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THE
Historical Register,

B. 007. 88. Containing
An Impartial RELATION
of all TRANSACTIONS, Foreign
and Domestick.

WITH A
Chronological Diary
OF ALL

The remarkable OCCURRENCES,
viz. Births, Marriages, Deaths, Removals,
Promotions, &c. that happen'd in this
Year.

VOLUME III.

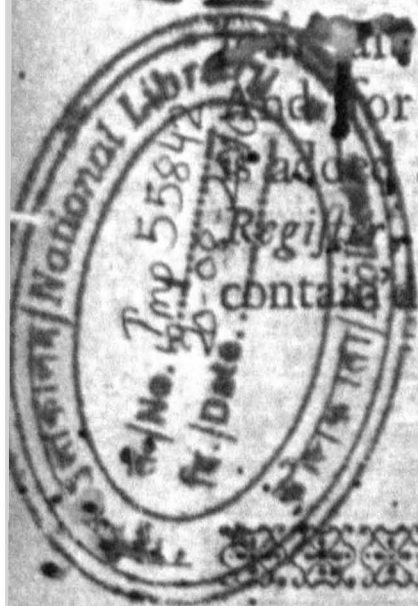
For the Year 1718.

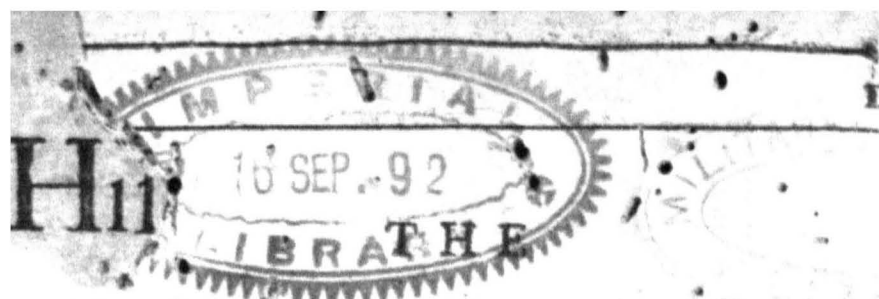
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N. B. This Title is design'd for
such Persons as think fit to bind the
Registers in one Volume:
And for the same Reason a Table
is added at the End of the Twelfth
Register of all the principal Matters
contain'd in them.





Historical Register.

NUMBER IX.



We will begin this first Register for the Year 1718, by giving our Readers a general View of the present Posture of Affairs in *Europe*; to which Purpose, it will be necessary to recapitulate the most remarkable Events of the preceding Year: Upon a Review of which, it appears in general, that the present State of

Affairs is such, as evidently shews that many Things are yet wanting, as well for establishing and confirming the Peace in Countries where it was restor'd by the late Treaties, as for rendering it more general in those where the War still rages, and makes its Influences be felt both by their Neighbours and Allies: But this is not very surprizing, considering the violent Agitations that *Europe* has of late Years lain under, that could not be equally calm'd in all Places, and which in those, where they have in great Measure been quieted, have still left such strong Impressions, as Time alone can entirely appear.

We will begin with the Affairs of *Poland*, where the Troubles having been pacify'd by the Mediation of the Czar, and the Saxon Troops which had given Occasion to the Confederacy, whereby *Poland* was like to have been involv'd in a Civil War, having evacuated that Kingdom,

Kingdom, the Poles flatter'd themselves with the Enjoyment of some Tranquillity. But, contrary to their Expectations, the Troops of the Mediator, which were to have evacuated the Territories of Poland immediately after the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Treaty, are most of them still there; and the Room of the few that are return'd Home, has been supply'd by the Muscovite Forces that quitted the Dutchy of Mecklenburgh. And here we may take Notice, that this Conduct of the Muscovites, and their new Demands from the Citizens of Dantzick, whom they compell'd to pay them 140,000 Rixdollars, for no other Reason but because they were able to pay it, still more and more discovers the fatal Mistake of those who first brought them into the Empire, and taught them to intermeddle in the Affairs of the Princes of Christendom; to which they were utter Strangers before. The Czar's Journey to Holland, and from thence to the Court of France, is another remarkable Occurrence of the Year 1717, of which the World may chance in a short Time to feel the Effects. The Czar at length return'd into his own Dominions, and having tarry'd some Time at Petersburg, went from thence to Moscow, from whence he had been ten Years absent; but before his Departure from Petersburg, he appointed several Councils for the Administration of the Government, according to the Method he had observ'd in France, viz. One for Foreign Affairs, a 2d for Finances, a 3d for Justice, a 4th for Revision, a 5th for War, a 6th for Sea-Affairs, a 7th for Commerce, an 8th for Receipts and Expences, and a 9th for Arts and Sciences, Mines, Buildings, &c.

No sooner was that Prince arriv'd at Moscow, than being inform'd of several Mismanagements in the Administration of the Government during his Absence, he order'd the Conduct of his Ministers to be inquir'd into; and made a terrible Example of the Person of Prince Welkonski, a Major-General of his Armies, who having been appointed to inspect the Management of the Custom-House at Archangel, and the Conduct of the Officers employ'd therein, was convicted of Exactions and corrupt Practices in the Discharge of his Office, and sentenc'd to be beheaded; but the Czar, upon the Intercession of his Friends, having given him the Choice either to suffer in that Manner, or to be put to Death, he chose the latter, and was accordingly executed by the Soldiers of his own Regiment.

The *Carowitz* pass'd the Beginning of this Year thro' *Dantzick*, in his Way to *Petersburg*; but was met in *Livonia* by a *Courier* sent to inform him, that the *Czar* was set out for *Moscow*, and expected him there: How that Prince will be receiv'd by his Father is uncertain, after having so highly disoblig'd him, by retiring into foreign Countries, where he has in a Manner absconded a great while.

The War between the Northern Potentates continues, nor can it yet be easily foreseen what will be the Effect of it: There are so many different Interests intangled together, that it has hitherto been impossible to dispose Matters for holding the Congress; and the Endeavours of the Duke-Regent of *France* for restoring Peace in the North, have not yet produc'd the desir'd Effect; and tho' the War there seems to have been at a Stand for some Time past, the Parties concern'd having continu'd in inaction, yet that has been for Want of Power in some of them to do otherwise: The *Swedes* have indeed attempted to invade *Norway*, but could not do it; and their Fleet, which was to have done Wonders, was kept block'd up all last Summer in *Carelscoon*: They talk indeed of returning this Spring with a powerful Army into *Germany* or *Poland*; but seeing they cannot execute that Project without being Masters of the Sea, it is not likely their Enemies will suffer it. The World has been so long amus'd with Reports of a separate Peace between *Sweden* and *Muscovy*, that it is become difficult to give any Credit to it: The *Swedish* Ministers at *Hamburg*, and other Parts, assure, that the Peace between their King and the *Czar* is as good as concluded; but the *Russian* Ministers at the very same Places assert the contrary, and declare that his *Czarish Majesty* will never hearken to any Proposals of a separate Peace: tho' that the same Time 'tis highly probable, that a Negotiation of Peace between those two Potentates has been treating of by *Baron Gortz* and *Prince Menzikoff*; so that it must be left to Time to unfold this Mystery.

Let us now cast our Eyes from the North to the South of *Europe*; and where we shall see the Seeds of War springing up on a sudden in the midst of Peace, even when it was least expected. The Naval Force of *Spain*, which was thought design'd, at least in Part, to reinforce the *Christian* Arms in the *Levant*, in Conjunction with the other Auxiliary Squadrons, bent its Force

on the Side of *Italy* against the Emperor and his Dominions; and whilst his Armies were employ'd on the Siege of *Belgrade*, the *Spaniard* struck the first Blow in *Sardinia*, by the Attack of *Cagliari*, the Taking of which was follow'd by the entire Reduction of that Kingdom. It is obvious what the Consequence of this would have been, if the Imperial Army had had the Misfortune to receive a Check in *Hungary*, and been obliged to leave the Christian States a Prey to the Conqueror, who could not have fail'd to improve their Divisions. *Spain* has made so mean a Figure in the World for sixty Years past, both by Sea and Land, that *Europe* has been justly surpriz'd at the Boldness of this Attempt, and at the Efforts they made the last Campaign; and many are apt to treat as fabulous their Preparations for the next; But nothing is more certain than that the Crown of *Spain* has this Spring a Fleet of 60 Men of War, and an Army of 50000 Foot and 15000 Horse. After the Lethargy that Monarchy has been in so long, this may be term'd a Sort of Resurrection; and the Glory of it is chiefly due to Cardinal *Alberoni*, who, tho' he be severely reflected on by some, for misapplying the Contributions of the Clergy, which were granted with Design that they should be employ'd against the *Turks*; as he is likewise for giving the Emperor a Diversion, that may prove so favourable to the Infidels; notwithstanding this Railing of his Enemies, seems resolv'd to pursue his Designs, and to tread in the Steps of the *Ximene's*, the *Richlieu's* and the *Mazarines*.

The King of *Great Britain*, the Regent of *France*, and the States General have interpos'd their Mediations to reconcile the Courts of *Vienna* and *Madrid*; and if it be but a particular Quarrel between them, there is some Glimmering of Hopes that they may succeed in it: But if the Invasion of *Sardinia* has, as many imagine, been the Result of a League that has been form'd between several Potentates to drive the Imperialists out of *Italy*, several Princes of that Country not thinking themselves safe so long as they are under the Lash of the Emperor; then, I say, there is no Peace to be expected, till *Italy* be either intirely free, or entirely conquer'd. Besides, the Preparations that are making on all Sides are a sufficient Proof that a War in *Italy* is inevitable; and 'tis evident, that almost all the States in *Europe* will be oblig'd, by Reason of their Alliance with the

the contending Parties, to concern themselves in it.

But none of them are reduc'd to so hard a Dilemma upon this Account as the *Genoese*, of whom the Emperor demands not only four Millions of Florins, which he promises to repay as soon as the *Turkish War* is over, and the Peace of *Italy* secur'd, and in the mean time punctually to pay the Interest, but four Men of War, and as many Gallies, to join the Squadron at *Naples*; while, on the other Hand, they are threaten'd with the Resentment of the *Spaniards*, unless they will grant a Passage thro' their Dominions for some *Spanish Troops* that are to be sent to the Dutchy of *Parma*. How that Republick will extircate themselves out of this Difficulty is hard to say: For, as on the one Hand the Imperial Troops are so near their Territories, that they can scarce deny complying with the Emperor's Demands, without exposing themselves to his Resentments; so, on the other, they have so great a Dependence on *Spain* by Reason of their Commerce, that they cannot disoblige his Catholick Majesty without endangering the Loss of it.

The Differences likewise between the Courts of *Rome* and *Vienna* are risen to a great Height, as appears by the Expulsion of the Pope's Nuncio out of *Naples*, the Sequestration of all the Ecclesiastical Revenues, the entire Abolition of the Tribunal of the Nunciature in that Kingdom, and the Prohibition laid on the Nuncio at *Vienna* not to come to the Imperial Court: The Complaints of the Emperor against the Pope are said to be as follows: That his Holiness has not dealt sincerely with his Imperial Majesty, but has underhand favour'd the Designs of the *Spaniards*: That the Promise made by the Pope, upon the Invasion of *Sardinia*, to recal his Nuncio from *Madrid*, for not having given him Notice of the Projects of that Court, of which there is a violent Suspicion, if not a clear Evidence, that he was inform'd, was a gross Imposition on the Imperial Court, and a Provocation that could not in Honour be wink'd at; that rather, because that Minister still continues there, and has not put a Stop, as it was promis'd should be done, to the raising the Tax of the Tenth-Penny on all the Ecclesiastical Revenues; but rather conniv'd at the Continuation thereof, though he could not be ignorant that that Money, which was granted for the Defence of Christendom

Christendom against the common Enemy of the Christian Name, had been apply'd to the Disturbance of the Peace of Europe, and to assist the Turks against the Christians, by giving a Diversion to the Imperial Forces: The Emperor farther complains of the Partiality of the Pope, in that he readily granted that Tax to the Court of Madrid, but started a World of Difficulties when the Emperor demanded the like Contributions from the Clergy of Naples and the Milanese; though it was evident that Supply could not be apply'd to any other Use but against the Turks, with whom his Imperial Majesty was actually engag'd in War: The Emperor therefore demands, in Satisfaction of these Proceedings of the Pope and his Ministers, that Signior Aldrovandi, the Nuncio at Madrid, be forthwith demand'd, in Order to make an Inquiry into his Conduct: That a new Nuncio be sent thither with positive Directions to put a Stop to the raising of the Tenth of the Clergy; and, that Cardinal Alberoni, who, says the Emperor, has visibly betray'd the Cause of all Christendom, by advising the Court of Madrid to attack the Imperial Dominions, contrary to the solemn Assurances that had been given to his Holiness, and that his Holiness himself gave to the Imperial Ministers, be requir'd to repair to Rome, there to answer the Accusation laid to his Charge, of advising and promoting a Design so pernicious to Christendom in general, and so advantageous to the Infidels, who, being encourag'd by that fatal Division of the Imperial Arms, seem resolv'd to continue the War. The Emperor likewise insists on some other Demands, but of less Importance. This Affair very much perplexes the Pope, who holds frequent Councils of State on the present Posture of Affairs, in which it has been resolv'd, That there is no Possibility of complying with some of the Emperor's Demands, and that the others are of such a Nature, that they require mature Consideration before they can be granted. Mean while Orders are given to put the Fortresses in the Ecclesiastical Territories into a good Posture of Defence, and there is a Talk of raising Troops in Switzerland for the Service of the Holy See. These Proceedings of the Court of Rome give Ground to believe, that the Report we had some Time ago of a League between Spain and some Italian Princes, to drive out the Imperialists clear out of Italy, were not without Foundation; and 'tis highly probable, that the

tion of *Sardinia* having taken up the *Spaniards* more Time than they expected, so that the fair Season was almost over before that Kingdom was conquer'd; the Potentates concern'd in that League thought not fit to declare themselves, but that this Project is not broke off, but only deferr'd to a more favourable Opportunity; of which the great Preparations that are making in *Spain*, *Sicily*, and *Piemont*, as well as the Manifesto's lately publish'd, in which the *Spaniards* alledge some Grievances of the *Italian* Princes, as one of their Reasons for invading the Imperial Territories, are a manifest Confirmation.

Mean while, the King of *Sicily* continues to put himself in a Posture of Defence. He is recruiting his Forces with new Levies rais'd in *Sicily*, from whence he has likewise brought 2000 Horses to remount his Cavalry: His naval Force likewise encreases daily, and he will certainly have next Summer at Sea a strong Squadron of Men of War, and some Gallies: From all which it is natural to conjecture, that if his *Sicilian* Majesty be not actually engag'd on either Side in this *Italian* Quarrel, he is resolv'd to put himself in a Condition of repelling Force by Force, in case either Party should give him the least Provocation.

We will in the next Place take a View of the State of the War between the *Christians* and the *Turks*. The *Christian* Fleet maintain'd the last Summer three Engagements with the *Turkish*; and though the former had no great Reason to boast of their Advantages in either of those Actions, yet it is certain, that they reduc'd the Enemy to an Inability of undertaking any Thing on that Side; and the *Venetians*, as soon as the *Turkish* Fleet was retir'd, found themselves in a Condition of acting on the Side of *Dalmatia*, and of extending their Conquests into *Epirus*, where they have taken the Fortresses of *Prevesa*, *Vonizza*, and *Arta*, with the Troops commanded by General *Schuylenbourg*. But these Advantages are not to be compar'd to the Progress of the Emperor's Arms, Prince *Eugen* having assembled the Imperial Army before the *Turks* could draw their Forces together, resolv'd to besiege *Belgrade*. To this End he march'd his Army over the *Theysse*, upon a Bridge of Boats laid for that Purpose, and posted himself on the other Side of the *Danube*, in Sight of the Fortress: This unexpected Passage struck the *Turks* into such a Consternation that their Troops

ran away in the utmost Confusion, while the rest of the Imperial Army pass'd the *Danube* likewise over a Bridge that was laid with all possible Diligence. The Place was immediately invested, and Lines of Circumvallation and Contravallation were made from the *Save* to the *Danube*, by which Means the Imperial Camp became so strong, that it seem'd as if one Fortress had laid Siege to another. This Precaution had its Effect; for when the main Army of the *Turks* was advanc'd to relieve *Belgrade*, they found the Besiegers so strongly intrench'd, that they were under a Necessity of opening Trenches to approach their Lines: But Prince *Eugene* had taken his Measures so well before-hand, that when the *Ottoman* Army appear'd, tho' they were much more numerous and formidable than could be believ'd, he was in a Condition to expect them in his Intrenchments without discontinuing his Attacks. It was undoubtedly a very extraordinary Sight, to see two Sieges at once, and even the Besiegers themselves besieg'd; the Place being shut up on all Sides by the Imperial Army; and the Imperial Army shut up on one Side between two great Rivers, and on the other between a Town, defended by a strong Garrison, and the Enemy's Camp strongly intrench'd: Thus there was a Necessity either to conquer or perish, and the least false Step would have decided it. But, when Things seem'd reduc'd to this dangerous Crisis, Prince *Eugene*, instead of waiting to be attack'd in his Intrenchments, march'd out of them, and attack'd the *Turks* in theirs, with so great Bravery and Conduct, that he gain'd a most compleat Victory, over their almost innumerable Forces, which was follow'd the next Day by the Surrender of *Belgrade*, the Key of the *Ottoman* Empire: So that, to use the Words of Count *Zinzendorff* in his Speech made in the Emperor's Name to the Assembly of the States of the Lower *Austria*: Those who were Witnesses of it could scarce find Expressions to speak the Praises due to the Heroick Valour of the wise General, who commanded in the Action, and to so many valiant Soldiers as signaliz'd themselves in that great, that important Day, for Posterity will hardly believe what we now admire.

The Taking of *Belgrade* is of the greater Moment, in that it opens a Way to farther Conquest; there being scarce any Place of Defence from the Face to *Constantinople*: But whether, in the present situation of Affairs, with regard to the War against the *Ottoman*

man Porte, and that which is beginning to kindle in *Italy*; the Emperor and his Allies be in a Condition to carry on the former, and even to gain new Advantages, supposing that the Overtures of Peace that have been made, have not the desir'd Success; and at the same Time to defend the Imperial Dominions in *Italy*, if by the Mediation of the Powers concern'd in the Tranquillity of that Country, some Means be not found out to quiet the present unhappy Differences; this I say is a great Doubt, and must be left to Time to determine.

We come now to the Transactions in *France*, where they are no less employ'd to improve the Tranquillity given them by the late Peace, in retrieving the Affairs of the Kingdom, and providing at the same Time for those without. It evidently appears from the assiduous Endeavours of the Duke Regent, that extraordinary Diligence has been us'd, and considerable Progress made for that End in a very short Space of Time; considering that since the Beginning of the last Year, we have seen several Disputes, that were like to have involv'd that Nation in intestine Troubles, entirely pacify'd and appeas'd; particularly the Decision of the Dispute between the Princes of the Blood and the legitimated Children of the late King (of which we have spoken in our last Year's *Registers*) in Favour of the former, is one of the most remarkable Events of that Year: Add to this, that within the Time above limited, we have seen the Chamber of Justice abolish'd, divers Imposts, Offices, and other heavy and burthensome Charges suppress'd, a great Number of State-Bills vacated, and abundance of good Regulations made, as well for the Administration of the Finances, as for restoring and augmenting Commerce: None but those who are at the Helm of their Affairs, and who feel the Weight of them, can judge of the great Obstacles which they have surmounted to bring Things to this Pass, and to retrieve the Kingdom from the Confusion in which the late King left it; from all which they cannot but promise themselves happy Success for the Future.

But of all the Affairs that have employ'd the Cares of the Regency, there is none of greater Importance, nor more perplex'd and intricate, than that of the Constitution, which calls for all the Wisdom, Vigilance, and Conduct of his Royal Highness the Regent, to

appease the Heats and Animosities that have been occasion'd by it: And seeing the present Controversy in particular relates to the Rights of the Gallican Church, and to those of the Kingdom in general, whose Protection, during the King's Minority, is committed to his Care, he seems resolv'd to act in such a Manner, that it shall never be imputed to his Administration, that he neglected to watch for the Preservation of so precious a Trust.

Now since we have not in any of our former Registers touch'd upon this Matter, or at least but very slightly, we will take this Opportunity to discourse of it historically, and to say something of the Reasons and Pretensions alledg'd on both Sides.

This great Contestation runs very much upon a Matter misunderstood; which, by the Way, is no new Thing; that is to say, upon the *supreme Authority of the Bishop of Rome*; which the contending Parties could never yet agree about, for Want of understanding one another; and this is the Reason that the rigid Defenders of that Authority lay down for a Principle what is yet a Matter of Question.

The Pope maintains that by *Virtue of his Authority*, his Constitution ought to be receiv'd as a Rule of Faith, without any Modification or Restriction; but with a pure and simple Submission, without allowing even to the Bishops the Right of judging with him the Questions relating to Faith, as if they were only meer Executioners of his Decrees. The Defenders of this Position argue upon this Foundation; That seeing the Pope is acknowledg'd as Head of the Church, to whom the Primacy belongs by divine Right, and as the Successor of St. Peter, rais'd to the Apostolick See, to which all Men ought to be united as to the Centre of Catholick Unity, from which it is never lawful to separate; 'tis by Virtue of these Prerogatives, say they, that this Authority ought to be receiv'd and respected as that of Jesus Christ himself; and that his Decrees cannot be contraven'd, nor the Submission he requires be refus'd, without deviating from the Center of Unity. This is what they pretend; and it must be own'd that if the Papal Prerogatives extend so far, there is no Room left to dispute or argue, but a blind Obedience ought to be paid to him.

His Defenders add, that the Bull of Constitution *Unigenitus* having been receiv'd in France by the Ma-
jority

majority of the Assembly of the Clergy, 'tis no longer lawful to retract, or to appeal from it; much less to require new Explanations, since the Affair is already adjudg'd and determin'd; besides, that the Constitution itself is so plain, that it needs not any Explanation; and therefore, that to demand a new one of the Pope, is to *aspire to a Criminal Curiosity; and, in Effect, to desire to eat of the forbidden Fruit.*

The Opponents argue to the contrary, That the Popes have no Sovereign Authority over the Church, and that the Power they enjoy was not given them exclusive of other Bishops, nor to the Prejudice of the Truth, against which there neither is nor can be any Authority: That tho' their Claim to an *Authority superior to Councils, and to Infallibility*, be not new with respect to the Papacy, 'tis nevertheless a new Doctrine in Regard to France, where it was never receiv'd, and where they adhere to the Decrees of the Councils of *Constance* and *Basil*, which is a sufficient Plea in Matter of Faith, not to receive it at this Day: That the Pope, neither as *Chief Bishop*, nor as *Successor of St. Peter*, has any Right to insist on his own *Authority as a Principal, nor on his Constitution for a Rule of Faith*; since that would be to establish a Dominion in the Church, which every Pope and every Bishop ought absolutely to renounce, if they would obey *Jesus Christ* and *St. Peter*, who have expressly forbid such Dominion and Sovereignty, and 'tis in Obedience to them only that Men can lay Claim to Obedience: That moreover, the Constitution, in the Terms in which it is conceiv'd, and in the Sense that it implies, manifestly strikes at *several Truths of Faith, Morality, and Discipline*, as well as at the *Laws of the State, the Rights of Episcopacy, and the Liberties of the Gallican Church*; which is an Evidence that it ought to be reform'd; far, very far, from being receiv'd as a Rule of Faith. And lastly, that the Pope ought not to alledge the Acceptation of it by the forty Bishops of the Assembly of the Clergy, to justify his Refusal of the Explication of it, which is now desir'd of him; because those very accepting Bishops have in their *Pastoral Instruction* explain'd the Bull themselves, and thereby plainly shewn, that they were entirely of Opinion with the present Prelates, on the Point of the *Necessity of an Explication*: That therefore the Pope not having

hitherto explain'd himself, whether he approves or disapproves that *Pastoral Instruction*, now is the Time to do it, in order to put an End to all these Differences.

But the long Silence of the holy Father, and the Menaces that came from Time to Time from the Court of Rome, giving Grounds to apprehend some terrible Consequence, some of the opposing Bishops thought themselves oblig'd to take the necessary Precautions for their own Safety, by having Recourse to canonical Methods, and throwing in an Appeal to a future general Council, as well from the said Constitution, as from whatever else might be done in Consequence thereof, to the Prejudice of the true Doctrine, or against their Persons, by those who aim at nothing but to disturb the Peace. Several other Bishops follow'd this Example and appeal'd likewise: Many Faculties of Theology, a great Number of the secular Clergy and other Ecclesiasticks, have adher'd to this Appeal. The Cardinal de Noailles, Archbishop of Paris added his own Appeal on the 30th of April; tho' it never appear'd in Print 'till lately; and then too without his Participation or Permission; which nevertheless has not hinder'd that Prelate from holding fast to his Integrity, nor from openly avowing it to be his true Appeal. All these Pieces are drawn up with the utmost Care and Caution, and give the Pope plainly to understand, that this Step having been taken purely out of Necessity, 'tis now incumbent on him to find out a proper Expedient for redressing of those Grievances which have occasion'd the Appeal.

From all these Motives the Regent has redoubled his Instances and Solicitations at the Court of Rome, to endeavour to come to an Accommodation; and being unwilling that this Negotiation should be disturb'd or interrupted by the Heat of Disputes, which grow warmer and warmer every Day, his Royal Highness caus'd a Declaration to be publish'd on the 7th of October, whereby his Majesty imposes only provisionally, (and not indefinitely, so as to exceed the Limits of his Power) a general and absolute Silence upon this Affair, in order to prepare the Way, by this Truce and Cessation from Cavilling, to a true and unfeign'd Peace; 'till such Time as the holy Father, touch'd with the Calamities of the Church of France, shall find Means to restore all Things to their former Tranquillity: And 'tis insinuated to him at the same Time, that it is not doubted but that he will, in such a Man-

a Manner, as to convince the World, that his Wisdom and Penetration are above the Views of those who have believ'd, or at least pretended to believe, that there is no other Way to put an End to this Division than by their Appeal, that it was so absolutely necessary to have Recourse to the Universal Church, &c.

But, notwithstanding this Precaution of the Regent, the Disputes about the Constitution continue with the same Animosities as they have hitherto done; of this we have a late Instance in the Bishop of Apt in Provence, who, without any Regard to the King's Declaration above-mention'd for silencing these Disputes, has lately publish'd a violent Mandate, in which, after having asserted, *That the Constitution is a Rule of Faith, which all the Faithful are oblig'd to follow*, he declares, *That such of the Clergy as do not submit to it, are Schismatics and ipso facto excommunicated, and that all such as receive the Sacrament from such excommunicated Priests, are Partakers of their Crimes.* But this Prelate, fearing the Resentment of the Government, has thought fit to retire into a District of his Diocese, that lies in the Country of Avignon, and is under the Jurisdiction of the Pope.

Thus stands this great Affair at present, and we must wait for the Event of it. But whatever be the Consequences thereof, This Justice is due to the Regency, that they have omitted nothing that could be expected from their Care and Authority for the procuring of Peace; and 'tis farther certain, that this Affair has been set up in so clear a Light, that it has rowz'd up the Attention of the Publick, who are capable of lifting up their Voice on certain sensible and palpable Truths, that are within the Reach of their Capacity, and of judging of them in their own Way; that is to say, with a *discerning Judgment*, which cannot in this Affair be disputed with them; which is another Consideration that deserves the particular Attention of the Court of Rome; the rather, because Experience has shewn, that there are Times and Seasons when the Voice of the People paying Testimony to their Faith, and crying out against Error and Innovation, ought not to be despis'd.

And now we are upon the Affairs of Religion, we may not forget one of the most remarkable Occurrences of the last Year; I mean the Declaration of the Electoral Prince of Saxony, who on the 11th of October last,

last, he being then at *Vienna*, openly profess'd himself a *Roman Catholick*; upon which his Father, the King of *Poland*, caus'd a Declaration to be publish'd at *Dresden*, and in all the other Towns of the Electorate of *Saxony*, the 23d of that Month, on the Subject of his Son's having embrac'd that Religion. The said Declaration contain'd in Substance, That common Fame had already made it known that his Son had declar'd himself a *Roman Catholick*, being perswaded, that it no longer became him to dissemble a Religion which he had embrac'd five Years before, according to the full Liberty, which his Majesty, as in Justice he ought to do, had left him from his Youth: That the Prince had sent him Word, that God had touch'd his Heart; and that he found himself inclin'd to become a *Roman Catholick*; That the King himself making Profession of the same Religion, could by no Means oppose the Prince's Intentions, but ought to be satisfy'd with his Resolution. His Majesty therefore, in making this Declaration, assures them, that they have not the least Colour of Reason to be alarm'd at this Change: He puts them in Mind, that himself has never disturb'd any Man on Account of Religion, knowing that Faith is the Gift of God; and in Conclusion promises, that all of them shall enjoy the like Liberty which he left to the Prince his Son, who, in Regard to them, will always retain the same Sentiments of Equity and Moderation, which his Majesty himself has done.

His Majesty likewise took Occasion, at the Assembly of the States of the Electorate of *Saxony*, who met in *January* last, again to assure them, that as ever since the Year 1697, when his Majesty embrac'd the *Romish* Religion, the Protestant Religion and all its Securities have remain'd unalter'd, and no ways infring'd; so his Subjects may rest satisfy'd, that they shall continue so for the future, and be entirely preserv'd to them and their Posterity; nor ought they in the least to doubt but, that the Prince his Son, tho' he has embrac'd the *Roman Faith*, is equally inclin'd to preserve to the Protestants of that Electorate their religious and civil Rights in the same Manner as they have hitherto enjoy'd them.

Mean Time all the Protestant Princes and States of *Germany* took Alarm at this Change of the Prince's Religion; which appear'd more especially at *Rathbon*, where

where the Ministers of the Protestant Princes at the Diet of the Empire declar'd, they could no longer communicate the Affairs of the common Interest of the Protestants to the Minister of Saxony, as Director of the Protestant Interest, his Master having embrac'd a Religion contrary to that Interest; and that therefore they could act no farther without fresh Instructions: Upon which they wrote to their Principals, who all unanimously approv'd of what their Ministers had done; and it was given out, they would demand of the Emperor Leave to hold another Protestant Diet, to chuse a new Director for the Protestant Affairs; of which Trust the House of Saxony has been possess'd ever since the Reformation by Luther, the Duke Elector of Saxony then reigning; being the great Champion of the Reformation, and the first Sovereign Prince that embrac'd the Protestant Religion. To prevent this the King of Poland writ a kind of circular Letter to the Protestant Potentates, which is as follows.

Augustus, King of Poland, &c.

WHereas our entirely beloved Son Frederick Augustus resolv'd about five Years ago, (he being then in Italy) without any Manner of Constraint, and of his own Accord, to embrace the Roman Catholick Religion, and has lately made a publick Profession thereof at Vienna; we think fit to acquaint you with it, and to assure you at the same Time, that as our Son's having chang'd his Religion, is an Affair that relates only to his own Person, so it shall not in any Manner occasion the least Disadvantage or Prejudice in Respect to the Laws and Constitutions establish'd in our Protestant Dominions, either in Regard to the Affairs of Religion, or the civil Government of them; and less still will it produce any Alteration in the good Understanding and Confidence grounded upon the general and true Interest of the Empire and those Dominions, without any particular Regard to Religion, and on the neighbourly Friendship we still endeavour to preserve and cultivate with the Protestant Potentates, and particularly with you. And as hitherto we have not been wanting, notwithstanding the Difference of Religion between us, to give Proofs on all Occasions of our Friendship for and entire Confidence in our neighbouring Potentates; so you may be fully satisfy'd, that our dearly beloved Son,

whom

whom we have taken Care to inspire with the same Sentiments, has the same Principles with our selves, in regard to whatever may contribute to the preserving a sincere and neighbourly Friendship, and will never be wanting on his Part to promote the common Advantage. On the other Hand, we promise our selves, that the Friendship and good Correspondence that have hitherto been between us, will not suffer the least Diminution on your Part, on Account of our Son's having chang'd our Religion. And in this we remain
 &c. Given at Dresden, October 25, 1717.

Sign'd,

AUGUSTUS R.

And lower, J. B. Fleming.

The Protestant Princes however continu'd of Opinion that these Assurances given by King *Augustus*, That no Innovation should be made in Saxony in Matters of Religion, are little to be rely'd on; and alledg'd the Prohibition made to the Chapter of *Naumburg* to proceed to the Election of another Bishop, though the Duke of *Saxe-Zeist* had, by turning Roman Catholic, render'd himself incapable of enjoying that Dignity, as an Instance, that the Protestant Religion is in Danger in Saxony: And therefore the said Princes declin'd the committing the Directorship of their Affairs to the House of Saxony; and their Deputies at the Diet at *Ratisbon* refus'd thereupon to communicate the Affairs of their Principals to the Ministers of Saxony, as usual.

The present Competitors for this Directorship are the King of Sweden and the King of Prussia on one Hand, and the King of Poland on the other, who is striving to retain it in his House, as before. To this Purpose he has by his Ministers at *Ratisbon* insinuated a Kind of Menace, that he shall be oblig'd, in case the Directorship be taken from him, to join his Vote, and the Votes of all the Princes of his House, with those of the Popish Princes, as well in the College of Electors, as in the College of Princes, which would manifestly weaken the Protestant Interest in the Diet. Nevertheless, the Protestant Princes insist in their Refusal to trust the Directorship of their Affairs

sairs any longer with the Elector of Saxony, regarding it as a Thing preposterous and unsafe, so long as the Princes of that House continue Papists. Mean while, the *Saxon* Ministers at the Diet, have deliver'd in a Memorial, containing at large the Reasons why the Directorship ought to continue in the Condition it is in; which has been answer'd Paragraph by Paragraph, by the Ministers of the Protestant Princes; which Reasons, together with the Objections against them, are in Substance as follows.

Reason 1. Because the Electoral Prince of Saxony's having chang'd his Religion is merely a Personal Affair, and can have no Influence on the Electorate of Saxony, nor on the Government of it.

Objection 1. That tho' in the Year 1697, when the present Elector of Saxony, afterwards King of Poland, embrac'd the Roman Catholick Religion, a Representation was made to the Protestant Body at Ratisbon, that seeing that Change concern'd only the Person of the Elector, there was no Reason for them to be under any Apprehension on that Account; and Assurances were then given them, that the Electoral Prince should be educated in the Protestant Religion; yet it appear'd soon after, by the admitting of Roman Catholics into the Ministry, and by allowing the publick Exercise of that Religion in the Electorate, that their Fears had been but too well grounded: That a Letter from the Pope to the King of Poland, written in the Year 1701, which then appear'd in Print, full of Reproaches, and even of Threats, for not causing his Son to be educated in the Principles of that Religion which he himself profess'd, was an undeniable Evidence that the Church of Rome did never allow the Princes of her Communion, to bring up their Children in another Religion; and the Event has at last confirm'd this Truth, by the Hereditary Prince's turning likewise Roman Catholick: That therefore, to pretend now again, that the said Change is only a Personal Affair, cannot be admitted; and the Protestant Body can no longer look upon it with Indifference, after so many Examples, contrary to former Assurances, and which give them just Reason to apprehend farther Alterations.

Reas. 2. Because the Electoral Prince has not, nor can have any Share in the Administration of the Government, during the Life of his Father.

Object. 2. Tho' it were granted that the Elector of Saxony's changing his Religion, could have been regarded in some Measure, only as a personal Affair, yet the Case is much alter'd by the Electoral Prince's changing of his: For the Protestant Territories belonging to the Electorate, are now to be govern'd by a Roman Catholick Branch; nor are they likely to have a Protestant Prince again, as long as there is one of that Branch remaining: And whether or no the Electoral Prince has a Share in the Government, is foreign to the Matter in Question; neither can any Assurances he can give, quiet the Minds of those concern'd in that Affair, since 'tis well known by old and fresh Instances, how far Promises made by Hereditary Princes are to be rely'd on.

Reas. 3. Because the Constitutions of the Electorate, and particularly the Evangelical Lutheran Religion, on which that Constitution is founded, are strengthen'd and supported by such powerful Ties, as the Constitution of the Empire, the formal Conventions made with the Dukes of the House of Saxony, the present Electors Cousins, and the Securities given by every Prince at his Entrance on the Government; that even in Times to come, there is no Reason to fear that any Alteration can be made by a Roman Catholick Successor, to the Advantage of his Religion and the Prejudice of the Protestant.

Object. 3. That 'tis true, that the Government of the Electorate is grounded upon the Protestant Religion, and so well secur'd by the religious and civil Laws of the Empire, by the Agreements made with the Princes of the House of Saxony, and by the Securities given to the States of the Country, by the several Princes when they first enter on the Government thereof, that a Romish Successor can make no Alteration; which is a Confession very acceptable to all Protestants in general, and in particular to the Subjects of the Electoral Territories, who are of the same Opinion. But, after all, these are but Paper Securities, which powerful Princes easily break thro', unless over-aw'd by the more powerful Ties of Conscience and Honour; but the Instances of the contrary are so frequent, that they need not be mention'd.

Reas. 4.

Reas. 4. They alledge, for a 4th Reason, the glorious Example of the present Elector, who has not only left his Electorate and his other Dominions in their former Condition ever since he chang'd his Religion; but has also lately declar'd to the States thereof, that all Things shall remain for the Future without any Alteration.

Object. 4. That many Declarations have been already issu'd, with Promise that all Things shall remain in the same Condition as formerly, *viz.* Three in the Months of *July, August, and September*, in the Year 1697; another in *March 1700*; and particularly one in *August 1705*, which in very strong Terms asserts, that to admit in the Electorate a joint Exercise of the three Religions permitted in the Empire, is contrary to the Peace of *Westphalia*; and a Reward of 200 Crowns was therein promis'd, for the Discovery of the Authors of the Reports spread at that Time, that the King intended to do it; so that People cannot perceive what Occasion there was for a new Declaration, or how it can prove more effectual the former.

Reas. 5. The Electorate, consider'd in it self, is still in the same Condition it was in the Year 1624, and consequently cannot be consider'd otherwise, than as a Protestant Member of the Empire. Besides, the Rights of Sitting and Voting, and other Prerogatives, being deriv'd from the Electorate itself, and not from the Person in Possession of it, they cannot be taken from it.

Object. 5. That the Electorate of *Saxony* cannot be said to be in the same State as it was in the Year 1624, because the present Elector or Electoral Prince professes the *Roman Catholick* Religion, and have introduc'd the publick Exercise of it in the Places of their Residence, and even in the Castle of *Leipsick*; and have Ministers of the same Perswasion: To which may be added, that the Electoral Prince will perhaps marry a *Roman Catholick* Princess, according to the publick Reports. That it is indeed, just and reasonable to consider the Electorate of *Saxony* as a Protestant Member of the Empire; but as by the Electoral Prince's changing of Religion, the Protestant Body is like to lose its real Assistance, while *Roman Catholicks* are sitting at the Helm; it depends on an uncertain Event, and on the present or future Declaration of the Protestant Body, whether they will consider the said Electorate as it ought to be, or as it is in Effect.

Reas. 6. They alledge, for Examples of the precedent Reason, the Electoral Vote of *Brunswick*, which is still reputed in the Electoral College as the Vote of a *Lutheran* Member of it, tho' the present Elector, the King of *Great Britain*, is of the Church of *England*. Then they alledge, for another Instance, the late Duke of *Brunswick Wolfenbüttele*, who embrac'd the *Romish* Religion, and yet no Alteration was made in the Vote of his Dutchy.

Object. 6. In this Objection they alledge several Examples of Protestant Princes in the Empire, who after having embrac'd the *Roman Catholic* Religion, were not admitted amongst the Protestants; but were consider'd as *Roman Catholic* Members of the Empire, upon this Foundation, that tho' the Rights and Vote of a Prince are annex'd to his Territories, yet he exercises them independently of his Subjects, and without their Concurrence. So when the Duke of *Newburg*, a *Roman Catholic*, succeeded in the Electorate Palatine, upon the Extinction of the Protestant Line, in the Year 1685, that Electorate was immediately reckon'd among the *Roman Catholic*, tho' his Minister at the Diet was a Protestant. Besides, that this was not observ'd in relation to the present King of *Poland* in the Year 1697, nor to *Anthony Ulric*, the last Duke of *Wolfenbüttele*, when they embrac'd the *Roman Catholic* Religion, and cannot be drawn into Consequence; for the former having a Son who continu'd a Protestant, and the latter being very old, and having likewise a Protestant Heir, it was thought convenient to connive at it for some Reasons very well known; and the rather, because the Vote of *Saxony* was then the only Evangelick, or *Lutheran* Vote remaining in the Electoral College: Lastly, 'tis most improper to compare the Electoral Vote of *Saxony* with that of *Brunswick Lunenburg* on this Subject. Indeed, if the *Roman Catholic* Church came as near the *English*, as the *English* comes to the *Lutheran*, there would be some Room left for such Arguments; but the contrary is so well known, that 'tis needless to enlarge upon it.

Ans. 7. Altho' the present Elector chang'd his Religion many Years ago, yet the Protestant Interest in the Empire has not suffer'd the least Prejudice by it; and consequently there is no Reason to apprehend any Prejudice for the Future.

Object. 7.

Object. 7. To say that the Protestant Interest has suffer'd no Prejudice these twenty Years past, since the King of *Poland* chang'd his Religion, is an Assertion contradicted by several undeniable Matters of Fact: For besides what has been already alledg'd concerning the Liberty of the Exercise of the Roman Catholick Religion, and the Admission of Persons of that Profession into the Ministry of the Electorate; the Electoral Prince's having chang'd his Religion, contrary to the Assurances formerly given, is a fresh Instance, that too much affects the Protestant Interest to be pass'd over in Silence, because of the sad Consequences with which it may soon be attended. That even allowing that no Alteration, prejudicial to the Protestant Religion, has been made these twenty Years past, it is no Consequence that none shall happen for the Future.

Reasf. 8. That the Protestants abandoning the Electorate of *Saxony*, will effectually contribute to the Increase of the Power of the *Roman Catholics*, and do themselves and their Cause a notable Prejudice; because the *Roman Catholics* will not only gain by their so doing a Vote of Consequence in the Electoral College, but also other Advantages in the Deputations of the Empire, and in the Nomination of Assessors in the Imperial and other Courts of Justice; which will be lost for the Protestants, who complain already that the *Roman Catholics* are too powerful.

Object. 8. 'Tis hard the Protestant Members of the Empire should be charg'd with a Design to forsake their Protestant Brethren in the Electorate of *Saxony*; whereas it was the Elector himself who forsook the Protestant Body, and weaken'd that Interest by joining with the *Roman Catholics*. That consequently the Danger of losing a Protestant Vote in the Electoral College, cannot be imputed to them, but to the King himself. As to what relates to the Deputations of the Empire, and the presenting of Assessors in the Imperial Courts of Justice, or in the Chamber of *Wezel*, the present Change cannot prejudice the Protestant Cause; it being determin'd by the Constitutions of the Empire, that the Voices of Protestants and *Roman Catholics* must be equal in the first Case, and that a certain Proportion is to be observ'd in the latter: That therefore no Prejudice can accrue to them from that Change in Matters concerning Religion,

ligion, seeing they do not depend upon a Majority of Votes.

Reas. 9. That the Protestants will act against their own Interest, and bring upon themselves an irreparable Loss, if they do not maintain the Electorate of Saxony in the same Condition it is in at present, and in the Possession of the Directorship of their Affairs; which, being once taken from it, must needs cause its separation from the Protestants: For it is not to be expected, that that Electorate will submit to any Alteration in that Matter; which Separation will give an Opportunity to the *Romish* Clergy to get the free Exercise of their Religion in Saxony, with other Advantages to the Prejudice of the Protestants, the Consequences of which will lie at the Door of such as foment this Alteration.

Object. 9. That by transferring the Protestant Directorship to another Family, the Electoral Territories can receive no Damage, if they have none to fear from the Elector himself: For to argue thus, The Elector is no longer Director of the Protestants, therefore he is at Liberty to alter the establish'd Religion in the Electorate, is a very wrong Inference, which plainly contradicts the above mention'd Declaration in *August* 1705, in which it was declar'd, That the Imputation of an intended Alteration in the Religion establish'd in the Electorate, was a scandalous and calumnious Report, and would be a Confirmation of what is alledg'd in the first Article, *viz.* That all the Laws of the Empire, and the particular Obligations a *Roman* Catholick Successor is under, would not be a sufficient Security against his own Power, if he should have a Mind to lay them aside. That therefore to leave this Directorship in his Hands, would be to strengthen him more and more, and to put their Affairs in a Condition past Relief, whenever he should think fit to act contrary to their true Interest: That it was Matter of Reflection, to see that Family at present so eager to preserve the Directorship; whereas in the Year 1653, they could scarce prevail'd on to take it again upon them, after they had parted with it by the Peace concluded at *Prague* with the House of *Austria*: That though they had enjoy'd it since that Time, yet they had not separated from the Protestant Body; nor did the Elector Palatine, before the Beginning of the *German* War, think it a sufficient Reason for him to forsake them, because they had

had given the Directorship to the Elector of *Saxony*, tho' he took Place of him in the Electoral College at that Time.

Reas. 10. That this Office has been possess'd by the Electorate of *Saxony*, to the Satisfaction of the Emperor, and all other Members of the Empire; which is perhaps more than can be expected from any of the other Potentates that pretend to the said Dignity.

Object. 10. That if no Complaints have been made against the *Saxon* Ministers at the Diet, and their Administration of the Directorship, this has been owing to the Hopes they had, that all would be right again under a Protestant Successor, which Hopes were now vanish'd into Smoke. That, however, in the mean Time it may be truly said, that there are entire Volumes remaining on the Records of the Diet, containing the Grievances of Protestants, who have been oppress'd by *Roman* Catholics without any Redress. And in Conclusion they say, that it is to be hop'd, that the Inconveniencies which may attend the chusing of a new Director, are not of such a Nature, but that they may be prevented by the same Precautions, by which many other Dangers the Protestant Interest has been threaten'd with, have been obviated and dispell'd.

This is the Substance of the Arguments used *Pro* and *Con* in this important Affair, in which I have been the more particular, because from hence it appears, that in foreign Protestant Countries, where the Popish Religion is not held in so great Abhorrence as with us, yet even there they think it not safe that the Direction of their religious Concerns should be in the Hands of a Popish Prince; and therefore it will be very difficult for the *Saxons* to succeed in their Pretensions of being continu'd in the Possession of that Office. We proceed now to the Transactions in

Holland, where we find nothing very remarkable, except their Agreement with the Elector of *Cologne*, concerning the Demolition of the Fortifications of *Bon*, *Huy*, and the Cittadel of *Leige*. The States-General have in vain sollicit'd the Court of *Vienna* for the Execution of the Barrier-Treaty: The Emperor continues still inflexible in that Affair; but if a War should chance to break out in *Italy*, as in all Appearance hitherto it seems unavoidable, that Prince may chance to have little Reason to boast of his present Stiffness; for he may then stand

stand in Need of the Assistance of that Republick, who will no doubt be wise enough to remember, how their former Assistance has been requited.

The seven Provinces, and all the Coast of the German Ocean, from *Zeland* to the *Sound*, have been reduc'd to a deplorable Condition, by a dismal Inundation that happen'd on the 24th and 25th of *December* last, by which vast Tracts of Land, with a great Number of Inhabitants, and a World of Cattle have been drown'd. The Particulars of this Calamity were not come to Hand when we publish'd the last *Register*, and therefore we will here give the following Accounts of it, that have since been transmitted to us. The Damage done in *North Holland* is particularly describ'd in a Letter from *Amsterdam*, dated *December* 28, as follows : .

OUR Consternation here is inexpressible, for the Desolation of the Country is such as no Tongue can describe ; the Particulars would make a large Book. The Storm began the 24th in the Morning, the Wind first at W. by N. but about Noon veer'd to the N. W. which brought the Sea upon this Coast in such a frightful Manner, as put the People on all Sides into the utmost Terror. In the Afternoon the Tide of Flood came on with such Fury, pouring into the *Zuyder*, or South-Sea, and the Wind at the same Time blowing a dreadful Storm, that nothing but Destruction could be expected ; as for the Ships in the *Texel*, where there rode about 70 Sail in all, only six were seen to ride it out, and those cut down all their Masts, except their Mizzen ; of the rest, many we have since seen stranded upon the Shores, some are sunk in the Sea with all their Crews, and others gone out to Sea in the utmost Distress ; nor can it be expected they should escape, our whole Coast being a Lee-Shore, and the Wind blowing directly upon it. Two third Parts of *North Holland* are under Water, and the Dykes or Banks not only borne away, but the Sea ran over the highest of them several Foot : All the Country about *Hoorn*, *Medlinck*, and *Enchusen* is under Water, the Villages drown'd, and only the upper Part of the Houses to be seen ; the Cattle all destroy'd, and abundance of People also. It has pleas'd God to spare the South Part of the Province, over-against this City ; so that an infinite

Number

Number of People, especially Women and Children, are fled thither, and Boats are gone every Way to save others; but six Hoys going by express Order to fetch off the People of the Village of *Dagerlack*, found most of them drown'd, and the whole Place overwhelm'd with the Sea; they only sav'd 26 Persons, who were climb'd up into Trees, and five Women sitting upon the Ridge of a House. It would be endless to relate the Particulars of the Calamity of that Province; and we hear, that on the other Side, viz. in *Westfriesland* and *Groningen*, it is still worse. The Islands on the Coast, as *Vlieland*, *Terschelling*, *Gain*, and others, are in the same Condition: The first, they tell us, the Sea has gone quite over it; the People which were sav'd, escaping only in Hoys, and other Boats which were there: *Enchysen* is ruin'd, the Fortifications sunk, and the Country round is all like a Sea: The great Magazine of Powder there is all spoil'd, consisting of many thousand Barrels.

Our next Letters are from *Leewardin*, the Capital City of *West Friesland*, dated the 26th, as follows, viz.

WE are here under the greatest Astonishment imaginable: All the People from about *Harlingen*, *Dongadeel*, and *Warradeel*, come flying hither for Life, the Sea having broke in upon them in such a Manner, as is not to be express'd; all the fine Country of the *Old* and *New Built* is drown'd, the Water coming in upon them in the Night, and nine Foot high at once, so that there was no escaping it; and a prodigious Number of People are lost, and very few of the Cattle have escap'd. The Town of *Harlingen* itself is in a very dismal Condition; the Harbour is spoil'd, and the Peers, which cost 50,000 Dollars, are blown up by the Water; the whole Town lies one Story deep in Water, and the People all fled into the upper Rooms, remaining there in the utmost Terror and Amazement; several Houses, with all the People in them, are driven away by the Water, and as well there as in the *New Polder* many Persons are lost. The Islands *Vlieland* and *Schelling* are entirely swallow'd up by the Sea, and all those, who could not save themselves by Ships and Boats, perish'd. In the Fortrefs of *Delfzyle* in the Province of *Groningen*, the Water arose above the Tops of the Bastions of the Fortifications:

We have likewise an Account from *Ofternoon*, that all is in the same Condition on that Side of the Country, and even to the Sea, which arose much higher than it did in 1686, when the most terrible Innundation that ever was heard of before, happen'd to these Provinces. The People who are come from *Harlinghen*, *Comler*, and other Towns on that Side, assure, that many thousand Lives have been lost in those Places, and it is worse still in the Province of *Groninghen*, and *East Frisland*, and the Mouth of the River *Embs*, from whence we have the following Account, dated from *Groninghen*, December 26.

ON the 24th in the Afternoon, we were alarm'd here with the rising of the Water in our Canals: About four o' Clock it came up in such a furious Manner, and the Wind encreasing at the same Time to a Storm, that we began to fear all was not well on the Sea-side, whereupon several of our Inhabitants, who had Estates in the Low Lands, went out on Horseback to see how they far'd; but brought back Word, that the Sea was beating with a dreadful Rage on the Coast, and was already running over the Dykes and Banks on that Side of *Delfzyle*, &c. and that a great Part of the Country would be inevitably drown'd: All the Night the Wind blew in a most terrible Manner at N. W. and brought the Waves like Mountains against the Shore; so that by the next Morning, all the Country about *Zugilwolde*, &c. was overflow'd, and abundance of Household Goods and dead Bodies were seen driving up the Stream even to our Walls. The same Evening, by seven o' Clock, the Water was swell'd to that Degree, that it stood several Foot high in this Town. The next Morning, we sent all the Vessels and Boats we could to the Villages, which lay under Water, to save the People, or to provide for them, if they had Opportunity, with Bread and Water, by which Means the Lives of many were sav'd; but we nevertheless see floating innumerable dead Bodies, Cattle, Roofs of Houses, and Household Stuff. The *Oldamp* is laid under Water; as is the High Country in the *Merrene*. At *Bedum*, a Village two Leagues from hence, most of the Houses are carry'd away. In a Word, near a third Part of the Province of *West Frisland*, and one half of that of *Groninghen*, is entirely destroy'd.

destroy'd. At the Town of *Groninghen* only, have been bury'd 2500 Bodies of Persons drown'd in that Neighbourhood: Great Part of *Zealand* is likewise overflow'd, and one Village there is totally destroy'd, with 1300 Inhabitants.

Now seeing the Losses which the Dominions of the States-General have suffer'd on this Occasion are so great as not to be calculated, or cast up by any Estimation, but may, in general, be concluded to amount to many Millions; nay, some say, to the Expence of at least a seven Year's War, it is not surprizing if that Republick, who were cautious before of engaging in any Expences, and of hearkening to any Thing that bore the least Appearance of a new War, be of Course much more backward now to any such Undertaking, their Country being indeed terribly impoverish'd by this Calamity.

We have also the like dismal Account from the *Lower Elbe* in the following Letter from *Hamburgh*, dated *December 30.*

WE had here, on the 24th and the 25th Instant, the most dreadful Inundation that ever was known or heard of: The Boats row'd in the Streets; and the Warehouses, which never before were damag'd, are now full of Water. The Flood was so sudden and impetuous, that Parents had not Time to carry their Children out of Cellars where they lay, but they were drown'd in them. Our Loss in Sugar only, amounts to 200,000 Rixdollars, and the whole Damage here is computed at near two Millions. The Dykes along the *Elbe* are all damag'd, and in many Places broke down; whole Villages are carry'd away, and many People drown'd. At *Gluckstadt* in the Dutchy of *Holstein*, the Waters rose so high, that the Inhabitants were forc'd to retire into their upper Rooms: The Fortifications of that City have suffer'd very much; and had not the Weight of the Water borne down the Sluices, the whole Town had been destroy'd. Some Villages in the Neighbourhood were entirely carry'd away, others in Part, and many People and Cattle were drown'd. The whole Country of *Oldenburg* is laid under Water, and great Numbers of Men and Beasts have perish'd in the Flood; those who remain having sav'd their Lives by climbing up the Ridges of Houses and Tops of Trees. In *North Fuz-*

Land above 20 Villages in the Neighbourhood of *Frederickstadt* are laid under Water, and some of them in a Manner quite destroy'd. In the Isle of *Mohr*, only the *Parsonage-House* and the Church are left standing. In the *Dutchy of Bremen*, at least 20,000 Souls have perish'd, and almost the whole Country is laid under Water, so that only the Steeples of several Villages remain to be seen. At *Aurick* only were taken up and bur'd 1200 dead Bodies; and the few that have escap'd alive, are now employ'd in carrying Provision in Boats from Place to Place to relieve and save the Lives of those who are sitting on the Tops of Houses. All the Dykes in the Neighbourhood of *Esem* in *East Friesland* are not only thrown down, but carried clean away by the Impetuosity of the Flood; so that the whole Country resembles the main Sea. Innumerable Men and Beasts have perish'd: In short, Words cannot express the great Ravage and Desolation caus'd by this Inundation; the Loss in Houses, Goods, Cattle, &c. being every where inestimably great.

Let us now leave this dismal Scene, (with which we conclude our Review of the Affairs abroad) and pass to one more pleasing; I mean the present Posture of Affairs at Home. The Alliance concluded between the Emperor and his *Britannick Majesty*, the Triple Alliance between *Great Britain*, *France*, and *Holland*, the Retreat of the Pretender into *Italy*, and the Demolishing the Works and Harbour of *Mardyke*, are all of them Occurrences that give a promising Prospect of happy Days: But this Sun-shine was somewhat overcast the Beginning of the last Year, by the Discovery of the Intrigues of the *Swedish Ministers* to foment an Insurrection in *Great Britain*, in Favour of the Pretender. The Conduct of the King of *Sweden* in this Affair seems very surprizing: For notwithstanding the Declaration made on his Part by the *Duke Regent of France*, that his *Swedish Majesty* was not privy to the Designs laid to the Charge of his Ministers, and that he would do Justice upon them, if it could be made appear that they had abus'd their Characters, which can hardly be a Matter of Doubt to those who have seen the Letters of those Ministers; notwithstanding all this, I say, the Contrivers of that Design have not only not been punish'd by their Master, but even caress'd by him. On the other Hand, the Pa-

tience

tience and Moderation of his *Britannick* Majesty deserve to be consider'd; who, after having taken such Measures as disappointed the Designs of his Enemies, has sat down without shewing any farther Resentment; and left it to the Mediation and friendly Offices of the Prince above-mention'd, the Regent of France, to procure him a Satisfaction suitable to the Nature of the Affront.

But we cannot give a better Idea in general, of our Domestic Affairs, than by inserting the following Passage taken from a foreign Author, in his Remarks on the Events of the Year 1717, which shews what Notion they have of us Abroad, and cannot well be suspected of Partiality.

Great Britain, in particular, says he, feels the sweet Advantages of the Peace, by the happy Harmony that reigns between the King and his Parliament, and by the effectual Methods taken for the speedy Redress of Affairs, which visibly appears by the Credit of the publick Funds, and by the Reputation and Interest the Nation gains Abroad: The Kingdom finds it has surmounted the Designs that were form'd to thwart its Happiness; the Laws bear Rule, and the Authority of the Government is wholly employ'd to maintain them, which is the surest Foundation of the publick Happiness: It were only to be wish'd that an End could be seen of that Sort of Divisions which produce opposite Factions: But since it is impossible, especially in a free State, to dry up the Source of them, the rather since it springs from humane Passions; 'tis very considerable, and a great Happiness, that the Interest of the Publick prevails, as we see it does in England on all important Occasions: But can it be expected that the civil Body should preserve itself from this Mixture, when the Government of the Church, which ought to be a Pattern for others, is not exempt from it? 'Tis certain that England has been favour'd with many Blessings, which are lately encreas'd by the Birth of a Prince, who is the Joy of the Nation; and who, notwithstanding some Clouds that have risen on this Occasion, and which 'tis hop'd, will soon blow over, may live, if please God, to confirm the Happiness of the Nation.

This Remark of our foreign Author was, as appears by the Conclusion of it, written before the unlucky Accident that turn'd the Joy of the Nation into Mourning; I mean the premature Death of the Royal Infant, who liv'd not long enough to see the Clouds our Author speaks

speaks of dispell'd: He means the unhappy Difference between the King and his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, which happen'd immediately after the Christening of the yong Prince, and was occasion'd by it: The Story in a few Words is as follows: His Royal Highness had pitch'd upon the Duke of *York*, Bishop of *Asnabrug*, his Majesty's Brother, to be one of the Godfathers; and the Prince had Reason to believe that the King was satisfied with the Choice he had made. But when the Ceremony came to be perform'd, the Duke of *Newcastle* stood Godfather with the King, not as Proxy for or representing the Duke of *York*, but for himself, and in his own Name and Person. This the Prince took ill of the Duke, not as he acted in Obedience to his Majesty's Command, but as if the Duke had done, or at least seem'd officious to do, something which he was not commanded. This Proceeding sensibly touch'd the Prince, and rais'd his Indignation to that Degree, that he could not help shewing it; but as soon as the Ceremony was over, spoke some warm Words to the Duke, expressing his Resentment at what he had done. Upon Report of these Words to the King, his Majesty thought fit to give a sudden Mark of his Displeasure, by sending his Commands to the Prince to keep in his own Apartment 'till his Majesty's Pleasure was farther known; to which his Royal Highness farther submitted: Soon after this his Majesty's farther Pleasure was signify'd to the Prince, that he should leave *St. James's*; accordingly his Royal Highness quitted the Palace, the Princess going along with him, and retir'd to the House of the Earl of *Grantham* in *Albemarle-Street*; but the Children, by the King's Order, remain'd at *St. James's*. Soon after this, his Majesty's Royal Pleasure was signify'd to all the Peers and Peereffes of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and to all Privy Counsellors and their Wives, that all Persons who should go to see their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of *Wales*, should forbear coming into his Majesty's Presence. Besides, such as had Employments under the King and Prince both, were oblig'd to quit the Service of one of them; which reduc'd our Courtiers to so hard a Dilemma, that we may apply to them what the *Spanish* Historian says of those in his Days, when the Quarrel happen'd between *Philip II. of Spain*, and his Son *Dor Carlos*: Our Courtiers, says he, look so amaz'd, so Thunder-struck, and knew

knew so little how to behave themselves, on Occasion of the Quarrel between the King and his Son, that they betray'd the mercenary Principles upon which they acted, by the Confusion they were in upon this Breach: Those, continues he, who were for the Prince in their Wishes, durst not speak their Minds, because the Father was King: Those, who were for the King, were backward to declare themselves, because the Son would be King; these, because the King might resent; those, because the Prince might remember. But this is not the only Instance might be produc'd to prove, that Breaches in the Royal Families of Princes are the worst Circumstances than can befall the Courtiers, Statesmen, and great Officers of the Courts where such Breaches happen to be; because it bewilders their Politicks, and they know not whether Party to take.

Soon after this unhappy Difference broke out, there was printed in the *Amsterdam Gazette*, a Letter said to be written by a Secretary of State, to the foreign Ministers residing here: This Letter is in *French*, dated at *Whitehall*, Dec. 14. (N. S.) 1717, and the Author of a Weekly Paper call'd, *The Critick*, has given the Publick a Translation of it in his Paper of the 13th of *January*, and introduces it as follows:

' The other, and indeed great Cause, design'd to be
' discuss'd, is that of the unhappy Difference betwixt
' his Majesty and the Prince of *Wales*, which so much
' distracts us at present. However the First has here
' acted the same noble Part, in transmitting to other
' Courts his Reasons for it, by his Secretary of State;
' which, as 'tis a Family Affair, he was not oblig'd to
' do; otherwise, than that he would not be consider'd
' as a private Man in any Respect, and has wholly given
' himself up to the Publick. The Letter is printed
' in the *Amsterdam Gazette*, and has doubtless satisfy'd
' those for whom it was design'd: But as there is a rest-
' less Spirit at Home, which it is beneath his Majesty's
' Dignity to take Notice of, yet no less wants to be left
' without a Pretence; and several Letters said to be
' written by his Royal Highness, (which, if they
' were, could never be meant by him to insill into
' the People an Opinion of the King's Cruelty or In-
' justice) being handed about in Opposition to this,
' 'tis not doubted but the Translation of it, which
' here

here follow, will be no less seasonable than entertaining.

S I R,

HIS Majesty having been inform'd that several Reports, for the most part ill-grounded, are spread abroad concerning what has lately pass'd in the Royal Family, he has order'd me to send you the inclos'd Account of it.

As soon as the young Prince was born, the King caus'd himself to be inform'd of what was wont to be observ'd in like Cases in this Kingdom, in regard to the Ceremony of Baptism; and having found by the Records, that when it was a Boy, and the King was Godfather, it was the Custom for him to nominate for second Godfather, one of the principal Lords of his Court, who for the most part was the Lord Chamberlain; he nam'd for this Function the Duke of Newcastle, who now bears that Charge; naming at the same Time for Godmother the Dutches of St. Albans, first Lady of Honour to the Princess. Nevertheless, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales conceiv'd such a Dislike at this, that on Thursday last, after the Solemnity of the Baptism was over, finding himself no longer Master of his Temper, he drew near to the Duke of Newcastle, and gave him very reproachful Words, upon Supposition that he had solicited that Honour in Spight of him: The King was still in the Chamber, but not near enough to hear what the Prince said to the Duke. This left thinking himself oblig'd to inform the King of it, and the Prince having confess'd the Matter to the Dukes of Kingston, Kent, and Roxburghe, (whom his Majesty sent to him the next Day upon this Occasion) his Majesty order'd him, by a second Message, not to go out of his own Apartment till farther Order: On Saturday the Prince wrote a Letter to the King, and the next Day (Sunday) another. But his Majesty not finding them satisfactory, and having besides other Reasons of Discontent at several Steps the Prince had taken, he caus'd him to be told yesterday in the Afternoon, by his Vicerchamberlain, Mr. Cooke, that he should be gone from the Palace of St. James's; and to the Princess, that she might continue in the Palace as long as she thought convenient; but that as for the Princesses her Daughter, and the young Prince, the King would have them remain with him in the Palace, and that the Princess should be permitted to see them as often as she desired it. However, the Princess being unwilling to leave

leave the Prince her Husband, went with him to the House of the Earl of Grantham, her Lord Chamberlain, where their Royal Highnesses lay last Night.

‘ This Letter is too full to need a Comment: Neither perhaps is it proper upon such a Subject to make any. Only it may be observ’d, that his Majesty has, through the whole Affair, behav’d himself with the highest Heroism and Self-denial; in asserting the Cause of the *British* Peerage, which was insulted in one of its Noblest Members, against his own Son. It had indeed been beneath the Duke of Newcastle not to have resent’d it; but is even above what could be expected from a King to redress it so effectually. This must sure endear him to the Nation for ever: And his Royal Highness, as he one Day expects to fill the Throne himself, cannot look upon it as an Injury, to have his Majesty thus justify’d from wicked Imputations, though it unfortunately happens to be at his Expence. If any Sycophant Incendiaries should insinuate the contrary to him, ’tis hop’d, he may at last find them. And certainly, no Disgrace can be too heavy for such, who have taken it into their Heads to aggrandize themselves, by the Disunion of a Royal Family.

‘ Instead of addressing any Reflections immediately to his Royal Highness himself, it may not be amiss to revive, on this Occasion, the Story of Prince Henry’s Submission to his Father King Henry the Fourth, after he had first been remov’d from the Presidentship of the Council, upon Account of several Extravagances he had committed, and among the rest, an Insult upon the Lord Chief Justice, who yet was no Peer: This Prince was afterwards made the great and victorious King Henry the Fifth, so that a Comparison with him can be no way mocking to any. There is something very Odd in the Manner of his Behaviour; but as it manifests a distemper’d State of Mind, so consequently does it the utmost Degree of Contrition. The Passage is here taken from Sir Richard Baker, both as that History is the greatest Family-Book of the Kind, and because we find him to be follow’d in it, almost Word for Word, in Dr. Kennet’s Collection, tho’ with some interfering Matters, which but renders it more obscure.

This made the Prince so sensible (says he) of his Father's Displeasure, that he thought necessary to seek by all Means to recover his good Opinion; which he endeavour'd to do by a Way as strange as that by which he lost it. For, attiring himself in a Garment of blue Sattin, wrought all with Eyel-Soles of black Silk, at every Hole a Needle hanging, by which it was sew'd, and about his Arm, a Thing in Fashion of a Hound's Collar, studded with S's of Gold; he came to the Court of Westminster; to whom the King (though not well in Health) caused himself in a Chair to be brought into his Privy-Chamber; where, in Presence of but three or four of his Privy-Council, he demanded of the Prince the Cause of his unwonted Habit and Coming. Who answer'd, That being not only his Subject but his Son, and a Son so tenderly always regarded by him, he were worthy a thousand Deaths, if he should intend, or but imagine the least Offence to his Sacred Majesty; and therefore had fitted himself to be made a Sacrifice: And therewithal reach'd his Dagger, holding it by the Point, to his Father, for (said he) I desire not to live longer, than I may be thought to be what I am, and shall ever be, your faithful and obedient Vassal.

What follows is remarkable, and sufficient Encouragement for all Sons to pursue this Prince's Example, how much soever they may think themselves aggriev'd: For, continues Sir Richard, with this or the like Answer the King was so mov'd, that he fell upon his Son's Neck, and with many Tears embracing him, confess'd, that his Ears had been too open to receive Reports against him; and promised faithfully, that from thenceforth no Reports should cause any Disaffection towards him.

Thus far the Author of the Paper call'd the Critick.



The PROCEEDINGS of the Parliament of Great Britain.

IN our last Register we inserted the King's Speech at the Opening of the Session, and the Addresses of both Houses to his Majesty: Some Motions were said to have been made to add certain Clauses to those Addresses, in relation to disbanding the Troops, and to the Liberty

berthy of Dissenters; upon which last Point, a certain Member desired to know, Whether the Dissenters were to come over to the Church, or the Church to go over to them? However, Things were carry'd with more Temper; nor was it doubted, but that Matters would be so accommodated, as to make the Dissenters easy, and the Church safe; though, by the Way, that must be own'd to be a great Undertaking.

It took up some Time in both Houses to make their Complements of Felicitation to the King, the Prince and Princess, on the Birth of the young Prince: This was done by Addresses to the King, and by Messages to the Prince and Princess; all which were received and returned with great Testimonies of Satisfaction, as they were presented with Appearances of Zeal and Affection.

In the mean Time the House of Commons began to enter upon Business; and on the 25th of *November* reported and voted a Supply to his Majesty in general; after which, as of Course, they called for Estimates and Accompts, to see what was wanted, to settle the Establishment of the Army, Navy, Ordnance, &c. as usual; all which were laid before them by the proper Officers; and this was in Effect the whole Business of that Month.

On the 2^d of *December*, the House resolv'd itself into a Grand Committee to consider of the Supply, and came to several Resolutions, which being reported the next Day, were agreed to by the House, and are as follows: I. That 10,000 Men be allowed for the Sea-Service for the Year 1718. II. That 4*l.* per Man per Month be allow'd for maintaining the said 10,000 Men for 13 Months, (that is to say, the Sum of 52,000*l.*) including the Ordnance for Sea-Service. III. That the Sum of 224,857*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* be granted for the Ordinary of the Navy, for the Year 1718, including Half-Poy.

Meanwhile there were but a very thin House, which indeed they took Notice of themselves, and resolv'd to do their Country Justice in this Point, by obliging their Members, how remote soever, to discharge their Duty, and give their Attendance in Parliament; to which End, they were no sooner met, than one of their first Steps was to appoint a Call of their House; which was accordingly call'd over this Day, (*December 3.*)

when many of the Members were absent; and some of them were excused upon Account of Business, or Sickness; but others, for whom no sufficient Excuse was made, had Days appointed them peremptorily to appear: And the next Day it was order'd, that the several Members, who had made Default to appear at the Call of the House, and had particular Days appointed them for attending the Service of the House, should be taken into Custody of the Serjeant at Arms, if they fail'd to attend at the Day appointed. This Day, for some of the absent Members, was the 10th of that Month: when all of them either appear'd, or sent such Excuses as were allow'd of, except *George Pitt of Shroton, Esq;* whose Excuse not being satisfactory, he was order'd into Custody: Other Members were appointed to attend on the 12th; and of these the following Gentlemen either sent no Excuse at all, or the Excuses they did send were not allow'd of, and they were likewise order'd into Custody, viz. *Sir William Lowther, William Northmore, John Rolle, Charles Cecil, and Charles Bertie, Esqrs.* In short, the Sum of it was, that these Gentlemen being all taken into Custody, were, after some Time, upon their Motion to the House, discharged, paying their Fees as usual. But lest this should not quicken others to attend, another Order was made at the Time of the *Christmas Recess*, viz. That *Mr. Speaker* do write circular Letters to the Sheriffs and Stewards of the several Counties, &c. of *Great Britain*, requiring the Attendance of all their Members on the 13th of *January*; and declaring, that they would proceed with the utmost Severity against such Members as should not then attend, if their Excuses were not allow'd of: And thus stood the Affair of the absenting Members at the Time of the *Recess*. We now go back to the other Proceedings of the House.

Dec. 4. A Motion was made for a Supply for maintaining the Guards and Garrisons in *Great Britain* for the Year 1718, according to the Estimate laid before the House: This Motion was oppos'd by several Members; among the rest, by *Mr. Shippen, Sir William Windham*, and *Mr. Robert Walpole*, which last made a Speech that lasted above an Hour, wherein, besides the common Topick of the Danger of a Standing Army in a free Nation, he insisted on four principal Points, viz. '1. That whereas they were given to understand, that the Army

‘ Army was reduc’d to 16,000 and odd Men, it still consisted of above 18,000, which was one third Part more than the Number of Land Forces in *Great Britain* amounted to formerly in Time of Peace. 2. That there was no due Proportion observ’d, either between the Number of Horse, Dragoons, and Foot, or between the Number of the Officers and Soldiers that were kept standing; insomuch, that of about 11000 *l.* which the Pay of a reduced Regiment of Foot amounts to, near 7000 *l.* goes towards the Pay of the Officers, and 4000 *l.* only to the private Soldiers. 3. That the keeping up so great a Number of Officers, was, in effect, the maintaining of an Army almost double of what was intended, since the Soldiers that were wanting to compleat the Companies and Regiments, might be rais’d with a Drum in twice four and twenty Hours. And, in the 4th Place, That the Pay of General Officers, which amounted to above 20,000 *l.* was an Expence altogether needless, and unprecedented in Time of Peace.’ All which Particulars Mr. *Walpole* enlarg’d upon, and made good his Assertions by proper Vouchers. Mr. *Craggs, jun.* as was incumbent on his Office of Secretary at War, answer’d Mr. *Walpole*. He observ’d in general, ‘ That in all wise Governments, the Security of the State is the Rule chiefly to be regarded; and that his Majesty, both in the Augmentation and the Reduction of his Forces, had not only consult’d the *Safety*, but likewise the *Ease* of his People. That though, as was suggest’d, the Nation paid at present near 18000 Men, yet there were only 16347 who could give any Jealousy, unless some People should think our Liberties in Danger, from the Chaplains, Surgeons, Widows of Officers, and such harmless, inoffensive Persons, who were included in the first Number: That therefore there are not much above 4000 Men more now in *Great Britain* than there were kept up after the Peace of *Ryswick*, which Number must be thought very moderate, by all who wish well to the present happy Settlement, considering, that the Embers of an unnatural Rebellion lately extinguish’d, were still warm, and the Discontents industriously fomented by the Enemies of the Government: That the Parliament had ever contented themselves with fixing the Number of the Forces that were thought necessary to be maintain’d, but had left to
‘ the

' the Crown the Manner of reducing and modelling that
 ' Number ; and therefore, if they should now do other-
 ' wise, it would be but an indifferent Return to that
 ' gracious and tender Regard which, on all Occasions,
 ' his Majesty has shewn to the Security and Ease of his
 ' Subjects. That after all, it is no less a Piece of Ju-
 ' stice than Matter of Prudence, to keep up as great a
 ' Number of Officers as possible ; for, besides the Occa-
 ' sion which the Nation may have for them for the future,
 ' it is but reasonable to acknowledge the past eminent
 ' Services of Gentlemen, who having been brought up to
 ' no other Trade but War, had no other Way to subsist
 ' and provide for themselves and Families.' Mr. Craggs
 was back'd by several Members, particularly Mr. Aisla-
 lie, Treasurer of the Navy, Mr. Richard Hampden, and
 Mr. John Smith, two of the Tellers of the Exchequer,
 Mr. Coventry, one of the Comptrollers of the Green
 Cloth, Mr. Bladen, one of the Commissioners of Trade,
 and Mr. Barrington Shute, who chiefly insisted on the
 Necessity of keeping up 16000 Men, at least, one Year
 longer. Sir David Dalrymple was of the same Opinion,
 and to that Purpose urg'd, That the Discontents run
 still as high in Scotland as before the late Rebellion ; for
 which he 'allēg'd several Reasons. *Mr. Walpole, who
 spoke once or twice more, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Freeman,
 General Erle, and some other Gentlemen, were, on the
 contrary, of Opinion, That 12000 Men were suffici-
 ent ; and the Debate having lasted 'till a Quarter past
 Six, the Question was going to be put, Whether the
 Number should be 16 or 12000 ? When Mr. Shippen
 standing up, made a Speech, in which he overshot him-
 self so far in his Expressions, as to give too much Ad-
 vantage against him, to such as perhaps were not over-
 backward to lay hold of it : His Words that gave the
 Offence were to the following Purpose, *That the second Pa-
 ragraph of the King's Speech seem'd rather to be calculated
 for the Meridian of Germany, than Great Britain ; and
 that 'twas a great Misfortune, That the King was a Stran-
 ger to our Language and Constitution.* These Expressions
 gave Offence to several Members, and in particular to
 Mr. Lechmere, who having taken them down in Writing,
 urg'd, ' That those Words were a scandalous Invective
 ' against the King's Person and Government, of which
 ' the House ought to shew the highest Resentment, and
 ' therefore mov'd, That the Member who spoke those
 ' offensive

‘offensive Words should be sent to the Tower.’ Mr. *Lechmere* was seconded by Mr. *Cowper*, Brother to the Lord Chancellor, and back’d by Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, and some others: Upon which Mr. *Robert Walpole* said, ‘That if the Words in Question were spoken by the Member on whom they were charg’d, the Tower was too light a Punishment for his Rashness; but as what he had said in the Heat of this Debate might have been misunderstood, he was for allowing him the Liberty of explaining himself.’ Mr. *Snell*; Mr. *Hutchinson*, and some other Gentlemen, spoke also in Behalf of Mr. *Shippen*, intending, chiefly, to give him an Opportunity of retracting or excusing what he had said, which Mr. *Shippen* not thinking proper to do, several Speeches were made, upon the Question, Whether the Words taken down in Writing were the same as had been spoken? A Gentleman having suggested, That there was no Precedent of a Censure passed on a Member of the House for Words spoken in a Committee, Sir *Charles Hotham* produc’d Instances of the contrary; and, on the other Hand, Mr. *Shippen* having maintain’d what he had advanc’d, it was, at last, resolv’d, by a Majority of 196 Voices against about 100, That the Words taken down in Writing were spoken by Mr. *Shippen*. It was then about 9 a Clock in the Evening, and it being moved and carry’d, That the Chairman leave the Chair; Mr. *Speaker* resum’d his Place, and Mr. *Farrer* reported from the said Committee, ‘That Exceptions having been taken to some Words spoken in the Committee, by *William Shippen*, Esq; a Member of the House, the Committee had directed him to report the Words to the House.’ Which being done accordingly, and Candles order’d to be brought in, Mr. *Shippen* was heard in his Place, and then withdrew. After this it was mov’d, that the Question might be put, ‘That the Words spoken by *William Shippen*, Esq; (a Member of this House) are highly dishonourable to and unjustly reflecting on his Majesty’s Person and Government.’ Which occasion’d a Debate that lasted ’till past 11 a Clock, when the Question being put, was carry’d in the Affirmative by 175 Voices against 81; and thereupon order’d, ‘That *William Shippen*, Esq; be, for the said Offence, committed Prisoner to his Majesty’s Tower of London, and that Mr. *Speaker* do issue his Warrant accordingly.’

Dec. 5. The Commons went again into a Grand Committee, to consider further of the Supply, and after a small Debate, it was resolv'd, That the Number of Guards and Garrisons in *Great Britain*, &c. be 16347 effective Men, and that the Sum of 681618 l. be granted for maintaining them. Note, This Establishment was for *Great Britain*, and the Islands of *Jersey* and *Guernsey* only, without including the Forces Abroad, *viz.* the Troops in the Plantations in *America*, the Garrisons in the Island of *Minorca*, in the Town of *Gibraltar*, the Garrisons of *Placentia* and *Annapolis*, and of the Islands *Bahama* and *Providence*.

Dec. 6. In a Committee of the whole House on the Supply, the Commons came to several Resolutions; which, together with those of the Day before, were reported on the 7th, as follows:

I. That the Number of effective Men to be provided for, for Guards and Garrisons in *Great Britain*, and for *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, for the Year 1718, be 16347, commissioned and non-commissioned Officers included. II. That a Sum not exceeding 681618 l. be granted to his Majesty, for defraying the Charge of the said 16347 effective Men for Guards and Garrisons, and other his Majesty's Land Forces in *Great Britain*, *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, for the Year 1718. III. That the Sum of 35766 l. 5 s. be granted to his Majesty, for maintaining his Majesty's Forces and Garrisons in the Plantations in *America*, for the Year 1718. IV. That the Sum of 57613 l. 14 s. 7 d. be granted to his Majesty, for maintaining the Forces and Garrison in *Minorca*, for the Year 1718. V. That the Sum of 59387 l. 14 s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. be granted to his Majesty, for maintaining the Forces and Garrison in *Gibraltar*, for the Year 1718. VI. That the Sum of 13551 l. 9 s. 5 d. be granted to his Majesty, for Provisions for the Garrison in *Gibraltar*, for the Year 1718. VII. That the Sum of 1558 l. 17 s. 1 d. be granted to his Majesty, for Provisions for the Garrisons at *Placentia* and *Annapolis*, for the Year 1718. VIII. That the Sum of 2858 l. 13 s. 10 d. be granted for Ordnance Stores and Provisions for the Independent Company in the Islands of *Bahama* and *Providence*, for the Year 1718. IX. That a Sum not exceeding 30361 l. 5 s. 5 d. be granted to his Majesty, for the Charge of Half-pay to the Reduced Officers of his Majesty's Land Forces and Marines,

rines, for the Year 1718. X. That a Sum, not exceeding 73,327 *l.* 12 *s.* 11 *d.* be granted to his Majesty, for the Charge of the Office of Ordnance for the Land Service, for the Year 1718. XI. That a Sum not exceeding 29,645 *l.* 8 *s.* 9 *d.* be granted to his Majesty, to enable the Treasurer of the Navy to make good the Payments, which at or before the 24th of June 1718, may be demanded of him, pursuant to an Act of Parliament for compleating the Funds of 608,000 *l.* per Annum, payable to the South-Sea Company. XII. That a Sum not exceeding 581,196 *l.* 8 *s.* be granted to his Majesty, to make good the Deficiency of the Grants for the Year 1717.

The first of these Resolutions being read a second Time, a Motion was made, that the same be recommitted; upon which there arose a warm Debate, and most of the Members who spoke in the Debate of the 5th, made Speeches either for or against the said Motion: But the Question being put thereupon, it was carry'd in the Negative, by a Majority of 175 Voices against 125; and then the first Resolution was agreed to by the House. The second Resolution being afterwards read a second Time, a Motion was made, that the same be recommitted, which occasion'd a fresh Debate. Mr. Robert Walpole, who made the most remarkable Speech, urg'd, among other Things, 'That by the Method that had been follow'd in the Reduction of the Army, the Nation was put to an extraordinary and needless Charge.' Which he endeavour'd to prove, by entering into the Particulars of the Regiments that were kept standing; shewing the Disproportion between the Foot, and the Horse and Dragoons, which last were most grievous and oppressive to the Country; and suggested, 'That by reducing the Army in another Manner, the full Number of Land Forces already voted, might be kept up, and yet near a hundred thousand Pounds saved to the Nation, besides the Pay of General Officers, which, he doubted not, all Gentlemen would readily acknowledge, with him, to be an unnecessary Expence.' This Overture was listen'd to with great Attention, by the far major Part of the Assembly, even by some of the staunchest Friends to the present happy Settlement, particularly by Sir Joseph Jekyll, who, being desirous to know what Mr. Walpole had to propose, to save so considerable a Sum

to the Nation, declar'd his Opinion for recommitting the second Resolution above-mention'd, which was carry'd without dividing. It was also resolv'd, That the 9th Resolution be recommitting; but all the other were agreed to by the House. It would be too tedious and to little Purpose to set down in this Place the several Addresses of the House to the King, for the Estimates and Accounts of Moneys demanded for the Supply; and also of the Employment of the Sums formerly given, and the Deficiencies, Savings, &c. The Use of all which is chiefly to direct the several Appropriations of what was now to be granted; and which will be more effectually seen and judged by the Votes of Appropriation, as they pass in the House. We shall therefore pass this Thing by, as we will likewise some others of little Moment, relating to Elections, &c. and proceed to take Notice, that on the 9th the House resolv'd itself into a Grand Committee, to take into Consideration the Resolution for granting to his Majesty the Sum of 681,618 *l.* which on the *Saturday* before had been recommitting. Mr. *Craggs*, Secretary of War, who spoke first, said, among other Things, That having already agreed to the Number of Troops, it was but natural and reasonable to grant the Sum necessary to maintain those Troops; that the Commons had never enter'd into the Particulars of the Regiments, whether Horse, Dragoons, or Foot; but contenting themselves with fixing the whole Number, had wholly left the regulating of that Matter to the Crown; and therefore he hoped, they would not shew less Regard to his Majesty, or repose less Confidence in his Wisdom, of which they had seen so many Instances, particularly both in Augmenting and the Reducing of the Army. Mr. *Craggs* was seconded and back'd by several Gentlemen, and, in particular, by Mr. *Aislaby*, Mr. *Lichmere*, Mr. *Treby*, Mr. *Yonge*, Sir *Richard Steele*, the Generals *Carpenter*, *Wade*, *Stanwix*, and some others: But, on the other Hand, Mr. *Robert Walpole*, who chiefly answer'd Mr. *Craggs*, represented, That the best Way for the Commons of Great Britain to acknowledge his Majesty's most gracious Intentions for the Good of his Subjects, was to point out to him the Means of rendering those good Intentions effectual; that this might be done, by disbanding or dismounting eight or nine Regiments of Dragoons, whereby the

the Country would be eased of a great Burden and Oppression ; and that by this, and some other Reductions, (of which he made mention) a considerable Sum of Money might be saved to the Nation ; as well as by taking off the Pay of the General Officers, and other useless Contingencies. Mr. *Walpole* was back'd by several Gentlemen, particularly Sir *Joseph Jekyll*, Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, Sir *William Wyndham*, Mr. *John Smith*, and Sir *Thomas Cross* ; and, on the other Hand, some Courtiers endeavour'd to shew, either that the Reductions propos'd were impracticable, or would not answer the End intended thereby. But some General Officers having generously said, ' That for their own Parts, if their having no Pay could any way contribute to make the Nation easy, they readily acquiesc'd. ' They were taken at their Words ; and the Question Being put, That a Sum not exceeding 650,000 *l.* be granted to his Majesty, for defraying the Charge of 16347 effective Men for Guards and Garrisons, and other his Majesty's Land Forces in *Great Britain*, *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, for the Year 1718, the same was carry'd in the Affirmative, though by 14 Voices only, viz. 172 against 158. And this Resolution was the next Day reported and agreed to by the House without Opposition.

Dec. 11. The House, in a Grand Committee on Ways and Means to raise the Supply, after some Debate upon the Question, Whether two or three Shillings in the Pound be laid upon Land, it was by a Majority of 164 Votes against 97, carry'd for the latter. There were great Struggles to save the odd Shilling, but it would not do. For the next Day Mr. *Farrer* reported the Resolution of the Committee, which was agreed to by the House, and is as follows : *Resolv'd*, that towards raising the Supply granted to his Majesty, the Sum of Three Shillings in the Pound, and no more, be raised in the Year 1718, upon all Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Pensions, Offices, and personal Estates, in that Part of *Great Britain* call'd *England*, *Wales*, and the Town of *Berwick upon Tweed* ; and that a proportionable Cess (according to the 9th Article of the Treaty for the Union) be laid upon that Part of *Great Britain*, call'd *Scotland*. Then a Bill was order'd to be brought in accordingly. It were needless to relate every Day's Proceeding upon this Bill ; it suffices to say, that with