the *Rear*, could not get thither, 'till the next Morning, at eight; Notwithstanding which, the Army was ordered to pursue their March, at three, in the Afternoon. An Hour before, twenty Squadrons, and six Battalions, were detach'd from the *Left*, under the Command of Major-General *Rotbmar*, and Brigadier *Schmettau*, to join Lieutenant-General *Dompere's* Detachment; Which, being now encreased to forty Squadrons and sixteen Battalions, was to be commanded by Count *Lottum* and the Earl of *Orkney*, and had Orders to pass the *Scheld*, at *Gavre*, whatever Opposition they met with, and entrench themselves, on the Eminences on the other Side, 'till they could be supported by the Rest of the Army. Prince *Eugene*, at the same Time, march'd to *Roubaix*, with twenty Battalions and forty Squadrons, to attempt passing the same River, at *Escanaffe*. About four, in the Afternoon, the Duke of *Marlborough* began his March, from *Harlebeck*, having detach'd Major-General *Cadogan*, and Brigadier *Evans*, some Hours before, with eight Battalions, the *Pontons*, and all the Artillery, in Order to lay Bridges at *Kirkboven* and *Elseghem*, where his Grace design'd

See Letters D. and E. below.

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*The Allies pass
the Scheld, in
two Places
without Opposi-
tion.*

to pass, with his Army, and where the Enemy had a Body of Troops, commanded by *Mont. Sousternon*, a Lieutenant-General.

THESE well-laid Measures were put in Execution, with such Expedition and Secrecy, that tho' the *French* had Notice of the *Duke of Marlborough's* passing the *Lys*, yet they never suspected his Design of proceeding farther, over the *Scheld*, an Attempt so bold, that they could not imagine the *Allies* would have ventured upon it. All these several Detachments march'd the whole Night, by Favour of the Moon; And Count *Lottum*, arriving, at four in the Morning, on the Banks of the *Scheld*, ordered two Bridges to be laid, and sent some Foot to take Post on the other Side; But the Cavalry did not go over 'till it was Day-light. The Morning proving foggy, a Guard of Count *de la Motte's* Dragoons, who were patrolling, fell in amongst the *Confederates*, and gave Notice of their Approach, to their General; Who had before some Suspicion of it, because a Guard of his Foot, upon the Noise the Workmen made, in Laying of the Bridges, had fired five or six Times. Count *Lottum* immediately drew up his Forces, in the Plain of *Gavre*, as he was ordered, and Count *de la Motte* did the same, within Sight of him: But the former marching towards the Hills of *Oudenarde*, to join the *Duke of Marlborough*, whom he had advised of his Passage, the *French* retir'd towards *Ghent*, having always kept at half a League's Distance from the *Confederates*.

*The Enemy re-
treats before
them.*

MAJOR-GENERAL *Cadogan*, having, at the same Time, laid Bridges over the *Scheld*, at *Kirkboven*, with the like Success and Diligence, began to pass his Troops, without being perceived by

by the Enemy, before Break of Day; Till discovering their advanc'd Guard, posted on a rising Ground, he ordered his Gunners to fire at them, from a Battery, which he had rais'd to secure his Bridges. Upon this, the Enemy, who were almost all asleep, in great Security, in their Intrenchments, along the *Scheeld*, immediately took the Alarm, and began to think of providing for their Safety, by a speedy Retreat: They, accordingly, set Fire to their Huts and Barracks, and, while their Foot was marching off, drew up their Horse, on a Hill, near *Oudenarde*.

THE Remainder of the Duke of *Marlborough's* The Rear of their Army defeated. Forces continued, at the same Time, to march on, with all possible Diligence; And, having pass'd the River at *Kirkhoven* and *Elseghem*, See Letter E. below. formed themselves in Order of Battle. Upon this, Prince *Eugene*, who arriv'd, some Time before at *Hauterive*, where his Design was to pass, immediately joined his Grace; It having been agreed between them, that which-ever Body pass'd first, the other should march to that Place: And, as it had, likewise, been resolv'd, to attack the Body of the Enemy's Troops, which were entrench'd before *Oudenarde*, under the Command of *Monf. de Hautefort*, the Duke and Prince hasten'd their March, that Way. However, notwithstanding all their Diligence, the *French* began to retire with so much Precipitation, as soon as they perceived the *Allies* advancing to attack them, that they could come up only with their *Rear*, commanded by *Monf. de Sousternon*; Which the Earl of *Albemarle* attack'd, at the Head of his Carabiniers, with a great deal of Vigour and Bravery. He entirely broke and dispersed them, killed a great many, and took 5 or 600 Prisoners, beside a great Part of their Baggage,

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Baggage, their Bread Waggon, two Standards, and a Pair of Kettle-Drums : But for their Cannon, they had drawn off that in Time. The *Allies* had not above sixty Men kill'd or wounded, in this Action ; Among the latter, was Brigadier *Baldwin*, in the Service of the *States*, who was shot thro' the Body ; And the Earl of *Albemarle*, Prince *William* of *Hesse*, and Count *Maurice* of *Nassau*, had their Horses shot under them. The *Confederates* continued to pursue the Enemy, till it was dark, and encamp'd on the Hills, near *Oudenarde*, to the great Satisfaction of the whole Army, who did not imagine they should have pass'd the *Scheld*, at so easy a Rate. And, indeed, the Generals themselves, were surprized at the Pusillanimity of the Enemy, to abandon, in so cowardly a Manner, Posts which were not only advantageous by Nature, but on which they had employ'd so much Application and Labour, to fortify them.

*Pusillanimity
of the Enemy.*

*A Stratagem
of the Duke of
Marlborough.*

BISHOP *Burnet* mentions, upon this Occasion, a Stratagem of the Duke of *Marlborough's*, which, tho' I do not find it mentioned elsewhere, I shall relate, as it perfectly answers the Character of our great Commander. “ The Duke of *Marlborough*, (*says he*,) hearing of the *Elector* of *Bavaria's* Design to attack *Brussels*, made a sudden Motion towards the *Scheld* ; But, to deceive the Enemy, it was given out, that he design'd to march directly towards *Ghent*, and this was not only believed by his whole Army, but was probably carried to the Enemy ; For they seem'd to have no Notice nor Apprehension of his Design on the *Scheld*.” And what the Bishop adds, is no less remarkable : “ The Lines (*says he*) were so strong, that it was expected, the Breaking thro' them must have
“ been

“ been a very hot Action. Some of the General Officers (*continues he*) told me that they reckoned it would have cost them 10,000 Men; But, to their great Surprise, as soon as they pass’d the River, the *French* ran away, without offering to make the least Resistance. Their Conduct was a Surprise to all the World: Their Counsels seem’d to be weak, and the Execution of them was worse; So that they, who were so long the Terror, were now become the Scorn of Nations.”

It is certain, this Action was in itself so bold, and attended with such extraordinary Circumstances, that Posterity might very well question the Truth of it, did not the Consequences of it remove all Manner of Doubt. For a numerous Army to pass a large River, in the Sight of an Enemy, equal, if not superior, in Number, and who, besides, had all the Advantages which Nature or Art could give them, is a Thing rarely to be met with.

THE Duke of Marlborough, on his Arrival at *Oudenarde*, immediately took Measures for advancing towards *Brussels*, which, by the repeated Intelligence he got, his Grace found was vigorously press’d by the *Elect*or of *Bavaria*. The nine and twentieth, by Break of Day, the Army was in Motion again; But, to favour the Troops, as much as possible, the Duke ordered the main Body to halt, in the Night, at *Omberg*, and advanced, with a Detachment of Horse, and the two Battalions of Guards, to *Alost*. His Grace was scarce arrived there, when he received the News, that the *Elect*or, upon the first Advice he had of the *Allies* having pass’d the *Scheld*, had quitted the Siege, with the greatest Precipitation, as we have already seen above. Upon this, the Duke

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Duke came, the nine and twentieth, a little before Noon, to *Brussels*, as well to take Measures for sending a Supply of Ammunition and Provisions to the Siege of *Lisle*, as to thank the Garrison, for the brave Defense they had made.

His Reception there.

HIS Grace was received with the greatest Acclamations of Joy and Gratitude, (as indeed his unparallel'd Vigilance for the Relief of that Place had justly deserved) being met without the Gates, by General *Pascal*, the Governour, at the Head of the chief Officers of the Garrison, whom the Duke saluted with the most distinguishing Marks of Favour and Esteem. His Grace alighted at the Governour's House, whither the Council of State, the *States of Brabant*, the Magistrates of *Brussels*, and the Deputies of the *States General*, immediately repaired, to make him their Compliments of Thanks, for their seasonable Deliverance, which they, with Justice, attributed to his extraordinary Assiduity and wise Management. King *Augustus*, who was, likewise, there, together with the Duke of *Marlborough*, and some other Persons of the highest Rank, were entertained at Dinner, by General *Pascal*, and the Duke, after having given the necessary Orders, returned, the same Evening, to his Camp near *Alost*.

THE following Medal was struck, on Occasion of the Relief of *Brussels*.

A Medal struck on Occasion of the Relief of Brussels.

ON the Face is represented, *Victory*, winged and running towards *Brussels*, which appears in View, with a Javelin, in one Hand, and a Crown of Laurel in the other, to denote the Promptitude with which the *Allies* hasten'd, to oppose the

Electors



Elect^r of *Bavaria's* Design. Over *Victory* is the following Inscription: 1708.

OBSTABAT STRENUA VIRTUS.

Valour opposed it with Diligence.

And, in the *Exergue*;

GALLIS FUGATIS OBSIDIO SOLUTA BRUXELLARUM, 28 NOVEMBRI, 1708.

The French being put to the Flight, the Siege of Brussels was raised, November 28, 1708.

On the Reverse, is represented a *Wolf*, with Wings to his Feet, endeavouring to escape, with all possible Haste; With the following Inscription:

EUGENII UMBRA PEDIBUS ADDIDIT ALAS.

The Shadow of Eugene has added Wings to his Feet.

And, in the *Exergue*;

POSTQUAM DIRUIT, RUIT.

After having ruined every Thing else, he falls himself.

Alluding to the Ruin the *Elect^r* of *Bavaria* had brought upon himself.

PRINCE *Eugene* went back to *Lisle*, the Day *Prince Eugene* before, with the Troops detach'd from the Siege, returns to *Lisle*, and

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The Allies
abandon La
Bassée.

and eight Battalions, with thirty Squadrons, of the Duke of *Marlborough's* Army, which had been re-inforc'd by the Troops employed in fortifying *La Bassée*; For the Possessing of this Post, being chiefly design'd to divide and weaken the Enemy's Force on the *Scheld*, which was now broken, it was no farther necessary, and was, therefore, abandon'd by the *Confederates*; And, that this was the Reason first for fortifying, and then for abandoning that Place, we may see by the following Letter, from Lieutenant-General *Hompesch*, to another General.

S I R,

Their Reasons
for it, in a Let-
ter from Lieu-
tenant General
Hompesch.

I EXPECT, this Day, 100 Waggon, under a Guard of nine Battalions, with Powder, sent for from *Aeth*, by my Lord Duke, which are to join me. The Enemy have assembled their Forces, between *Lens* and *La Bassée*, and are fortifying the latter, wherein our Troops had taken Post, and made a Shew of fortifying the same, as if they would maintain themselves therein. This was intended, to oblige the Enemy to detach some Troops on that Side, and weaken those they had on the *Scheld*, which succeeded accordingly. That Post would have been very advantageous; But as our Generals had other Things in View, they quitted the same, seing the *French* were come into their Neighbourhood, with most of their Forces, and thereby rendered our passing the *Scheld* more easy. They are now near enough to attack Prince *Eugene* before *Lisle*, if they think fit; And, in that Case, I shall soon be with him, with the Troops under my Command. It began last Night to freeze

“ freeze so very hard, that our Soldiers long for
 “ Fighting, were it only to warm themselves.
 “ If any Thing material happens, I shall not fail
 “ to acquaint you therewith.

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*At the Camp, near
 Menin, Dec. 5,
 1708.*

I am, &c.

Sign'd,

R. V. Count de Hompesch.

P. S. “ FORRAGE being very scarce, in these
 “ Parts, our Horses will somewhat suffer; But
 “ when Men must be sacrificed, to obtain a safe
 “ and honourable Peace, there is no Reason to
 “ complain of the Share Horses must have in
 “ these Difficulties; I will, however, use all
 “ possible Means to preserve them.

I SHALL now give the Reader Copies of the
 several Letters refer'd to above, relating to the
 Siege, and Relief, of *Brussels*, and the Passage
 of the *Scheld*, which, as they all tend to the
 Illustration of many Circumstances but hinted
 at above, and allow our *British* Hero the greatest
 Share of the Glory and Honour of these Actions,
 cannot but be highly acceptable.

A.

A Letter to the States Generals, from their Deputies in Brussels.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

“ WE had the Honour to receive, this Morning, Your High Mightinesses secret Resolution of the five and twentieth, by which
 “ Letters concern-
 ing the Siege of
 Brussels, and
 the Passage of
 the Scheld.

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*A Letter from
the Field-De-
puties to the
States-Gener-
al.*

“ which we see, with great Satisfaction, that
“ Your *High Mightinesses* have approved what
“ we have done here, for the Good of the Com-
“ mon Cause. We shall not fail to assist, in
“ Using all necessary Means, for the Preserva-
“ tion of this Place.

“ IT is a singular Pleasure to us, to be able
“ to inform Your *High Mightinesses*, by this Let-
“ ter, that the Enemy, without having gained
“ an Inch of Ground, began, at nine, last Night,
“ to attack the Counterscarp, with great Fury,
“ between the Gates of *Louvain* and *Na-*
“ *mur*. The Fire was terrible on both Sides,
“ and lasted ’till five in the Morning ; During
“ which Time, the Enemy made nine Attacks,
“ and, at Length, lodg’d themselves on the
“ *Glacis* of the Counterscarp. But, about six
“ o’Clock, our Men made a Sally from the Co-
“ ver’d Way, Sword in Hand, with such Suc-
“ cess, that the Enemy were beaten out of their
“ Works on the Counterscarp, which were
“ level’d.

“ WE cannot sufficiently commend the Bra-
“ very of the Troops of this Garrison, especially
“ those of the *States*, tho’ all in general did their
“ Duty very well : But seeing this Garrison is
“ already much fatigued, and will not be able
“ to resist long the vigorous Attacks, which, in
“ all Appearance, the Enemy will renew : We
“ have earnestly solicited the Duke of *Marl-*
“ *borough*, and the Deputies with the Army, not
“ to defer a Moment to succour this Place ;
“ Without which, however brave our Men are,
“ they cannot very long sustain the furious At-
“ tacks of the Enemy.

We are, &c.

Brussels, Nov. 27.



A second Letter, from the same Deputies.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

“ WE hope Your High Mightinesses have *A second Letter.*
 “ received the Letter, by which we had
 “ Yesterday the Honour to communicate to You
 “ the furious Attacks made by the Enemy, the
 “ Night between the six and twentieth and seven
 “ and twentieth, on the Counterscarp of this
 “ City. After we had, Yesterday, again dispos’d
 “ all Things as well as possible, for resisting
 “ the Enemy’s Attacks; Because our Spies re-
 “ ported unanimously, that, in the Night, the
 “ Enemy would not only make a general As-
 “ fault, but would also fire with burning Bul-
 “ lets, to excite the Burghers to Sedition; We
 “ observed, about twelve at Night, that the
 “ Enemy’s Army was in Motion; And soon
 “ after, that they were retiring towards *Namur*,
 “ with such Precipitation, that they left behind
 “ them twelve Cannons and four Mortars,
 “ which are fallen into our Hands.

“ WE cannot sufficiently commend the Cou-
 “ rage and Conduct of the Generals *Pascal*,
 “ *Murray*, and *Wrangel*; Nor set too great a
 “ Value on the Proofs of both, given by the
 “ Colonels *Egelin* and *Lefcherraine*, who happen-
 “ ing to be here, without their Regiments, yet
 “ offered themselves, to be employ’d by us, in
 “ Defense of the City: And we hope Your
 “ High Mightinesses will be pleas’d to consider,
 “ on Occasion, the Services done by these
 “ Officers.

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“ THE States of *Brabant* have shewn, on this
 “ Occasion, as in many others, their Zeal for
 “ King *Charles*, and his *Allies*; Having never
 “ been backwards to supply us with the Mony
 “ we needed, for this Service; So that we had
 “ no Necessity to make Use of the Credit of the
 “ States, or our own. In this, those States have
 “ merited highly.

“ WE congratulate Your *High Mightinesses*,
 “ on the Preservation of this important Post,
 “ by which *Antwerp*, and the Frontiers of our
 “ Republick, are secured, and the Towns of
 “ *Louvain*, *Mechlin*, and *Liers* saved.

“ OUR Secretary, whom we send exprefs,
 “ will inform Your *High Mightinesses*, of the
 “ Particulars more at large; To which we refer,
 “ because we are streightened in Time; Being
 “ extremely joyful, that it has pleased the AL-
 “ MIGHTY, for the Good of the State, to bless
 “ the Resolution we had taken, to assist in the
 “ Defence of this Place, to Extremity.

We are, &c.

J. Van Bergh.

Brussels, Nov. 28.

Baron Van Reede,

Lord of Renswoude.

P. S. “ WE forgot to mention, that during
 “ the Siege, Monsieur *Decker*, first Burgo-master
 “ of this City, acquitted himself, in his Station,
 “ with all Zeal and Diligence.

*A Letter to the States General, from Monsieur
Pascal, Commandant of Brussels.*

MY LORDS,

“**Y**OUR High Mightinesses will not be dis- *A Letter from*
 “pleas’d, that I have the Honour to in- *Monsieur Pas-*
 “form you, His Electoral Highness has broke *cal to the States*
 “up the Siege of *Brussels*, leaving behind him *General.*
 “twelve Pieces of Cannon, two Mortars, and
 “three Waggon-Loads of Powder. From the
 “six and twentieth, to the seven and twentieth,
 “he had caused his Batteries to be made, and,
 “about ten at Night, he began to attack the
 “Cover’d Way, with all imaginable Vigour;
 “But was repuls’d, in all his Attacks, by my
 “Garrison, who stood them, with inexpressible
 “Firmness: The Rest I refer to the Bearer.
 “The Enemy have lost an infinite Number of
 “Men, and have left me all their wounded,
 “which, I am told, amount to above 800. I
 “shall have the Honour to send Your High
 “Mightinesses a List, as soon as I have Leisure
 “to take an exact one. I hope Your High
 “Mightinesses will permit me to have the Honour,
 “to congratulate You, on this happy Occur-
 “rence. I had the good Fortune, to have, in
 “in this Affair, two Seconds, Major-General
 “Murray, and Baron Wrangel, who did all that
 “could be expected from two Persons of so great
 “Experience and Valour, as they are. I was
 “also seconded by the Valour, of the whole
 “Garrison, and even by the Colonels *Eglin* and
 “*Lescheraine*, tho’ they were not of this Garri-
 “son.

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“ son. I shall have the Honour to inform Your
 “ *High Mightinesses*, at Leisure, of the Bravery
 “ of all the Commanders of the Regiments of
 “ this Garrison, which is inexpressible; And of
 “ all the Officers, who were in this Service, of
 “ all Nations. All this good Success is owing
 “ to the Courage and Resolution, which the
 “ Lords Deputies of Your *High Mightinesses*
 “ shew’d, on this Occasion; And their Presence
 “ gave such a Firmness and Confidence to the
 “ Burghers, as cannot be too much praised; No
 “ more than can the Zeal, Activity and Readiness
 “ of their Burgo-masters, to execute whatever
 “ was requir’d of them, for the Service of
 “ the Common Cause.

“ I HOPE the LORD will always bless the Arms
 “ of the *High Allies*, and that Your *High Mighti-*
 “ *nesses* will permit me to have the Honour, to
 “ assure them how much, and with what Respect,

I am,

MY LORDS,

Brussels, Nov. 28.

*Your High Mightinesses,**Most humble, most obedient, and**Most submissive Servant,*

PASCAL.

D.

*A Letter to the States General, from the Lords the
 Deputies with the Army.*

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

*A Letter from
 the Field-Deputies
 to the States
 General.*

“ AFTER we had received certain Advice,
 “ that the *Elector* of Bavaria was march’d
 “ towards Brussels, at the Head of some of the
 “ Enemy’s

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“ Enemy’s Troops, to besiege that Place, it was
 “ resolved to force the Passage of the *Scheld*,
 “ and to march that Way. To that End, 100
 “ Squadrons, and 50 Battalions, under the Duke
 “ of *Marlborough*, and 50 Squadrons, with 10
 “ Battalions, under *Prince Eugene*, march’d, the
 “ 25th Instant, to attempt to pass that River
 “ in three or four several Places, which, by the
 “ Blessing of God, succeeded so well, that, this
 “ Morning, the Duke of *Marlborough* pass’d, at
 “ *Kirkboven*, between seven, and eight o’Clock,
 “ without firing a Shot, or losing a Man, as
 “ did also the Body under the Count of *Lottum*,
 “ in the same Manner, at *Asperen*, the Enemy
 “ having drawn off all their Troops, along the
 “ *Scheld*, from *Ghent* to *Tournay*, and abandon’d
 “ their Posts. All the Troops have join’d here,
 “ except some which are sent back to the Citadel
 “ of *Lisle*. To-morrow, at Day-Break, we
 “ shall continue our March towards *Brussels*, and
 “ we hope the Effect will be, that we shall be
 “ able, by the Blessing of God, to send you
 “ an Account of the Deliverance of that Place.

We are, &c.

F. Van Collen.

Oudenarde,
 Nov. 27.

S. Van Gossinga.

Count de Rechteren.

A Letter from the Count de Tilly, to their High Mightinesses.

HIGH AND MIGHTY LORDS,

*A Letter from
Count Tilly to
the States Ge-
neral.*

THE twenty-third, and twenty-fourth, we sent our Artillery and Baggage, from the Camp at *Rousselder* to *Ménin*; And, the five and twentieth, we march'd with the Army, towards *Haelebeck*, whither our Cavalry, who, according to the Dispositions made, were to follow us, could not reach, 'till the six and twentieth, at seven in the Morning, because the Roads, at this Season, are impracticable.

HOWEVER, we renewed our March, that Afternoon, at Four o'Clock, without causing any Waggons or Carriages to follow us, and kept moving forwards all the Night, that we might arrive, this Morning, before Day, at the *Scheld*, and attempt to pass it.

THE Dispositions were settled, in this Manner: That Prince *Eugene*, who put himself on the March Yesterday, with a Body of Troops, should attempt to pass, at *Escanaffe*; The Duke of *Marlborough*, and I, with the Troops of the *States*, at *Kirkboven*; And the Count *de Lottum*, at *Gasse*.

WE all arrived, this Morning, at the Places and Time agreed. And we laid our Bridges at *Kirkboven*, and caused a great Body of our Troops to pass over, before the Enemy had Notice of it: Then we march'd directly to the Post, which the Enemy had at *Derbem*. In the mean while, the Count *de Lottum* made himself

himself Master, like wise, of the Post of *Gavre*, without Resistance. But Prince *Eugene*, finding the Passage, at *Escanaffe*, too difficult, and having Intelligence, that we were Masters of the River at *Kirkboven*, he immediately caus'd his Troops to march thither, and there came over, also.

THIS done, we march'd, in Conjunction, towards the Enemy's Intrenchments, before *Oudenarde*; But we could only get up with their *Rear-guard*, because they had retired, with great Precipitation, flying towards *Gramont*. They had sent away their Cannon, the Day before; And, of sixteen Squadrons, and nineteen Battalions, which they had, in the Intrenchments, we took about 500 Prisoners, and killed about 100. To-morrow we shall continue our March, towards *Brussels*, &c.

From the Camp before
Oudenarde, Nov. 27.

The Count de Tilly.

P. S. "THE greatest Part of the Enemy's Baggage and Equipages are become our Booty.

THE Duke of Marlborough's Army, having rested, the thirteenth of November, N. S. in the Neighbourhood of *Alost*, moved from thence, the first of December, and encamped, with the Right at *Oudenarde*, and the Left at *Bierlegbeim*. At the same Time, Lieutenant-General *Dedem* was ordered to advance, with twenty Battalions, and to pass the *Scheldt* at *Oudenarde*, where he encamp'd, on the other side of the River, to assist at the Works, which were ordered to be raised, for the security of that

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that Place, and to be near at Hand to join General *Horn*, who, with eight and thirty Squadrons, and eight Battalions, was encamp'd near *Menin*: By which Dispositions a Communication was maintained with Prince *Eugene's* Forces, in *Lisle*.

St. Guislain
taken by the
Allies, by Sur-
prise.

WHILE the *Elect* of *Bavaria* was employ'd in the Siege of *Brussels*, Major General *Palland*, Governour of *Aeth*, detached Colonel *La Motte*, with 150 Men, of his Garrison, to surprize the town of *St. Guislain*, between *Mons* and *Condé*; which he effected, the fifteenth of *November*, and attacking it, Sword in Hand, after having forced the Barrier, and killed several Officers and Soldiers, made the Garrison, consisting of a weak Regiment of *Spanish* Soldiers, Prisoners of War. But the Men he left there being attack'd by the Marquis de *Hautefort*, and Count *Alberti*, with most of the Forces which had abandon'd the *Scheld*, consisting of 22,000 Men, with 32 Pieces of Cannon, they were obliged to surrender, before Lieutenant-General *Dompere*, who was detach'd by the Duke of *Marlborough*, to relieve them, could come up. They capitulated to be conducted to *Mons*, 'till they were exchange'd; Which should be done as soon as possible; To keep their Swords, and Equipages, and that those of the Enemy, which were taken in that Place, and could not be sent away, should likewise remain Prisoners of War: A very honourable Capitulation, and more than they had Reason to expect, considering the vast Superiority of the English. General *Dompere*, with his Detachment, halted, therefore, at *Attre*, and was order'd to assist in Bringing a great Convoy of Ammunition and Stores, for *Lisle*, from *Aeth* to *Oudenarde*.

But retaken by
the French, by
Capitulation.

THE

1708.

THE second of December, a General Thanksgiving to ALMIGHTY GOD, for the happy Passage of the *Scheld*, and the Relief of *Brussels*, was, by Orders of the Duke of Marlborough, religiously observed, thro' the whole Army. Among other Measures the French had taken, to distress the *Confederates*, before the Success of Passing the *Scheld*, they had, for some Time taken Occasion to violate their Passports, and to palliate this ungenerous Practice, the French King, by a Proclamation (dated the twelfth of November, N. S.) revoked all that had been granted; But the *Allies* having, likewise, recall'd all Passports, which had been given on their Side, the Enemy proved to be the greater Sufferers by it: For, upon the successful Passage of the *Scheld*, which put their whole Army, under a general Consternation, their Communication with *Ghent* and *Bruges* was cut off, and the greatest Part of their Troops were obliged to march, for Subsistence, towards *Valenciennes*.

A General
Thanksgiving in
the Confede-
rate Army.

An ungenerous
Practice of the
Enemy;

Turn'd upon
themselves.

THE Siege of the Citadel of *Lisle* was carrying on, all this While; And the Besiegers, in the Absence of Prince *Eugene*, lodg'd themselves on the second Counterscarp. Upon his Highness's Return, he sent to the Marshal *de Boufflers*, to acquaint him with the late Success of the *Confederate* Forces, thinking thereby to engage him to a Surrender; But his Message had no Effect. The seventh of December, the Batteries on the second Covered Way being finish'd, Prince *Eugene* sent the Marshal another Summons, and offered him an honourable Capitulation; But, at the same Time, declared, that *Lisle* did not surrender, before the Batteries began to fire, he was to expect no other Articles, but for him, and

The Citadel of
Lisle surren-
der'd.

1708.

St.
taken
Allies

and his Garrison to remain Prisoners of War : And lest he might imagine, that the Besiegers wanted Ammunition and Provisions, he offered them to shew his Stores, to some Officers whom he would allow them to send out, for that Purpose. This, with a Want of Powder himself, induced the Marshal, to order a Parly to be beat, the eighth, in the Morning : And, Hostages being exchanged, the Articles were sign'd, the next Day, about four in the Afternoon : According to which, a Gate was deliver'd up, the same Day, and, the tenth, the Marshal, with his whole Garrison, march'd out with all the usual Marks of Honour, and was conducted to Douay.

Medals struck
on Occasion of
the Taking of
the Town and
Citadel of
Lille.

THE following five Medals appeared, on this Occasion in Holland.

I.

THE first has, on the Face, three *Busto's*, representing Prince *Eugene*, the Duke of *Marlborough*, and Velt-Marshal *d'Auverquerque*, each in the Form of a separate Medal, with a Figure representing *Victory* in the Center of the Triangle form'd by these three small Medals : All which serves as an Ornament of a Pile of Trophies, raised of the Spoils taken at *Oudenarde* ; The whole crown'd with a *Mural Crown* ; Round all which are the following Words, taken from the second Book of *Samuel*, *Ch. 23. v. 17.*

HÆC ERUNT TRES ARM POTENTIS
DEL.

These Kings and these three mighty Men of God.

ON



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Duke of MARLBOROUGH

395

ON the Reverse is represented Prince Eugene, 1708.
on Horse-back, pointing with his Staff of Com-
mand, towards the City, with the In-
scription :

VI FACTA VIA EST. 1708.

The Way is opened by Force. 1708.

Alluding to the Battle of *Wendale*, and other
fortunate Events which facilitated the Siege.

II.

ON the Face, a *Bust* of Her Majesty of Great
Britain, with Her Title as usual : And, on the
Reverse, *Fame*, holding a Shield, with the Arms
of *Lisle*, and a Plan of that City and Citadel
near her ; With the Inscription ;

INSULÆ CAPTÆ, 1708.

The City and Citadel of Lisle taken, in 1708.

III.

ON the Face is represented the City at a Dis-
tance, and, in the Front, the Deputies of that
Place surrendering it to Prince *Eugene*, by pre-
senting him their Arms ; And, over all, the
Inscription ;

VICT PERVICAX VIRTUS.

Valour persisted in, was victorious.

IN