

Military Memoirs



GEORGE III.

Military Memoirs O F

G R E A T B R I T A I N :

O R,

A HISTORY OF THE WAR,

1755 — 1763.

WITH ELEGANT COPPERPLATES.

BY DAVID RAMSAY.

— *Talibus viris non labos insolitus, non locus ullus asper, aut arduus erat, non armatus hostis formidolosus: virtus omnia domuerat. Sed glorie maximum certamen inter ipsos erat: sepe quisque hostem ferire, murum ascendere, conspicere, dum tale facinus ficeret, properabat.* SALLUST.



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1779.



HIS GRACE
ALBERT RYAN,
DUKE OF BUCCLEUGH,

AND

EARL OF DONCASTER,

COLONEL of the SOUTH FENCIBLES of SCOTLAND,

THE FOLLOWING

MILITARY MEMOIRS

ARE

MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS GRACE'S VERY OBEDIENT,

AND MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

DAVID RAMSAY.

P R E F A C E.

OF all the various branches of literature, which convey instruction or amusement to mankind, none afford so great a proportion of both, upon such easy terms, as History. Every step we proceed in it, encreases our ardour; and the pleasure we receive, makes us consider it as an agreeable relaxation.

THE intervals of peace, however much they may be esteemed the seasons of happiness, furnish few events deserving the attention of an historian. The animated exertions of war, can alone give full scope to all the nobler passions. They call forth into action, the elevated virtues of courage, generosity, and disinterestedness; and produce deeds, worthy of being transmitted to posterity.

WHEN a people are insulted by enemies they have long been accustomed to conquer, and their existence as a nation is endangered, it is then too late to enquire, minutely, into the causes which have brought them into this situation. The conjuncture calls for the immediate exertion of whatever

wisdom or vigour is left among them ; and the man who with-holds his assistance, on any pretence, is an enemy to his country. It is a common cause ; in which every one is interested, and in which all should be engaged : the blunders of administration, and the violence of opposition, ought to be forgotten ; and the gratification of personal animosities, should give way to the general good of the community.

SUCH, now, is the situation of Britain. A destructive war, begun on principles, at best, of a doubtful nature, and prosecuted, hitherto, with little success, has apparently reduced us to a very low ebb. Taking advantage of the unhappy contention with our American colonies, the perfidious house of Bourbon, without the shadow of provocation, has interposed ; and is endeavouring to crush, in this moment of adversity, the nation, which, in better times, was wont to make her tremble. Our domestic dissensions have likewise contributed to the general distress, by depriving us of that strength, which is ever the attendant of national union.

AT such a crisis, to rouse the drooping spirit of the people, to encourage the timid,

to revive the desponding, and to animate the brave, is the indispensable duty of every friend to his country ; for, by vigorously resenting an injury, and avenging an insult, we lay the most solid foundation of peace, independence, and safety.

THE history of a war, somewhat similar in its commencement to the present ; unfortunate in its beginning ; but, in which, by spirited measures, the transition from despondency to exultation, was both sudden and extraordinary ; must have an obvious tendency to excite the spirit of a people, whose characteristics are fortitude and a love of their country—Upon this principle, the following pages are offered to the Public.

THE author would have little to dread from the severity of criticism, if the execution of the work was in any degree proportionable to the importance of the subject.—To place the momentous occurrences of the last war in the most striking light, to retrench the superfluity of trifling anecdotes, to avoid the extremes of exuberance and abridgment, and to give every object the due proportion it ought to maintain in the picture, without crowding the canvas, was

his intention: how far he has succeeded, must be left to the judicious to determine.—Uninfluenced by party, and unawed by power, he has endeavoured to place men and measures in their proper light; and has attempted, wherever it was practicable, to point out those motives of action, which lead to the true developement of character. Conjecture, however, has never been wantonly or licentiously indulged; and, where the subject was intricate, facts, related without prejudice, are left to speak for themselves.

PERHAPS no period ever produced more copious or minute accounts of public transactions. From the most authentic of these, he has derived his materials.* But as they were frequently the vehicle of party, prejudice, and personal animosity, the representing facts in their just light, was attended with no small degree of difficulty.

* The gazettes published by both nations---Most of the political publications---Smollet's history of England---Enfield's general history of the late war---Moynceux's conjunct expeditions---Lloyd's history of the German war 1756 and 1757---Orme's military transactions of the British nation in Indostan---Annual Register, &c. &c.

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Military Memoirs

o f

G R E A T B R I T A I N.

C H A P. I.

Origin of the dispute between Great Britain and France—Warlike preparations—Two French ships taken—Operations in America—Braddock's unfortunate expedition—General Johnson defeats the French—An invasion threatened—Fort St Philip's taken—Fate of Byng.

THE exhausted situation of the contending powers at the conclusion of the war in 1748, and the equality of their remaining force, gave just grounds of expectation, that the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle would prove happy and lasting. Each nation still continued in a state of defence. The fear with which the one inspired the other made them cautious of offending; and the inhabitants of Europe indulged themselves in the pleasing hope of enjoying, for many years, the blessings of ease and tranquillity.

1748.

THE turbulent ambition of the French, desirous of recovering, by underhand encroachments,

1753.

what they had given up by treaty, renewed once more those scenes of blood and devastation, which already had exhausted the strength, and depopulated the principal kingdoms of Europe.

To investigate, with a tedious exactness, the remote causes which gave rise to the war ; to dwell, with minute prolixity, on skirmishes and engagements, neither important in themselves, nor interesting in their consequences, is not our intention : nor would the limits, to which we have confined ourselves, permit us to exhibit so unentertaining a detail. The brevity, however, with which matters of little moment are passed over, will be compensated by a full and particular relation, wherever the dignity of the object seems to require it.

Dispute
about Nova
Scotia.

THE dispute between Great Britain and France originated from the uncertainty of the limits of their American territories. Partly from the inattention, and partly from the ignorance, of the negotiators of both courts, at the peaces of Utrecht and Aix-la-Chapelle, the boundaries of Acadia or Nova Scotia were never distinctly ascertained. Succeeding negotiations, equally tedious and ineffectual, served only to increase the confusion ; and it became obvious, from the steady inflexibility of both parties, that the sword alone could terminate the contest.

French en-
croach-
ments on
the Ohio.

ANOTHER source of contention arose from a cause, which, though it had hitherto escaped observation, was equally intricate with the former, and tended to produce the same consequences. The French, from a claim of prior discovery, had

taken possession of the country adjacent to the rivers Mississippi and Ohio, to which they had given the name of Louisiana. They intended, by a regular chain of forts, to join those settlements with their Canadian possessions. By these means, the English would have been effectually excluded from any share in the Indian trade ; and would also, in case of a war, have been exposed to continual inroads and alarms. Upon the execution of this plan, however, the prosperity, if not the existence, of the French colonies in North America depended ; and it was equally evident, if Britain suffered it to take place, that the consequences would prove fatal and destructive to her own settlements.

WHILE France was endeavouring to amuse the British court with idle negotiations and insincere declarations, she was secretly preparing to support her encroachments by force of arms. Accustomed to French duplicity, and not deceived by her professions, Britain was equally assiduous in war-like preparations ; and particularly in putting her navy on the most respectable footing*. Troops had,

1754.

* The English navy, at this period, consisted of

<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>
One	110	Twenty-eight	50
Five	100	Four	44
Thirteen	90	Thirty-five	40
Eight	80	Forty-two	20
Five	74	Four	18
Twenty-nine	70	Two	16
Four	66	Eleven	14
One	64	Thirteen	12
Thirty-three	60	One	10
Three	54		

Besides a number of bomb-ketches, fire-ships, and tenders.

1755.
AMERICA.

in the mean time, been secretly sent off by both nations to America. The British colonies had instructions to use their utmost endeavours to repel the incursions of the enemy ; and they were given to understand, that they would be supported by a body of British troops, under Major-General Braddock, who was appointed commander in chief in America.

THE conduct of the American provinces, on this occasion, was neither suitable to their own danger, nor to the interest of the mother-country. Conscious of their services during the preceding war, they were offended at an English general's being appointed to command them. The dispositions they made therefore for assisting and co-operating with the troops from Britain were feeble and dissipated ; and, in every measure adopted for that purpose, there was an evident want of unanimity.

THE character of the general himself was by no means calculated to remove these disaffections. However unexceptionable as a man of courage, he was in every other respect unfit for the employment. Haughtiness of temper, and austerity of manners, were qualities but ill suited to make a favourable impression on those amongst whom he was destined to act. Unacquainted with the nature of the country, the genius of the people, and their peculiar mode of fighting, he treated with contempt the half-disciplined but brave troops of the Provinces. Accustomed to the minute service of the parade, he exerted the most severe discipline amongst his own soldiers ; but he wanted that affability of temper which makes soldiers submit with

cheerfulness. They dreaded him as a commander, they disliked him as a man.

1755.

AMERICA.

Braddock's
unfortunate
expedition.

THE expedition, in which the British and Provincial troops, amounting to about 2200, were to act in conjunction, was against Fort du Quesne, which commanded the entrance into the countries on the Ohio and Mississippi.

HAD General Braddock possessed every qualification requisite for such an enterprise, it must be acknowledged that he laboured under innumerable difficulties, and was, in a great measure, destitute of the necessaries which alone could enable him to perfect it. By the negligence of the Virginian contractors, a sufficient quantity of provisions and carriages were not prepared; and the supplying of those necessary articles occasioned a delay of some weeks.

THESE difficulties were at last surmounted. He marched from Fort Cumberland in Virginia on the 10th of June; and encamped, on the 8th of July, within ten miles of Fort du Quesne, with an army of 1400 men; having left the remainder of his troops to bring up the stores and heavy baggage. He continued his march next day. Advancing carelessly, unmindful of those precautions so necessary in a country abounding with woods and thickets, he was saluted, about mid-day, with a severe and heavy fire, full in his front, and all along his left flank. This sudden and unexpected attack, from an enemy who could not be seen, was accompanied with the horrid shouts of Indians, which excited the greatest terror amongst the troops, especially the regulars, who were entirely

Marches for
Fort du
Quesne.Falls into
an ambus-
cade.

1755.
AMERICA.

Defeated
and slain,

unacquainted with it.—The whole army was thrown into confusion; they fled with precipitation, and all the efforts of their gallant officers proved ineffectual to stop them. In this moment of difficulty and danger, it was hard to say whether the intrepidity or imprudence of the general were most conspicuous. Instead of endeavouring to retreat, till he could make use of his artillery, and by that means clear the bushes of the enemy, he gave orders to form regularly, and to advance. In the mean time, his officers and men fell thick around him. Every fire from the enemy did dreadful execution, and increased the flight and disorder. Braddock himself, after having had five horses killed under him, received a musket-shot through his lungs, of which he died in a few days; atoning, by an honourable death, for the errors of his conduct.—The Provincial troops, so much despised, proved now essentially useful. They bravely formed, and advanced against the Indians; and to their gallant behaviour was it owing, that the whole army was not cut off.—The loss, in this unfortunate affair, amounted to near 700 men; and the officers, who were singled out by the enemy, fell in a much greater proportion than is usual. The number of the enemy is said to have been 900 men, mostly Indians; and their loss quite inconsiderable. The remainder of the army retreated with precipitation to Fort Cumberland, leaving behind them all the artillery, baggage, &c.*

* The scene of this disaster had been peculiarly unfortunate to the English.—In the year 1754, Colonel Washington, with a body of 400 provincials, having erected a temporary fort on the Ohio, was attacked, defeated, and taken prisoner, by the French.

THOUGH the progress of the British arms, in the northern provinces, was neither marked by any decisive events, nor attended with important consequences, it derived a lustre from being contrasted with the unfortunate enterprise against Fort du Quesne.—Three expeditions were resolved upon; one against Crown Point, another against the fort at Niagara, and a third to reduce the French forts in Acadia.

1755.
AMERICA.

THE first of these was planned under the direction, and executed under the command, of General Johnson, a gentleman of Ireland, who had lived, from his earliest youth, in the Indian country adjacent to the Mohawk river. By adopting the customs, and learning the language of that people; by redressing their wrongs, and alleviating their distresses; he acquired a degree of influence over them which no European had ever possessed. They reverenced him as a father, they obeyed him as a sovereign. By a noble disinterestedness, he made use of the power he had over them for the service of his country.—Having, for many years, dignified the character of a merchant by the extensiveness and liberality of his dealings, the love of his country prompted him to adopt the less tranquil but more honourable employment of a soldier.

Expedition
against
Crown
Point.

AT the head of about five thousand men, General Johnson encamped at Lake George, on the 6th of September, in a very strong situation. Receiving intelligence that a considerable number of the enemy were advancing from Ticonderoga, he detached a thousand men, besides Indians, to intercept them. These were repulsed with considerable

General
Johnson
encamps at
Lake
George.

1755.

AMERICA.

Attacked
by the
French.Defeats
them.

loss ; and, in a few hours, the enemy, more numerous than imagined, appeared marching towards the camp, in the most perfect order. By beginning their attack at too great a distance, the fire of the French was partly ineffectual, and gave time to the English to recover the confusion which the sudden appearance of so numerous an enemy had occasioned. No sooner did the English artillery begin to play upon the enemy, than their Canadians and Indians fled, as usual, to the bushes. Unsupported by these auxiliaries, the French general still kept up his fire against the camp, which did very little execution ; while his own troops suffered greatly. At last, General Johnson, perceiving the enemy in some confusion, left his intrenchments, attacked them on all sides, and obtained a complete victory. The loss of the French amounted to near 800 men, and that of the English to about 200.—As the season was now deemed to be too far advanced to proceed to the attack of Crown Point, the army returned to Albany.—The general, as a reward for his gallant behaviour, was created a baronet, and presented with 5000l. by the parliament.

THE attempt upon Niagara, from the flowness of the preparations, and the lateness of the season, proved altogether abortive.—General Shirley, who commanded in this expedition, after having traversed an immense tract of country, and reinforced the garrison of Oswego with about 700 men, returned without having atchieved any thing worthy of being related.

THE expedition against the French in Nova Scotia was successful, and fully answered the end proposed. The fort of Beau-sejour was taken by a body of Provincial troops, under the command of Colonel Monckton ; who, after having destroyed the forts on St. John's river, and disarmed the French Indians and Acadians, effectually established the tranquillity of Nova Scotia.

1755.
AMERICA.

AFFAIRS were in this situation, when intelligence was received, that a powerful armament was ready to sail from Brest. A squadron was immediately fitted out, and the command given to Admiral Boscawen, an experienced seaman, and a brave officer, who had orders to intercept and attack the French fleet, wherever he should meet them. He sailed immediately for the banks of Newfoundland, and arrived there a few days before the French squadron. The thick fogs, which prevail on those coasts, prevented the two armaments from seeing each other ; and, by that means, the French fleet reached its destination in the river St. Lawrence. Two sixty-four gun ships, however, the Alcide and Lys, having been separated from the rest of the fleet, were taken, after a smart resistance, by two ships of the British squadron. In this engagement, the good conduct and intrepidity of Captain (afterwards Lord) Howe were eminently distinguished.

Admiral
Boscawen
sails for
Newfound-
land.

Takes two
French
ships.

THE taking of those ships, though complained of and represented by the French as a breach of national faith, was sufficiently justified by their encroachments in America. It contributed, in a great

1755.
EUROPE.

measure, to bring matters to a crisis. No longer under a necessity of disquising their intentions, both nations avowedly declared their resolution of supporting their respective claims, and redoubled their preparations for war.

THOUGH the ceremony of denouncing war was delayed from political reasons, orders had been given for the British ships to take all the French vessels they met with ; and, during the course of the year, upwards of 300, many of them with rich cargoes, were carried into the ports of Great Britain.

THE inactivity and tameness of the French, on this occasion, astonished all Europe. Instead of attempting reprisals, they contented themselves with complaining loudly of the injustice of Britain, and represented these acts of hostility as a violation of the law of nations. They carried this affected aversion to hostilities so far, as to return an English ship of war which they had taken.

AT last their mask of moderation was removed. They formed two designs ; the one the conquest of Minorca, the other an attempt upon Hanover. The first of these owed the success with which it was attended, more to the supineness and inattention of the English ministry, than to the wisdom and dexterity with which it was planned and executed.—To draw off the attention of the English from their real designs, they brought down troops to the coasts of Picardy, Normandy, and Britany, under a shew of invading Great Britain. This produced the desired effect. The English nation was seized with the utmost consternation. The

French
threaten
an invasion.

ministry hesitated, and seemed conscious of their neglect. The army was known to be insufficient to defend a wide-extended sea-coast from invasion; and the establishment of a national militia, though often proposed, had not yet taken place.

1756.
EUROPE.

It was on her navy alone that Britain could depend for protection. From a just sense of its importance, she considers it as the sole support of the national dignity. It is the center of all her hopes, it is the source of all her riches. A numerous fleet is equipped and manned with the same expedition as the raising of a single battalion.—On the other hand, an increase of the standing army is ever looked upon with a jealous eye, as inimical to liberty. Whenever, therefore, Britain, unhappily for herself, requires a powerful land-force, she is obliged to apply for assistance to other states. In her present situation, such an application was deemed necessary. Her treacherous allies denied their aid. The Dutch, in particular, though indebted to Britain for their very being, refused to perform their stipulated engagements, upon pretences equally shallow and evasive. Accordingly, a body of 8000 Hessians was engaged to be employed, if required, upon the continent, or in Britain or Ireland. A treaty similar to this, but much more extensive, was begun with Russia, of which we shall have occasion to speak more fully afterwards.

WHILE the apprehensions of an immediate invasion had pervaded all ranks of people in Britain; while the ministry were endeavouring to guard, with an almost childish timidity, against such at-

1756.
EUROPE.Fort St.
Philip's be-
sieged.

tacks as were threatened but to amuse, and were not intended, a French squadron of twelve ships of the line, commanded by the Admiral Gallifsoniere, with 12,000 troops on board, under the Duke de Richlieu, sailed from Toulon; and, landing in Minorca, opened trenches before the fortress of St. Philip's, on the 25th of April. The ministry had been repeatedly apprised of the design of the French against Minorca; but, such was their negligence and inattention, that not the least precaution was taken to prevent it. The representations of the English consuls in the Mediterranean, respecting the French naval preparations at Toulon, and the remonstrances of General Blakeney, deputy-governor of Minorca, setting forth the weakness of the garrison of the fortress of St. Philip, were treated with the same indifference and disregard.—It was naturally expected, that the ministry, roused at last from their lethargy, would endeavour to compensate for their former inactivity by the vigour and importance of their measures. Ten ships of the line, poorly manned, and badly accommodated in every respect, were destined for an expedition, on the success of which the safety of one of the most valuable possessions of Britain depended. The command of this squadron was vested in Admiral Byng, an officer little distinguished in the navy, and whose courage and activity, from want of opportunity to signalize himself, were at best but of a doubtful nature.

Admiral
Byng fails
for its re-
lief.

The admiral sailed from Spithead on the 7th of April, and arrived at Gibraltar, after a tedious passage, on the 2d of May. Being reinforced by several other ships, and a detachment from the gar-

rison, he sailed from Gibraltar on the 8th of the same month, and arrived off Minorca on the 19th. About six o'clock in the evening, the enemy, to the number of seventeen sail, appeared advancing in order of battle. The evening was spent by both fleets in endeavouring to get the advantage of the weather-gage.

1756.

EUROPE.

AT day-light, on the 20th, the French fleet could not be descried ; but, soon re-appearing, the line of battle was formed on both sides, and, about two, Admiral Byng made the signal to engage. Rear-admiral West, an officer of approved ability and resolution, bore down with his division upon the enemy, and attacked them with such impetuosity, that the ships opposed to his were driven out of the line. Instead of supporting the rear-admiral, Mr Byng, either from a desire strictly to preserve the line, or from an inexcusable timidity, kept at the greatest distance, and made little or no use of his artillery. By this means, in all probability, the British fleet lost an opportunity of gaining a capital advantage over the enemy. The French admiral discovered the same disinclination to continue the engagement ; he edged away with an easy sail, while Mr Byng made a show of giving chase. Both fleets were out of sight of each other next morning.—Thus ended this doubtful engagement, in which the wonted superiority of the English by sea was by no means conspicuous. The French laid claim to the victory ; and indeed the retreat of Admiral Byng was productive of all the consequences of a defeat. Under a pretext of providing for the safety of Gibraltar, he repaired thither with the utmost expedition.

Engage-
ment with
the French
fleet.

1756.

EUROPE.

Fort St.
Philip's
surrendered
to the
French.

THE garrison of St. Philip's, thus shamefully abandoned to the enemy, instead of giving themselves up to despair, resolved to behave with spirit, and to defend the place to the last extremity. From the 20th of May to the 27th of June, they sustained and retorted the enemy's fire with the most undaunted resolution. At last, the works being in many places demolished, the guns dismounted, the garrison exhausted with hard duty and incessant watching, and the little probability there remained of being relieved, a capitulation was demanded, and granted upon honourable terms.—The fortress was accordingly delivered up to the French on the 28th of June. §

§ Though the general design of this work precludes a minute relation of the actions of individuals, yet, amidst the misconduct and mis-carriages of this inauspicious period, there is a pleasure in exhibiting a character worthy of imitation, and deserving of the highest praise.—Captain Cunningham (of Enterkine), a Scots gentleman, who acted as second engineer at Minorca, being preferred to a majority at home, had repaired to Nice in Italy, in order to take his passage in a ship for England. Having received certain intelligence that the French armament was destined for the place he had quitted, and recollecting that the chief engineer at Minorca was disabled by the gout, and that a number of things were wanting for the defence of the fortress; notwithstanding his lady, whom he tenderly loved, was just delivered, and two of his children were dangerously ill of the small-pox, he hesitated not a moment, but sacrificed the calls of conjugal and parental affection to the honour and service of his country. He purchased timber for the platforms, and other necessaries for the garrison, hired a vessel to transport them thither; and, tearing himself from his wife and children, sailed directly for Minorca. In the course of the siege, he acquitted himself with the greatest vigilance, skill, and activity; when, towards the end of it, in an assault, mixing with the enemy sword in hand, he was disabled in the right arm by the shot of a musket, and the thrust of a bayonet. In the capitulation he was honoured with a particular article in his favour.—On his return to England, he was preferred to the rank of colonel in the guards; and afterwards acted as chief engineer in the attempts and descents that were made on the French coast. He accepted of the same office in the expedition to Guadaloupe, where he died universally regretted.

MINORCA, thus dismembered from the British empire, was the object of universal regret. Its importance was sensibly felt, and its loss sincerely lamented. The fears of an imaginary invasion gave way to indignation and resentment against the ministry, and the delinquent admiral. Addresses were presented to the throne, petitioning, in the strongest terms, for a change of men and measures; and the people, rendered diffident and distrustful, and soured by misfortunes, already imagined themselves on the brink of ruin, and destitute both of treasure and of strength. The first fury of their resentment was directed against the unfortunate Byng. The ministry used every endeavour to foment this animosity, and to avert the danger which threatened themselves. They aggravated his misconduct, exposed his folly, and expatiated on his cowardice. The public prints abounded with the most virulent invectives against him, and mobs were hired to hang and burn him in effigy, at different parts of the capital. Even majesty itself is said to have taken part in the cruel persecution against this unhappy man.—He was superseded in his command by Sir Edward Hawke, and sent home under an arrest.

FOR the sake of perspicuity, we shall proceed to give an account of Admiral Byng's trial and fate; following rather the natural course of events, than adhering strictly to the order of chronology.

ON the 28th of December, he was brought before a court-martial; and, after a long trial, was condemned as falling under part of the 12th article of war. The severity of this article, which

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EUROPE.

Trial of
Admiral
Byng.

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EUROPE.

admitted of no mitigation*, induced his judges to recommend him as a proper object of his majesty's mercy. The distinguished merit and services of his ancestors, the recommendations of his judges, and the testimony of the French general, who had been a spectator of the whole engagement, proved ineffectual to save him ; and his death was cruelly represented to the king as the only means of pacifying the populace. Thus devoted, he prepared to meet his fate with steadiness and resolution. He was shot at Portsmouth on the 14th of March.—

1757.

Condemned and shot.

The firm, composed, and undaunted manner, in which he died, wiped away every imputation on his personal courage. Immediately before his death, he delivered a paper to the marshal of the admiralty, in which he declared his innocence, and that he considered himself as a victim destined to divert the indignation and resentment of an injured and deluded people from their proper objects.---We decline to dwell long on this melancholy transaction ; a transaction which reflects no little disgrace on the period when it happened.--- While we lament the misfortunes, we cannot but condemn the backwardness of the unhappy admiral. But we are at a loss to discover any capital offence ; and, whatever idea we may entertain of the cruelty and injustice of the ministry, and the violent animosity of the people, it still remains matter of surprise and concern, that they were not contented with a mode of punishment less ignominious and severe.

* The 12th article of war runs thus, " Every person in the fleet, who, " thro' cowardice, negligence, or disaffection, shall, in time of action, " keep back, &c.—and, being convicted thereof, shall suffer death."

C H A P. II.

State of Europe at the beginning of the war—King of Prussia invades Saxony—Battle of Lowoschutz—Surrender of the Saxon army—Oswego taken by the French.

WHILE the people of England were regretting the last languid and unfortunate campaign, and execrating those to whom they ascribed all their losses and disappointments, the flames of discord and dissention, which already had been lighted up in the new world, began to burst out among the principal powers of Europe.*—To form a just notion of this dispute, it will be necessary to look back a little, and to trace concisely the steps which gave rise to it.

THE rich and fertile province of Silesia had ^{Austria.} been wrested from Austria by the King of Prussia, and solemnly confirmed to him by two different ^{1744.} treaties. This very important conquest, reluctantly given up, had excited an antipathy between the Empress-Queen and that monarch; and the former only waited for a favourable opportunity to attempt the recovery of it.

RUSSIA was allied to Austria by ancient treaties, ^{Russia.} by their united wars against the Turks, and by the reciprocal affection of their respective sovereigns. There subsisted between the Czarina and

* “ So complicated,” says Voltaire, “ are the political interests of the present times, that a shot fired in America shall be the signal for setting all Europe together by the ears.”

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EUROPE.

the King of Prussia several personal subjects of complaint ; and all methods had been used to embroil that monarch's affairs in the north. They succeeded so far as to render Russia his implacable enemy, and ready to enter into any schemes proposed for his ruin.

Poland.

AUGUSTUS III. King of Poland, and Elector of Saxony, independent of his close connections with Russia and Austria, to the former of whom he owed his crown, was anxious to have an opportunity of renewing his demands on the King of Prussia, for an indemnification of the depredations committed by him in Saxony in 1741.---But the dominions of this monarch were in no condition to support a war with so formidable a neighbour as the King of Prussia. Poland was without troops, without fortifications, and without finances ; exposed to incursions, and considerable only by her extent and fertility. Saxony was in the like defenceless situation ; her army mouldering away, and her coffers empty.

As the views of those powers were exactly similar, a treaty was entered into by them, apparently harmless and innocent ; but several private articles were added, the tendency of which were inimical to his Prussian Majesty : and it was particularly stipulated, in case he should attack either of their territories, that they should mutually furnish an army of 60,000 men to re-invest the Empress-Queen with the dutchy of Silesia.

Prussia.

THE monarch against whom these three powers were united was at once the dread and admiration of Europe.---The house of Brandenburg, from the

1756.

EUROPE.

most humble situation, had risen imperceptibly, in the course of a century, to a considerable degree of affluence and power. The late King was extravagantly fond of a numerous army; and had converted a great part of his subjects into soldiers. Though quarrelsome and turbulent in his temper, by a singular good fortune, he had no opportunity of diminishing that army which he had been so careful in collecting. He delighted in reviews and bloodless skirmishes, and trained one of the most numerous armies in Europe to the completest and most exact discipline. At his death, he delivered this powerful palladium to his son Frederic III. together with a sum in the treasury sufficient to uphold them. From the moment the young monarch ascended the throne, it became obvious, that there was an end to that inactivity which had characterised the former reign.* The extensiveness and variety of his talents were soon conspicuous in his actions. The boldness of his designs could only be equalled by the impenetrable secrecy observed in the execution of them. To the most lively imagination, and a fortitude scarcely to be paralleled, were added the strongest propensity for

* This prince, in his younger years, says a celebrated author, wisely preferred the advantage of treasuring up knowledge, to the usual pleasures of his age, and the luxurious idleness of courts. An intercourse with the greatest men of his time, joined to the spirit of observation, insensibly ripened his genius, which was naturally active and eager for employment. Neither flattery nor opposition could ever divert him from the deep reflections he was engaged in. He formed the plan of his future conduct and reign in the early part of his life. It was foretold, on his accession to the crown, that his ministers would be no more than his secretaries; the managers of his finances no more than his clerks; and his generals no more than his aids-de-camp.

1756.
EUROPE.

an active life, and a constitution capable of supporting the fatigues of it. He invented a new method of disciplining armies, and of heading battles. By the rapidity of his evolutions, and the celebrity of his marches, he may be said to have totally changed the principles of war. In fine, he possessed the intrepidity of a warrior, the profound sagacity of a statesman, and the intuitive penetration of a philosopher.—He saw the storm which was gathering around him, and prepared to meet it. He had studied the states thus leagued against him, the men of the cabinet they had to oppose him, and the genius and abilities of their respective generals.—All his forces were ordered to be completed, and held in readiness to march at the shortest notice.

WE have already taken notice of the treaty which his Britannic Majesty had begun with Russia. The King of Prussia had been for some time secretly discontented with the court of Versailles; but they continued to all appearance to be so closely connected, that his Britannic Majesty was not a little apprehensive that France had brought him into her views. To obviate this, had been the great end of the treaty we have mentioned. It was stipulated, that her Russian Majesty should furnish a body of troops to the amount of 55,000, and 40 or 50 gallies, with the necessary crews, to be employed in the service of Britain, wherever required.—No sooner was this treaty made public, than his Prussian Majesty, perceiving at once the motives which had induced Russia to accede to it, declared, in the strongest manner, that he would

Treaty with
Russia.



FREDERIC III. KING OF PRUSSIA.



oppose to the utmost the introduction of all foreign troops whatsoever into the empire.†—This declaration, while it stopped the treaty with Russia, plainly evinced, that the views of their Britannic and Prussian Majesties were precisely the same. The former was apprehensive of the French, the latter of the Russians; and this coincidence of sentiments, with some éclaircissements as to the views of the court of Vienna, brought on the treaty of London, by which his Prussian Majesty obtained a subsidy from Great Britain of 750,000l. sterling, for services which were exceedingly obvious; and the two potentates agreed, not to make a peace without the consent of each other.—The publication of this treaty produced that of Vienna, between the Empress-Queen and his most Christian Majesty. Present interest predominated over ancient animosity; and one hour's deliberation annihilated the arguments of more than two centuries. The accession of Russia and Sweden, to this alliance, was natural and obvious.

THOSE treaties, however, were certainly sufficient to preserve the peace of Europe; and probably they would have had that effect, if France and Austria had taken, with that dispatch which characterises resolution, proper measures to seem capable of sustaining the shock, or of preventing it. The

1756.
EUROPE.

Treaty
with Prus-
sia.

Treaty be-
tween Au-
stria and
France.

† Among other articles, it was stipulated, “ That the court of Petersburgh should be contented with an annual subsidy of 500,000l. sterling, though insufficient for the support of the army which she promised; because, the Russian army entering on action, would immediately find itself in an enemy's country, where its subsistence would cost it nothing.”—This was, in pretty plain terms, threatening the King of Prussia with an invasion.

1756. two parties were restrained by fear; and what the EUROPE. power of the four allied courts threw into the scale, was counter-balanced by the British opulence, and by the actual state of the Prussian forces. The King of Prussia could alone enter into action, and strike the greatest blows whenever he pleased. The allied courts, on the other hand, were obliged to concert and combine their operations. The Empress-Queen had not collected together 30,000 regular troops; the Russians had all Poland to traverse; and France, tho' always ready to receive her enemy on her frontier, was by no means prepared to go in quest of him at a hundred leagues distance, through mountainous and barren countries.—The court of Vienna, however, made great progress in augmenting her forces. She brooded over an old hatred, and former resentments; but would not begin the war, tho' giving proofs that she should not be attacked with impunity. But she could no longer impose on a prince who knew her as well as he knew his own court.—The neutrality of the few remaining powers in Europe, proceeded from interest, inability or fear.

United
Provinces.

THE United Provinces, confirmed in their taste for peace by the fear of the expences of war, were unwilling to let slip the advantages of the neutrality, which would throw the greatest part of the commerce into the hands of their subjects.

Spain.

SPAIN had equally neglected her finances and her forces. Her settlements abroad, and her dominions at home, were in the same defenceless situation; and the court was without ambition, and

without views. The monarch, without any greatness of mind, and without children, gave himself up to amusements quite foreign to his rank, and paid no attention whatever to public affairs.

1756.
EUROPE.

DENMARK, attentive to commerce and arts, Denmark. had little to dread from the consequences of the war. From experience, she had reason to avoid all interference with the princes of the empire; and was willing, in case of misfortunes, to be a mediatrix and a peace-maker.

IF we except Sardinia, Italy had little concern in Italy. the affairs of Europe. That monarch was ready, in case of an emergency, to assist Britain and Prussia.

THE threatenings of his enemies only contributed to make the Prussian monarch more ready to take the field: He thought it better to begin with them, than that they should begin with him. Accordingly he marched with a numerous army into Saxony, proposing to penetrate through that country into Bohemia. His declarations of friendship to the King of Poland, were specious; but that monarch chose rather to rely on the valour and attachment of his troops, whom he assembled in a strong camp between Pirna and Konigstein, which was intrenched, provided with a numerous train of artillery, and deemed impregnable. Frederic, offended at this proceeding, demanded, as a proof of his neutrality, that the King of Poland should disembody his troops immediately. On the refusal of this demand, he instantly surrounded the Saxon army, intercepted their convoys of provision, and cut them off from all communication with the adjacent country. In the mean time, a great part of

King of
Prussia in-
vades
Saxony.

1756. his army advanced into Bohemia, under the command of the Field-Marshal Keith*, and encamped within a small distance of the imperial army, amounting to 50,000 men, commanded by Marshal Brown, an officer of Irish extraction.

Battle of
Lowoschutz.

FREDERIC, with his wonted celerity, repaired to Bohemia, assumed in person the command of M. Keith's corps, and advanced to give battle to the enemy. The Austrian general had taken possession of Lowoschutz with a great body of infantry, and placed a battery of cannon in the front of the town ; he had formed his cavalry chequerwise, and posted about 2000 Croats and Pandours in the vineyards on his right. The Prussian monarch occupied, with six battalions, a hollow way, and some rising grounds which commanded the town. Early in the morning, on the first day of October, the Prussian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy's horse ; they were twice driven back with a very

* Descended from one of the most ancient and noble families in Scotland. He was engaged with his brother, the Earl Marischal, in the rebellion 1715 ; and being obliged to relinquish his country on this occasion, he went to France, where he studied mathematics under the celebrated M. Maupertuis, and made himself perfect master of the military part of geometry. He was a volunteer in the French army at the storming of Vigo, in the year 1719, where he received a dangerous wound. From Paris he went to Madrid, where he obtained a commission in the Irish brigade. Accompanying the Duke of Liria, in his embassy to Muscovy, he entered into the service of the Czarina, and was appointed a lieutenant-general. In this quality, he performed many signal services in the wars with Turkey and Sweden ; and was honoured in time of peace with several embassies. Disgusted at Russia, whose honours are no better than a splendid servitude, he entered into the service of the King of Prussia, who received him in the most gracious manner, made him governor of Berlin, and a field-marshal in his army. His disposition was amiable, and his genius in the art of war will be more fully displayed in the sequel.



Military Memoirs.



Marshal Keith.

considerable loss. The Prussian infantry then advanced to attack the town of Lowoschutz in flank; but met with so warm a reception, that in all probability they would have been repulsed, had not Field-Marshal Keith headed them in person. Drawing his sword, he told them he would lead them on to victory; but being given to understand, that their powder and shot was exhausted,—with an admirable presence of mind, he exclaimed, “ That “ he was happy they had no more ammunition, as “ he was convinced that the enemy could not “ withstand them at push of bayonet.” So saying, he advanced at their head, drove the Austrians from Lowoschutz, and set the suburbs on fire. The loss was pretty equal on both sides, and both parties claimed the victory; but the consequences plainly adjudged it to the King of Prussia, as the Austrian general was cut off from all hopes of relieving the Saxon army, which was indeed the principal object of the battle. It is but justice, however, to M. Brown, to acknowledge, that his dispositions for that purpose were masterly, and would probably have succeeded, had he had to contend with any other general than his Prussian Majesty.

By the battle of Lowoschutz, his Prussian Majesty became absolute master of Saxony. Being informed that the original papers relating to the confederacy which had been formed against him, were deposited in the archives of Dresden, he demanded the keys from the Queen of Poland, who still remained in that place, and acted with a dignity becoming her high birth. Upon her refusal,

1756.

EUROPE.

Austrians
repulsed.

1756.
EUROPE.

he ordered the doors to be forced, which was accordingly done ; tho' not without some imputation upon his politeness, as the Queen of Poland opposed in person the officer who executed the order. Having thus got possession of these originals, he made no delay in publishing them, as they tended to justify his proceedings in Saxony, and his invasion of Bohemia.

FREDERIC having re-assumed the blockade at Pirna, his Polish Majesty and his troops were reduced to great extremity of want ; and it became indispensably necessary, either to attempt an escape, or surrender to the King of Prussia. The former was attempted, and proved unsuccessful, though assisted by the Austrians, who made a diversion in their favour.—In this deplorable condition, the King of Poland sent a letter*, from the fortress of Konigstein, to the Saxon general, vesting him with full power to surrender, or to take such other measures as he thought proper. A capitulation was

* The letter was as follows : “ It is not without extreme sorrow I understand the deplorable situation which a chain of misfortunes has reserved for you, the rest of my generals, and my whole army : but we must acquiesce in the dispensations of Providence, and console ourselves with the re~~el~~litude of our sentiments and intentions. They would force me, it seems, as you give me to understand, to submit to conditions the more severe, in proportion as the circumstances are become more necessitous. I cannot hear them mentioned. I am a free monarch ; such I will live ; such I will die ; and I will both live and die with honour. The fate of my army I leave wholly to your discretion. Let your council of war determine, whether you must surrender prisoners of war, fall by the sword, or die by famine. May your resolutions, if possible, be conducted with humanity : whatever they may be, I have no longer any share in them ; and I declare you shall not be answerable for aught but one thing, namely, not to carry arms against me or my allies. I pray God may have you, Mr Marshal, in his holy keeping. Given at Konigstein, the 14th of October 1756.

demanded ; and the whole army was obliged to surrender at discretion. The soldiers were afterwards compelled to enter into the service of Prussia.—The King of Poland asked no more, than that his own guards should not be made prisoners. Frederic replied, “ That he could not listen to his “ request ; that those guards would infallibly serve “ against him, and that he did not chuse to have “ the trouble of taking them a second time.”— His Polish Majesty retired to his regal dominions ; and the Prussian troops were cantoned in the neighbourhood of Seidlitz, and along the Elbe towards Dresden. The army in Bohemia retired to the confines of the county of Glatz.—The winter was spent in warlike preparations by Austria and Prussia, and in publishing reciprocal accusations ; and it must be confessed, that the same superiority which attended his Prussian Majesty’s forces in the field, was equally conspicuous in this paper war.

THE same fatality still continued to direct the measures, and the same misfortune to attend the expeditions of Great Britain. The resentment and discontent occasioned by the loss of Minorca were still predominant, nor had the dread of an invasion altogether subsided. To provide against the latter, a body of 12,000 Hessians and Hanoverians arrived, and encamped in different parts of the kingdom. This step served only to heighten the disgust, and continue the resentment of the public. They execrated the ministry for such a pusillanimous and disgraceful measure ; a measure which plainly evinced, that Britain was incapable of defending herself, and could only be secure by the aid of foreign

1756.

EUROPE.
Saxon ar-
my surren-
ders.Han-
overians and
Hessians ar-
rive in
England.

1756. mercenaries. They even carried their animosity so far, as to insult and distress the innocent and inoffensive Germans.

AMERICA.

THE affairs of America were distinguished by the same gloomy aspect with those of Great Britain. Major-General Abercrombie arrived at New-York on the 25th of June, and took upon him the command of the troops there assembled, till such time as the Earl of Loudon (a Scots nobleman of an amiable character, and who already had distinguished himself in the service of his country), should arrive as commander in chief.

THE first action of any consequence was in favour of the English. A body of the enemy had formed an ambuscade to intercept any reinforcement or provisions that might be sent to relieve the garrison of Oswego, which had hitherto been shamefully neglected. A considerable convoy of provisions and stores were however safely conducted thither by Colonel Bradstreet. Returning with his detachment down the river Onondaga, he was saluted with a general discharge of musketry, from a party of Indians secreted amongst the bushes, which killed a considerable number of his men. The colonel expected, and was prepared for such an attack. He immediately landed his men, and, taking possession of a small island, drove the Indians from their lurking places. Proceeding up the river, he attacked and defeated two different parties of the enemy with great slaughter, and returned back to Albany without any further molestation. Certain intelligence being received by the prison-

FRENCH RE-
PULSED BY
COLONEL
BRADSTREET.

ers taken in this engagement, that the French were preparing to besiege Oswego, a regiment of regulars, under the command of Major-General Webb, was detached to its relief, but proved too late to afford any assistance.

1756.
AMERICA.

THE fort of Oswego was situated on the south side of the great lake Ontario, at the mouth of the river Onondaga. On the opposite side was another fort, called Ontario. Both these had been erected in an injudicious and hasty manner, and were incapable of standing out, for any time, against a regular approach. The garrison consisted of about 1400 men, most of them new-raised and inexperienced ; they were commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Mercer, an officer of great courage and tried abilities. The attack of the place was formed by M. Montcalm, remarkable for his vigilance and enterprising spirit, with upwards of 2000 men under his command. The fort of Ontario, being deserted in a short time, was taken possession of by the enemy ; from whence they kept up an unremitting fire on the English. Colonel Mercer being killed, and the garrison in the greatest confusion, they were forced to capitulate, and surrender prisoners of war.—Both forts were instantly demolished.—Several inhumanities were committed by the Indians on the English prisoners, which the French commander did not use every endeavour to prevent.* The employing of these savages has

Oswego taken by the French.

* In violation of the articles of capitulation, and of humanity, he not only suffered the British officers and soldiers to be insulted, robbed, and some of them massacred by his Indians, but gave up twenty of the garrison, as an atonement to those barbarians, for the same number of their countrymen who had been killed in the siege, and they were put to death with the most excruciating torments.

1756. ever been productive of the most cruel and shocking barbarities;—and their transactions, in the course of the American war, under the direction of the French, have stamped indelible disgrace on a people who assume the character of being the most polite and civilized nation in the universe.

THE Earl of Loudon, who had been unaccountably detained in Britain, did not arrive at Albany till the 29th of May. No settled plan of operations having been fixed on, the season was suffered to slip away; and the taking of Oswego by the enemy, had disheartened the colonies, and prevented the adoption of any spirited enterprise. His lordship, however, did all in his power to remedy the negligence of his predecessors in command. Every preparation was made for an early campaign in the spring. He secured the frontiers, reinforced the garrisons, and endeavoured to remove that spirit of disaffection and inactivity which had been disseminated amongst the different provinces.

THUS ended the unfortunate campaigns of 1755 and 1756. The operations of both parties were spiritless, blundering, and timid. Britain had particularly degenerated from her former pre-eminence. Her troops were defeated, her navies scattered, and on all sides her affairs carried the most disagreeable and ruinous aspect. A want of wisdom in the measures, and of conduct in the commanders, were every where conspicuous. If the French gained any advantage, it was more owing to the unaccountable fatality which directed the British measures, than to their own merit or activity.

1756.

History finds little worthy of recording in the annals of those inauspicious times ; and hastens with pleasure to the brighter transactions of succeeding years ;—years, in which the integrity and disinterestedness of British statesmen, and the intrepidity and conduct of British commanders, were so eminently illustrious, as not to be equalled in the annals of this, or of any other nation. Their services will ever be remembered with gratitude and admiration ; and their memories transmitted, with esteem and applause, “ to the last syllable of recorded time.”*

* We have comprised the military operations of those two years in so small a compass, that it seems almost necessary to apologize for it.—It is only by retrenching the detail of unimportant occurrences, that we have been enabled to exhibit a circumstantial account of actions of greater celebrity. This has necessarily produced an inequality in the relation, which is expanded or contracted according to the importance of the subject.—The commencement of the war in particular, has been described with rapidity, as affording few actions deserving commemoration ; and little notice has been taken of the negotiations between the different courts, their specious justifications of their conduct, or the declamatory and insincere memorials published on that occasion by both parties.—It was judged necessary to explain the plan of this history so far, lest the omission, or the slight mentioning of any frivolous or unimportant particular, should be ascribed to inattention, or imputed as a defect.

C H A P. III.

East-India affairs—Angria the pirate defeated—Calcutta taken—Cruel treatment of the English by the Nabob of Bengal.

1756.
ASIA.

HOSTILITIES had been carried on in the East-Indies, for some years before the courts of Britain and France had come to an open rupture. By espousing the quarrels of the princes or nabobs* of that country, a pretence was found to carry on a brisk war between the two nations.—Soon after the death of Aurengzebe, who was the last monarch of distinguished abilities, an universal degeneracy took place in the empire of Indostan ; and those provinces which were the most distant from the seat of government, affected an independency on the Emperor ; and were little more than nominally subject to the imperial authority, which they acknowledged only because it gave a sanction to their own power.—The Nabob of Arcot, having been deposed by the Emperor, and another appointed in his room, had recourse to the French, who, on certain conditions, engaged to re-instate him in his government. With their assistance, he attacked, defeated, and slew his competitor ; re-assumed the government of Arcot, and punctually performed the conditions which had been stipulated by his French allies.

* The nabobs are a species of viceroys or governors of provinces under the Emperor, or, as he is called, the Great Mogul.

MOHAMMED-ALI-KHAN, the son of the deceased nabob, solicited the aid of the English, who assisted him with men, money, and ammunition. Under the colour of being auxiliaries to those princes, the English and French East-India companies endeavoured to ruin each other. Victory, however, for the most part, was on the side of the English ; Mohammed-Ali-Khan was placed on the throne of his father ; and the French, reduced by repeated defeats, were obliged to act only on the defensive. A mutual agreement was at last entered into by both companies ; by which it was stipulated, that they should reciprocally restore the territories taken by the troops of either since the year 1748 ; and that, for the future, neither should interfere in the differences between the princes of the country.—In this war the extraordinary military talents of Mr. Clive, (who had formerly served in a civil station) were for the first time displayed.

THE tranquillity produced by this treaty, was but of short duration. The restless ambition of the French could not brook the superiority which the English maintained in India. Underhand policy took place of open hostility. They endeavoured to foment animosities among the nabobs who favoured or were under the protection of the English ; and again assisted their enemies with troops to oppose them.

IN consequence of an application from the English East-India company, government had dispatched a small fleet of capital ships, under the command of Rear-Admirals Watson and Pocock, to support their just pretensions, and to protect

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Angria the
pirate,

their commerce. On the arrival of this squadron at Fort St David's*, it was judged advisable that they should proceed to the attack of Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, who was formidable to all the European powers, and had particularly distressed the English, from his vicinity to their settlements. This piratical state had existed for upwards of a century. The name of the founder of it, was Konna Ji Angria. He took possession of the small island of Sevendroog, and for some time confined his attacks to the Indian vessels trading on that coast. Grown bolder by success, he undertook the greatest enterprises, and attacked, without distinction, the vessels of all nations. Under his successors, this little nest of robbers flourished and increased; and it became the mutual interest of the European powers, however divided in other respects, to endeavour to extirpate this lawless and universal invader. The Portuguese joined the English in 1722, and attempted to destroy the place of their resort; but their expedition proved disgraceful and abortive. That undertaken by the Dutch, two years after, with seven men of war, met with no better success. At length, the Marattas, a fierce and rapacious people, upon Angria's refusing to pay a tribute which had long been customary, agreed to attack the common

* It was deemed unnecessary to give any description of our American settlements, as they are now familiar to almost every reader; but our Asiatic territories, not being so generally known, a brief account of the principal ones, as they occur, will not be improper.

Fort St. David's, on the Coromandel coast, is situated nearly on the verge of the Indian ocean.—The fort is regular, well provided with cannon, ammunition, and a numerous garrison.

enemy by land, whilst the English attacked them by sea.—Admiral Watson, accompanied by Colonel Clive, who commanded the land-forces, sailed from Bombay * on the 7th of February, and, on the 12th, anchored off the harbour and fort of Geriah, the principal residence of Angria. That chief had quitted the place; but his wife and family remained under the protection of his brother-in-law, who, on being summoned to surrender by a message from the admiral, replied, that he would defend the place to the last extremity. Upon this, about five in the afternoon, the whole English fleet sailed into the harbour, and soon silenced the enemy's batteries. Angria's fleet was set on fire by a bomb-shell; and soon after the fort shared the same fate. The besieged still obstinately held out, and defended the place even after the magazine of the fort blew up. At five in the morning the place surrendered, and was taken possession of by the English, who found a great number of cannon, and a large quantity of ammunition, with money and effects to the value of 130,000l.— Among the prisoners were Angria's wife, children, and mother, whom the Admiral treated with the greatest humanity§.

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His fort of Geriah besieged and destroyed by the English.

* A small island, not more than twenty miles in circumference, with a very convenient harbour. The town is very populous; but the soil is barren, and the climate unhealthy. It is the mart of all the trade with Malabar, Surat, and the Persian and Arabian gulphs.

§ When the admiral entered their apartment, the whole family, shedding floods of tears, fell with their faces to the ground; from which being raised, the mother of Angria told him, in a piteous tone, that the people had no king, she no son, her daughter no husband, their children no father. The admiral replying, that they must look upon him as their father and their friend; the youngest boy, about six years

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IN the mean time, an event took place in another part of India, which cast a gloom on the English affairs ; no less than the almost total extirpation of their company from Bengal. —A custom had for some time prevailed in these countries, which was attended with very pernicious consequences. The governors of all the European provinces had taken upon them, to grant an asylum to such of the natives of the country as were afraid of oppression or punishment. As they received very considerable sums in return for this protection, the danger to which they were exposed was overlooked. One of the chief officers of Bengal had taken refuge among the English at Calcutta, in order to avoid punishment. Surajah Dowlah, the Suba or Nabob of Bengal, was greatly incensed at this proceeding ; and, being likewise irritated at the refusal of certain duties which he laid claim to, and other practices of the company, he levied a numerous army, marched

of age, seized him by the hand, and, sobbing, exclaimed, “ Then you shall be my father ! ” Mr Watson was so affected with this pathetic address, that the tears trickled down his cheeks, while he assured them, they might depend on his protection and friendship.

+ Bengal is the most eastern province of the Mogul’s dominions in India, lies upon the mouth of the Ganges, extending near 400 miles in length from E. to W. and 300 in breadth from N. to S. and annually overflowed by the river Ganges, which makes it one of the richest and most fruitful provinces in that quarter of the globe.—The principal settlement of the English is Calcutta, the first town that is met with in passing up the Ganges. The air is unhealthy, the water brackish, and the anchorage not very safe ; yet, notwithstanding these inconveniences, great numbers of rich Armenian, Moorish, and Indian merchants, have fixed their residence here. The fortress has this advantage, that the vessels bound to European settlements are obliged to pass under its cannon.—Most of the other European East-India Companies have settlements in this country.

to Calcutta, and invested the place, which was then in no posture of defence. The governor, under the pretence of being a quaker, took refuge on board a ship in the river, carrying along with him the ladies, and counsellors, together with their most valuable effects, and the books of the company. Mr. Holwell, the second in command, declared he would stay and defend the place to the last extremity, though the party that fled on board had carried 100 soldiers from the garrison with them. With the assistance of a few gallant officers, he defended the fort for three days with uncommon courage and resolution. At last, overpowered by numbers, deserted by his soldiers, and the enemy having forced their way into the castle, he was obliged to submit; the Suba promising, on the word of a soldier, that no injury should be done to him, or to his garrison.

THE scene which followed is perhaps unexampled in history. The garrison, to the amount of 146, were thrown into a small close dungeon, out of which twenty-three only came out alive.*

* This melancholy transaction is described by a respectable author in the following strong and pathetic manner.

" At five the nabob entered the fort, accompanied by his general Meer Jaffier, and most of the principal officers of his army. He immediately ordered Omichund and Kiffendas to be brought before him, and received them with civility; and having bid some officers go and take possession of the company's treasury, he proceeded to the principal apartment of the factory, where he sat in state, and received the compliments of his court and attendants, in magnificent expressions of his prowess and good fortune. Soon after he sent for Mr. Holwell, to whom he expressed much resentment at the presumption of the English in daring to defend the fort, and much dissatisfaction at the smallness of the sum found in the treasury, which did not exceed fifty thousand rupees. Mr. Holwell had two other conferences with him on this

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Calcutta taken by the
Nabob of
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Their cries and lamentations excited the compassion, and the offering of large sums of money

subject, before seven o'clock, when the nabob dismissed him with repeated assurances, on the word of a soldier, that he should suffer no harm.

" Mr. Holwell, returning to his unfortunate companions, found them assembled, and surrounded with a strong guard. Several buildings on the north and south sides of the fort were already in flames, which approached with so thick a smock on either hand, that the prisoners imagined their enemies had caused this conflagration, in order to suffocate them between the two fires. On each side of the eastern gate of the fort, extended a range of chambers adjoining to the curtain; and before the chambers a varanda, or open gallery: it was of arched masonry, and intended to shelter the soldiers from the sun and rain, but, being low, almost totally obstructed the chambers behind from the light and air; and whilst some of the guard were looking into other parts of the factory for proper places to confine the prisoners during the night, the rest ordered them to assemble in ranks under the varanda on the right hand of the gateway, where they remained for some time, with so little suspicion of their impending fate, that they laughed among themselves at the seeming oddity of this disposition, and amused themselves with conjecturing what they should next be ordered to do. About eight o'clock, those who had been sent to examine the rooms reported, that they found none fit for the purpose. On which the principal officer commanded the prisoners to go into one of the rooms which stood behind them along the varanda. It was the common dungeon of the garrison, who used to call it *the black hole*. Many of the prisoners, knowing the place, began to expostulate: upon which the officer ordered his men to cut down those who hesitated; on which the prisoners obeyed. But before all were within, the room was so thronged, that the last entered with difficulty. The guard immediately closed and locked the door; confining one hundred and forty-six persons in a room not twenty feet square, with only two small windows, and these obstructed by the varanda.

" It was the hottest season of the year, and the night uncommonly sultry even at this season. The excessive pressure of their bodies against one another, and the intolerable heat which prevailed as soon as the door was shut, convinced the prisoners that it was impossible to live through the night in this horrible confinement; and violent attempts were immediately made to force the door; but without effect, for it opened inward: on which many began to give a loose to rage. Mr. Holwell, who had placed himself at one of the windows, exhorted them to remain composed both in body and mind, as the only means of surviving the night, and his remonstrances produced a short interval of quiet; during which he applied to an old jemautdar, who bore

tempted the avarice of the keepers of their prison; but the nabob was asleep; and there was not

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some marks of humanity in his countenance, promising to give him a thousand rupees in the morning, if he would separate the prisoners into two chambers. The old man went to try, but returning in a few minutes, said it was impossible.—Mr. Holwell offered him a larger sum; on which he retired once more, and returned with the fatal sentence, that no relief could be expected, because the Nabob was asleep, and no one dared to wake him.

“ In the mean time every minute had increased their sufferings. The first effect of their confinement was a profuse and continued sweat, which soon produced intolerable thirst, succeeded by excruciating pains in the breast, with difficulty of breathing little short of suffocation. Various means were tried to obtain more room and air. Every one stripped off his cloaths; every hat was put in motion; and these methods affording no relief, it was proposed that they should all sit down on their hams at the same time, and after remaining a little while in this posture, rise all together. This fatal expedient was thrice repeated before they had been confined an hour; and every time, severals, unable to rear themselves up again, fell, and were trampled to death by their companions. Attempts were again made to force the door, which, failing as before, redoubled their rage: but the thirst increasing, nothing but water! water! became soon after the general cry. The good jemaudar immediately ordered some skins of water to be brought to the windows; but, instead of relief, his benevolence became a more dreadful cause of destruction; for the sight of the water threw every one into such excessive agitation and ravings, that, unable to resist this violent impulse of nature, none could wait to be regularly served, but each, with the utmost ferocity, battled against those who were likely to get it before him; and in these conflicts many were either pressed to death with the efforts of others, or suffocated by their own. This scene, instead of producing compassion in the guard without, only excited their mirth: and they held up lights to the bars, in order to have the diabolical satisfaction of seeing the deplorable contentions of the sufferers within; who, finding it impossible to get any water whilst it was thus furiously disputed, at length suffered those who were nearest to the windows to convey it in their hats to those behind them. It proved no relief either to their thirst or their sufferings; for the fever increased every moment with the increasing depravity of the air in the dungeon, which had been so often respired, and was saturated with the hot and deleterious effluvia of putrifying bodies, of which the stench was little less than mortal. Before midnight, all who were alive, and had not partaken of the air at the windows, were either in a lethargic stupefaction, or raving with delirium.—Every kind of invective and abuse was uttered, in hopes of provoking the guard

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perhaps a single person in Bengal who thought that a despotic tyrant's flumbers should be inter-

to put an end to their miseries, by firing into the dungeon ; and whilst some were blaspheming their Creator with the frantic execrations of torment in despair, Heaven was implored by others with wild and incoherent prayers ; until the weaker, exhausted by these agitations, at length lay down quietly, and expired on the bodies of their dead or agonizing friends. Those who still survived in the inward part of the dungeon, finding that the water had afforded them no relief, made a last effort to obtain air, by endeavouring to scramble over the heads of those who had stood between them and the windows, where the utmost strength of every one was employed for two hours, either in maintaining his own ground, or endeavouring to get that of which others were in possession. All regards of compassion and affection were lost, and no one would recede or give way for the relief of another. Faintness sometimes gave short pauses of quiet ; but the first motion of any one renewed the struggle through all, under which ever and anon some one funk to rise no more. At two o'clock, not more than fifty remained alive. But even this number were too many to partake of the saving air, the contest for which, and life, continued until the morn, long implored, began to break ; and, with the hope of relief, gave the few survivors a view of the dead. The survivors then at the window, finding that their entreaties could not prevail on the guard to open the door, it occurred to Mr. Cook, the secretary of the council, that Mr. Holwell, if alive, might have more influence to obtain their relief ; and two of the company undertaking the search, discovered him, having still some signs of life ; but when they brought him towards the window, every one refused to quit his place, excepting Captain Mills, who, with rare generosity, offered to resign his ; on which the rest likewise agreed to make room. He had scarcely begun to recover his senses, before an officer, sent by the Nabob, came and enquired if the English chief survived ; and soon after the same man returned with an order to open the prison. The dead were so thronged, and the survivors had so little strength remaining, that they were employed near half an hour in removing the bodies which lay against the door, before they could clear a passage to go out one at a time ; when of one hundred and forty-six who went in, no more but twenty-three came out alive, the ghastliest forms that ever were seen. The Nabob's troops beheld them, and the havock of death from which they had escaped, with indifference ; but did not prevent them from removing to a distance, and were immediately obliged, by the intolerable stench, to clear the dungeon, whilst others dug a ditch on the outside of the fort, into which all the dead bodies were promiscuously thrown."

rupted, even to preserve the lives of so great a number of unhappy men.

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THE deliverance of the few that remained alive, was neither owing to compassion nor regret. The Suba had been informed, that there was a considerable treasure secreted in the fort, and that Mr. Holwell knew where it was deposited. It was in vain that that gentleman solemnly declared his ignorance of such a treasure: the inhuman Suba gave no credit to his protestations; but ordered him, and three of his friends, to be conveyed, loaded with fetters, to the Indian camp. The humane reader would be shocked at the recital of the cruel treatment, which this unhappy gentleman, and his companions, underwent; suffice it to say, that, after a variety of sufferings, at which even the barbarous Suba seemed at last stung with remorse, they were permitted to retire to a neighbouring Dutch settlement.

THIS unfortunate disaster threw a damp on the success attending the expedition against Angria. The exasperated barbarity of the nabob threatened the total destruction of the commerce and settlements on the Ganges. The emergency required dispatch and vigour; and the only hopes of recovery, depended on the uncertain arrival of the fleet which had lately reduced Angria.—The ample revenge taken by the English for the inhuman treatment of their countrymen, and the consequences of this melancholy event, which, far from producing the misfortunes apprehended, was the means of opening a vast field of power and glory to Britain, will be recorded among the transactions of the ensuing year.

C H A P. IV.

Various changes in administration—Character of the different factions—King of Prussia takes the field, and defeats the Austrians near Prague.

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THE affairs of Britain began now to assume a more promising appearance. Several events took place, which indicated the revival of her pristine importance, and seemed to be the harbingers of better days.—The public dissatisfaction had arrived at that point, beyond which it is dangerous to go ; and a change of men and measures became absolutely necessary, to preserve the nation from utter destruction. Those by whose erring conduct these calamities were occasioned, seemed at last conscious that the measure of their iniquity was nearly full, and began to think of retiring from a station which they could no longer maintain. Mr. Fox, the principal prop of the tottering fabric of administration, not chusing any longer to bear the popular odium, for measures in which he had only an inconsiderable share, resigned the office of secretary of state ; not, indeed, without hopes of being soon re-instated in his employment, with additional influence and power.—Thus deprived of one of their principal leaders, the remaining feeble band of ministers were unable any longer to support themselves. Destitute of any fixed system of conduct, without the confidence, affection, and purse of the people, and opposed in

Mr. Fox resigns.

their measures by men of the greatest abilities and the most invincible integrity, they were obliged to quit their posts, and abandon the helm of government to the management of abler hands.

IN this critical conjuncture, in this forlorn state of hope, the voice of the nation pointed out, and the necessity of affairs called into action, a set of men in whom the people placed their confidence, and repos'd their safety. William Pitt, Esq; was appointed secretary of state on the 4th of December; an appointment which gave joy and satisfaction to the whole nation. Every lover of his country, and every friend to liberty, exulted to see the happy day, when his Majesty, no longer influenced by those who had brought upon him dishonour and disquietude, was determined to listen to the voice, and consult the happiness of his people.

So grateful was the new minister's elevation to the nation in general, that all parties (the partisans of the old ministry excepted) united heartily to strengthen the hands of government. The nation was not disappointed in their opinion of his abilities. He diligently provided for the internal defence of the kingdom, and the annoyance of the enemy.—The Highlands of Scotland, so far from contributing to the strength of the nation, had hitherto been a terror to government, and required an army always to be kept in readiness to prevent their rising in favour of a foreign power. A cruel and narrow-minded policy had taken place with respect to the inhabitants of that part of Britain, who were treated with a severity equal-

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Mr. Pitt
appointed
secretary of
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ly oppressive and tyrannical.—Mr. Pitt disclaimed those jealous and barbarous tenets of arbitrary power. Convinced that the opposition of that gallant, though rude people, proceeded from a principle of honour, and a mistaken attachment to the unhappy family of Stuart, he conceived that this formidable internal foe might be converted into a generous and serviceable friend. He therefore proposed to his Majesty, to admit, and to invite, by proper encouragements, the suspected part of the Scots Highlanders into his pay. By this adoption, his Majesty recovered a respectable body of subjects, who for many years had withdrawn themselves from his protection, and had been ready, upon all occasions, to join with, or to favour the designs of France upon England. The consequences of this excellent policy have reflected honour on the political abilities of Mr. Pitt. In every service they have been employed in, the Highlanders have signalized themselves in a particular manner. Strength, agility, a capability of enduring the greatest hardships, and a bravery bordering on enthusiasm, are the characteristics of that people; and their very name has now become a terror to the enemies of Great Britain.

IN the course of his administration, also, the bill for regulating the militia, which had hitherto been opposed by the principal men in power, was brought into parliament by Colonel (now Lord) Townshend. After a variety of alterations and amendments, in which the supporters of the bill were obliged to acquiesce, or run the risk of its being thrown out altogether, it passed the royal

assent.—The old ministry were restrained, by motives of fear, from opposing a measure, which they had always dreaded as the most effectual bar to arbitrary power ; and the new ministers, by thus arming the people for the internal defence of the nation, discovered their intention to execute some distant service with the standing army that required a powerful military force abroad.

THIS pleasing prospect of national felicity was fleeting and evanescent. Though the abilities and disinterestedness of the new ministry were acknowledged even by their enemies, though they were seconded and supported by the bulk of the nation, yet there were other qualifications necessary to support themselves in office, which, it must be confessed, they did not possess. As they had neither bargained for their places, nor delivered up their principles, they were determined to support their integrity and independence ; and to consult the true interest and prosperity of the nation, even in opposition to the prejudices of majesty itself. Several propositions, in which the interest of his Majesty's electoral dominions were more consulted than that of Great Britain, were opposed by Mr. Pitt and his adherents ; and this opposition was exaggerated by the associates of the old ministry, who still hovered about the throne. The spirit and freedom with which they debated every measure, even in the presence of their sovereign, was construed into a want of respect ; and their behaviour in parliament, in which they regarded themselves, not as servants to the crown, but as representatives of the people, and guardians

1757. of their liberty and property, was made the pretence of an impeachment of their loyalty. The consequence of these insinuations was a peremptory dismission from their several offices ; and Mr. Pitt, by his Majesty's express command, resigned the seals on the 5th of April ; at a period when his wisdom, integrity, and firmness, were more necessary than ever.

View of the different parties. As the politics of this period were complicated and mysterious, it will be necessary, in order to form an idea of them, to delineate the characters of the different parties who laid claim to the direction of state affairs. They consisted of three different factions. The first, highly respectable as to rank and fortune, possessed of a considerable share of parliamentary interest, and the greatest sway with the monied people, was composed of those who had grown into place and power under the old ministry. Their adulation and courtly compliance had likewise rendered them greatly respected by the King ; but in some very material points, their weakness was conspicuous : they were deficient in popularity, and their political abilities were but indifferent.—The second faction, though superior in point of abilities, was possessed of less parliamentary interest, and much more unpopular than the first. They derived their power from their influence at one court, by means of a then powerful connection ; but which only tended to make them less respected at the other court, and even added to their unpopularity.—The third party had little influence in parliament, and less at court ; but they possessed, in the highest degree, the con-

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fidence and support of the people. The shining abilities of their leader, and his steady adherence to an upright disinterested conduct, claimed veneration even from his opponents.—These factions differed extremely in the general scheme of their politics. The two first agreed in opinion, that the increasing power of France was much to be dreaded ; that it was absolutely necessary to maintain a balance of power ; and that this was to be done chiefly by keeping up a close connection with the powers of the continent, by espousing their quarrels, and even assisting them with troops if required. This furnished an argument for a standing army ; and, though they thought the navy should by no means be neglected, yet it ought only to be employed in subserviency to the continental system. In their opinions of constitutional liberty, they were likewise singular. Though they pretended to be staunch friends to the liberties of the people, yet, as government must be supported, they looked upon it as justifiable to secure a majority in parliament, by creating numerous lucrative places and employments at the disposal of the crown ; alledging, as a palliation of this mode of ruling, that the particular form of our government, and the general depravity of mankind, rendered any other less exceptionable method impracticable.

THE third and popular party was actuated by principles of a different nature. They viewed indeed the increasing power of France in the same light with the two former, and acquiesced in the necessity of setting bounds to it ; but they differed

1757. EUROPE. widely in the means to be used for that purpose. They were for making the military operations of Great Britain entirely subservient to our naval strength, as a more natural, safer, and less expensive plan of politics. Our situation as an island, said they, points out to us a conduct different from that of other nations. The sea is our natural element; and to quit that, and involve ourselves in continental quarrels, is acting diametrically opposite to our real interests. The superiority of France lies entirely on the continent, and the attacking her on that side would be evidently dangerous, and like (to use a strong though vulgar expression) taking a bull by the horns. Our government, they said, stood in no need of support from a standing army, which was ever dangerous to freedom; and that a well-trained militia would prove our best protection against an invasion. From a higher notion of human nature, they judged it possible to influence the minds of men by nobler motives than that of interest. A ministry who governs uprightly, will never be opposed by the people.

THE forced resignation of Mr. Pitt, contributed to add lustre to his character. The resentment of a monarch, however destructive in other countries, in England has quite a different effect. The object of royal indignation, is ever the favourite of the people; and, if he forfeits not the protection of the laws, he has little to fear from the exalted situation of his adversary.—The British nation, ever grateful to their benefactors, received the dismissed ministers with the greatest tokens of ap-

probation. The most opulent and respectable corporations presented them with their freedom, the highest gift, in the opinion of a Briton, that can be conferred.—The resentment against the old ministry, who had now resumed their places, was more violent than ever. The people could not be persuaded, that the same persons who had sunk the nation into ruin and distress, could ever be the instruments of her delivery and redemption. Numerous addressees were presented to the throne, soliciting the restoration of Mr. Pitt ; and his Majesty, sacrificing his private resentments to the good of his people, was graciously pleased to re-deliver the seals to Mr. Pitt, appointing him secretary of state for the southern department, on the 29th of June.

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Mr. Pitt re-
sumes the
seals.

THE unpopular party, however, was not entirely excluded from a share in the administration. Their influence in the privy council, and credit in the house of commons, were still great, and sufficient to thwart every measure in which they did not partake. A coalition of parties therefore took place from necessity, as the only prudent and salutary means of healing divisions, and assuaging the rage of faction. Both parties receded a little from their former principles, which had been violently pushed in their several extremes. It was now proposed to gratify the King, with assisting our allies on the continent in the method most agreeable to our insular situation, which is, by making diversions with our fleets ; and it was also agreed, that we should aid them with such land-force and money as our strength and finances could admit.

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THESE domestic dissensions happily composed, it became now absolutely necessary, to atone for the past losses and disappointments, and to retrieve the credit of the British arms and councils, by some spirited and vigorous enterprise. War had been declared in the course of the summer by both nations, and our hostilities could no longer be represented as lawless invasions or piracies. As the first undertaking was intended to facilitate our military connexions and operations in Germany, it will more properly come after the account of the transactions in that country.

Situation of
the King of
Prussia.

AT the opening of the campaign in 1757, every thing appeared unfavourable for the King of Prussia. In the preceding summer, process had been commenced against him in the Aulic council, and before the diét of the empire. The influence of a family in which the empire had so long been hereditary, and the formidable confederacy against him, over-awed those who wished to support him, and his enemies were happy at so fair an opportunity to reduce his power. He was condemned for contumacy; and it was notified to him, that he was put under the ban of the empire, and fallen from all the dignities and possessions he held under it. The contingents of men and money ordered to be furnished by the circles of the empire to put this sentence in execution were, however, slowly collected.—His victory at Lowoschutz had been attended with no other consequence than the surrender of the pass at Pirna. The Austrian army in Bohemia, commanded by Prince Charles of Lorrain and M. Brown, amounted to upwards of

100,000 men ; the Czarina sent 60,000 men, under the command of M. Apraxin, assisted by a strong fleet, to invade Ducal Prussia ; and the Swedes, in hopes of recovering what they had lost in Pomerania, joined the same confederacy, being aided by 6000 troops of Mecklenbourg.

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In this perilous situation, threatened on all sides, and apparently on the brink of destruction, the Prussian monarch had nothing to trust to, for preservation, but his own abilities, and the superior valour and discipline of his troops. Far from being daunted at the formidable confederacy against him, he prepared for the contest with a cool rapidity peculiar to himself. He distinguished, between great difficulties and impossibilities, and being never discouraged by the former, has often seemed to execute the latter. He divided his army into three bodies, which at the same time penetrated, by very different ways, into Bohemia ; his maxim being to carry the war as far from home as possible. The first body was commanded by M. Schwerin, and entered that kingdom from Silesia. The second was under the Prince of Bevern, who marched from Lusatia ; and the last was commanded by the King in person.

As a prelude to the campaign, the Prince of Bevern, on the 21st of April, having possessed himself of some strong posts on the frontiers of Bohemia, marched to attack the Austrian army, amounting to 20,000 strong, commanded by Count Konigseg, and posted near Reichenberg. The action began at half an hour after six in the morning, and continued till eleven. The Austrians were

Battle of
Reichen-
berg.

1757. ~~EUROPE.~~ defeated and put to flight; and their loss amounted to upwards of 1000 men killed and wounded, while that of the Prussians did not exceed 150.

THE King of Prussia, on receiving the news of this victory, published the account of it at the head of his army, by whom it was received with the loudest acclamations of applause.—This advantage, at the beginning of the campaign, was productive of the most salutary consequences to his Prussian Majesty. It facilitated his future operations, struck a panic into his enemies, and spirited up his own troops, who were eager to be led on to the most arduous enterprises.—The Prussian armies were now in such a situation, that a junction could be formed whenever necessary. The intention of Frederic, was to draw the enemy to a general engagement, if possible. They were superior to him in number, and were encamped in a situation so fortified by nature and art, as to be deemed almost impregnable. Something therefore was necessary to be done in point of generalship, without leaving all to the risk of the sword; and his Majesty, ever vigilant and penetrating, with a sagacity that foresaw every thing, was readily furnished with a stratagem for this purpose. To the surprise of every one, he marched towards Egra; and the Austrians, deceived by this movement, and imagining that the King had undertaken some design distinct from the object of his other armies, detached a body of 20,000 men from their main army, to observe his motions. Frederic, finding that this manœuvre had taken its full effect, made so sudden and masterly a movement to the left,

King of
Prussia re-
solves to at-
tack the
Austrians.

Stratagem
to divide
their forces.

Succeeds.

that all communication between that detachment and the main army of the Austrians was cut off. Elated by this advantage, he marched onwards, with his accustomed rapidity, to Prague, where he joined the armies under the Prince of Bevern and M. Schwerin, who had advanced, with an almost equal celerity, to meet him. The Austrians, tho' amounting to 100,000 men, were sensible of the ability of their adversary, and determined to act with caution. Their commanders, Prince Charles of Lorrain and M. Brown, resolved not to march in quest of the Prussian monarch, but to wait his united force in their camp, and to cover the city of Prague from insult.

THIS caution in the enemy, only stimulated the vivacity of the Prussian monarch, whose fortitude was always in proportion to the difficulties he had to encounter, and whose resolutions were not taken upon the danger, but the expediency of the action. The hopes of future success depended on his defeating this fortified camp. Having thrown several bridges over the Moldaw, he passed that river, on the 6th of May, with 30,000 men, leaving the rest of the army under the command of the prince of Anhalt Dessau; and being joined by the troops under M. Schwerin and the Prince of Bevern, he resolved to attack the enemy on the same day. Accordingly, he ordered his army to file off to the left, with an intention of flanking the enemy; which obliged M. Brown to wheel about to the right. The Prussians continued their march through a road so full of defiles and mottes, that the infantry and cavalry were forced

1757.
EUROPE.

Advances
to the at-
tack.

1757.
EUROPE.

Battle of
Prague.

Gained by
the Prus-
sians.

to separate. Their ardour, far from being checked at these obstacles, was greatly heightened by them. They vied with each other, in passing defiles, in crossing marshes, in seizing the rising grounds, and in clearing ditches.—The foot began the attack too precipitately, and were at first repulsed; but they immediately rallied, and advanced with an impetuosity that was not to be resisted. M. Schwerin, as he was advancing towards the enemy, was suddenly stopped in his career by a morass, which threatened to disconcert the whole plan of operations. Upon this, he immediately dismounted, and, taking the standard of the regiment in his hand, boldly entered the morass, exhorting his men to follow him. Inspired by the example of this great commander, now 82 years of age, the troops pressed forward, and abated not in their ardour till they had totally defeated the enemy, though their brave general unfortunately fell at the first onset, loaded with years and glory.—The Austrian cavalry stood but three charges, and then retired with great confusion; the centre being at the same time totally routed. The battle was bloody and obstinate, and both parties gave signal examples of valour. Prince Henry of Prussia and the Prince of Bevern performed wonders, making themselves masters of two batteries; and Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick took the left wing of the Austrians in flank, while the King secured the passage of the Moldaw with his left, and a body of cavalry. At last the Austrians, yielding to superior abilities, and the fate of war, were driven from the field of battle, and the King of Prussia obtained a com-

plete victory. The Prussians took, on this occasion, ten standards, and upwards of 4000 prisoners, thirty of whom were officers of rank; together with 60 pieces of cannon, all the tents, baggage, military chest, and, in a word, their whole camp. The loss on both sides was great, and each had the misfortune to lose one of their best generals; M. Schwerin*, whose fidelity, intrepidity, experience, and military prudence, had deservedly gained him the friendship and confidence of the Prussian monarch; and M. Brown, who received a wound, which, from the chagrin he suffered, rather than from its own nature, proved mortal shortly after.—The main body of the Austrian army fled towards Prague, and threw themselves into that city; another party, to the amount of 10,000 men, retired towards Benescau, where they afterwards assembled under M. Pretlach.

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EUROPE.

* M. Schwerin was born on the 26th October 1664. He studied at Leyden, Rostock, and Griefswade. The Duke Charles Leopold sent him in 1712 to the King of Sweden, Charles XII. at Bender, with whom he continued a year. In 1723, he had a regiment given him in the Prussian service, and, by military gradation, arrived at the post of Field Marshal in 1740. He distinguished himself at the battle of Mollwitz in 1741. In the campaign 1756, he gave great proofs of his abilities in the art of war. He was rather a little fized man, but had however a martial look; loved the soldiers, and was very careful of them, and therefore much beloved by them. In all his expeditions he knew how to combine the greatest bravery with the greatest prudence. He was twice married, and left children of both sexes.

C H A P. V.

King of Prussia forms the blockade of Prague—Deplorable situation of the inhabitants—Count Daun takes the command of the Austrian army—Attacked by the King of Prussia, whom he repulses at Kolin.

1757. **B**Y the event of this battle, it was expected that **EUROPE** the Prussians would invest Prague; which they immediately did, the King commanding on one side, and Marshal Keith on the other. In four days all communication from without was cut off, **Prague invested.** the whole city being surrounded with lines and entrenchments.—The number of forces shut up within the walls amounted to 50,000, besides a great many persons of the first rank, viz. Prince Charles of Lorrain, Marshal Brown, the Princes of Saxony, the Prince of Modena, the Duke d'Aremberg, Count Lacy, and several others of great distinction. It was generally imagined, that this city would necessarily fall a sacrifice to the victorious army, the numbers within serving no other purpose than to consume the provisions of a garrison, then but indifferently supplied. Immediately after the blockade was formed, the Prussians took possession of Cziscaberg, an eminence which commanded the town, on which the Austrians had a strong redoubt. The besieged made several vigorous, but ineffectual attempts, to recover this post, which was defended by the

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EUROPE.

Prussians with the utmost resolution.—In order to ease the city of the multitude of forces cooped up useless within the walls, it was resolved to attack the Prussian army in the night, with a body of twelve thousand men, sustained by all the grenadiers, volunteers, Pandours, and Hungarian infantry, and thus, if possible, to open a way, sword in hand, through the camp of the besiegers.

THE Prussians, having received intelligence of this design by a deserter, took proper measures for their reception, and in less than a quarter of an hour they were all under arms.—But notwithstanding the Prussians were warned of this attempt, it was conducted with so much silence, that nothing was discovered before the Austrians charged their advanced posts. From their beginning the attack on Marshal Keith's camp, and the left wing of the Prussian army, encamped on the Moldaw, it is probable the enemy intended to destroy the batteries that were raising, and to attack the bridges of communication which the Prussians had thrown over the Moldaw at Branick and Podaba, about a quarter of a German mile above and below the city. The alarm began about two o'clock, the enemy hoping to come unexpectedly upon the miners; but in this they were disappointed. The piquet of the third battalion of the Prussian guards, who were to sustain the body which covered the works, was thrown into confusion at the first fire from the enemy, owing to the darkness of the night, which rendered it impossible to distinguish the Austrian troops from their own. A lieutenant, who was detached with

The besieged make a
fally.

1757.
EUROPE.

a party to reconnoitre the enemy, endeavoured, by lighting a fire, to discover their disposition. This had the effect of informing Captain Rodig, who commanded the piquet, of their situation, who immediately attacked them on the flank, giving orders to his men to fire in platoons; upon which the enemy fled with the greatest precipitation, being ignorant of the strength of the piquet, as the shouting of the Prussian soldiers made them mistake it for a numerous body. Numbers deserted, some took shelter in Prague, and many were forced into the river, and drowned — A regiment of the enemy's horse-grenadiers, at the time this attack began, supported by the Hungarian infantry, endeavoured to surprise a redoubt, under an incessant fire upon the whole front of the Prussians; but were repulsed with considerable loss. They renewed the attack three times, and were as often beat back, the Prussians maintaining the post with a firmness and resolution not to be described. On this occasion the battalion of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick suffered greatly.

AT three in the morning, the Prussians marched out of their camp to meet the enemy. Part of the army attacked a building called Red-house, at the bottom of a declivity before Wellaftowitz. The Pandours, who were in possession of this house, fired upon them incessantly from all the doors and windows, but were at last dislodged. For about two hours the Prussian army were obliged to sustain the fire of the enemy's whole cannon and musketry, which did much execution. At length, the Prussians having abandoned the Red-house,

owing to the continued fire which was kept upon it from the artillery of Prague, the Pandours again took possession of it ; and the rest of the enemy retired to the city, without in the least effecting their design, leaving behind them many dead and wounded, besides deserters. The Prussians upon this occasion made a few prisoners, although they suffered the loss of several officers and private men. Prince Ferdinand, the King of Prussia's youngest brother, was slightly wounded in the face, and likewise had a horse shot under him.

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EUROPE.

Austrians
drove back.

HITHERTO neither of the parties had received very considerable damage, the operations of the Prussians being confined to a silent blockade, and those of the Austrians to a few slight fallies, in which they were generally repulsed with loss. But the Prussian works being at length completed, and their heavy artillery arrived, they opened four batteries erected on the banks of the Moldaw, and began to play furiously on the city. In the space of twenty-four hours they threw in no less than three hundred bombs, besides an infinite quantity of red-hot balls, which set the city on fire in several places.—The King of Prussia has on this occasion been censured for want of humanity ; and indeed the generals on both sides seem to have been actuated by the most horrid barbarity. When the conflagration had lasted for three days, and the inhabitants saw their city on the point of being reduced to a mass of rubbish, they in a body petitioned the commander to hearken to terms ; but, instead of granting their request, he turned out 12,000 persons, the least useful in the

A terrible
bombard-
ment.

1757.
EUROPE.

Distress of
the inhabi-
tants.

defence of the city. These were again forced back by the Prussians, which soon brought on a famine, and reduced both the garrison and inhabitants to the necessity of living on horse-flesh, and even that was given out in a very sparing manner. In this melancholy situation, the inhabitants saw no end to their miseries, but by a speedy capitulation, which the commander, who saw himself at the head of a numerous, well-appointed, and desperate army, was determined by no means to listen to. Several resolute and well conducted sallies were made, but without success, being always rendered fruitless by the vigilance and determined bravery of the Prussians.*

* " It is, no doubt, a thing worthy of remark, and will appear a fable to posterity, that near 50,000 men, with a train of artillery, arms, &c. should submit to be shut up for six weeks, and reduced to extremity, by an army of equal force. That of the King did not certainly, at the end of May, exceed that of the Austrians; which will appear evident, if we consider how many men he had lost in the battle, by sickness, desertion, and the numberless detached corps. This army, small as it was, formed a chain of posts, which extended many miles, and was moreover separated by the Moldaw; over which they communicated by two bridges only; the one above, and the other below the town: so that, in fact, the Austrians, had they chose to march out of the place, would have had no more than half the Prussian army to contend with: why therefore they did not, no man that has the least idea of military affairs, can ever comprehend. A torrent carried one of the bridges away; yet did they still continue quiet, and let slip this favourable opportunity, without making any attempt to go out. We have been very often on the ground about Prague, and must own it is, and will be, a matter of wonder and astonishment, that no effort was made to march out. Had they attacked the Prussians, thus separated by a great river, and divided into so many small detachments, they could not fail in their attempt; they must have destroyed their army. It is no less surprizing, that so great a general as the King of Prussia should think it possible to reduce an army of 50,000 men, in such an extensive town as Prague, with one of equal force. The supineness of the Austrians justified this attempt, and saved his army from inevitable

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IN this situation, when the Empress-Queen was on the brink of ruin, her grand army dispersed, and flying in small parties, her princes and commanders shut up in Prague, that capital on the point of surrendering, and the utmost favour the garrison could expect was being made prisoners of war, a general arose, who seemed destined by the hand of providence to mark the vicissitude of human affairs, and who in turn was to reduce his Prussian Majesty to as bad a situation, as that in which the Empress-Queen at present found herself. Leopold Count Daun*, bred from his infancy in the camp, who had served under the greatest generals, and particularly had studied the art of war under the great Kevenhuller, was now put at the head of the Austrian army, on which

Count
Daun
takes the
command
of the Au-
strian army.

destruction.—The celebrated M. Belleisle, who knew Prague perfectly well, had, in the preceding war, with 15,000 men, defended it for many months against the Austrians; and, being at last reduced to the greatest extremity, quitted it with 12,000 men, and retired to Egra, with safety and glory. This general wrote a letter, while the King was blockading that town, which I have seen; wherein he says, “ Je “ connois Prague, si j'y étois, avec la moitié des troupes, que le prince “ Charles y a actuellement détruit l'armée Prussienne.”

Hist. of the War in Germany, by a General Officer.

* Leopold Count Daun was born in 1705. He was, in the beginning, a knight of Malta, and colonel of his father's regiment; in 1736 lord of the bed-chamber; in 1737 major-general, and served against the Turks; in 1739 a lieutenant-general; in 1740 he obtained a regiment; in 1745 he was made a general of infantry; in 1748 a privy counsellor; in 1751 commandant of Vienna; in 1753 knight of the golden fleece; and in 1754 a field-marshall. He had, in the preceding war, shewn no less bravery than prudence; and was wounded in the battles of Grotzka and Freidberg, in 1749. He formed the new exercise, and composed the institutions for the new military academy. In 1745, having quitted the order of Malta, he married the countess Fuchs, (a favourite of the Empress) by whom he has many children.

1757. depended the fate of the empire. Born of a noble family, and possessing the greatest abilities, he owed not his preferment to servile court policy, but rose slowly and silently from the rank of a subaltern, to that of commander in chief, by mere dint of superior merit. Arriving within a few miles of the city of Prague, the day after the late defeat, he halted to collect the straggling and dispersed parties of the Austrian army.

FREDERIC, apprehensive that this army, which now amounted to above 40,000 men, and was continually upon the increase, might not only disturb his operations before Prague, but likewise, by some manœuvre, give the Austrians an opportunity to slip out of that place, judged it necessary to check its farther progress, and prevent its becoming too formidable. For this purpose he detached the Prince of Bevern, with about 25,000 men, to attack the Austrian army.

CAUTIOUS, subtle, and penetrating to a degree, Daun was too prudent to risk an action in his then circumstances, which, if attended with a defeat, would have put the finishing hand to the ruin of the Empress-Queen. Besides, he considered his troops as dispirited, sunk with disgrace, and overcome with fatigue. He considered, that such an army was by no means fit to cope with one flushed with success, confident of victory, and fighting under the eye of their sovereign ; he therefore retired as the Prussians advanced, encamped at Kolin, and fortified himself strongly, where he was daily joined by numbers of recruits sent to his army. His situation was such, that he

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EUROPE.

could not possibly be attacked but at an evident disadvantage; and by this means he divided the Prussian forces, one half of whom was drawn off from Prague, in order to watch his designs. Here he harassed the enemy, by cutting off their convoys; and restored, by degrees, ardour and confidence to his troops. He was no stranger to the enterprising disposition of the Prussian monarch, and the discipline and bravery of his army, and wisely provided against every contingency. His situation, he was sensible, would prove irksome and embarrassing to the enemy, and therefore he improved it to the best advantage.

HIS Prussian Majesty, finding that the Count's army still increased, and that it might soon be in a condition to raise the siege, the place being still defended with the most obstinate bravery, resolved to dislodge the Austrians from their strong post at Kolin, with one part of his army, while the other should continue the blockade at Prague. Marshal Keith endeavoured, with all the reasons he could urge, to dissuade the King from so hazardous an attempt, advising rather to raise the siege entirely, and attack the Count with the whole united Prussian force, or wait until he should get possession of the city, or the Austrians quit their advantageous post. By following either of these measures, a certain advantage would accrue. By the first, he might very probably defeat the Count; and, by keeping within his lines, the Austrian general might perhaps attempt to raise the siege, by which means he must lose his advantageous situation, and his Majesty might then meet him

King of
Prussia re-
solves to at-
tack Daun.

1757. upon equal terms.—But, notwithstanding this prudent advice, the King persisted in his resolution, and, on the 13th of June, left the camp before Prague, attended by a few battalions and squadrons, and joined the Prince of Bevern at Milkowitz, not doubting but that the reputation of his late victories would strike a terror into the enemy's troops, and that in consequence they would become an easy conquest. The army of Count Daun now amounted to 60,000,* deeply entrenched, with a fine and numerous train of artillery. The bottoms of the hills were secured by difficult defiles, redoubts, and batteries, erected on the most advantageous posts, and every accessible part of the camp fortified with lines and heavy pieces of battering cannon.—The personal bravery of the King of Prussia, and his confidence in his troops, were never more conspicuous than on this occasion. With a body of horse and foot, not exceeding 32,000, he undertook to dislodge an army of 60,000, with all the advantages of situation and entrenchments above mentioned.

Advantageous situation of the Austrian army.

THE King's army, on the 18th of June, came in sight of the Austrian camp, which he found fortified with the heavy cannon of Olmutz, and reinforced with several parties of troops from Moravia and Austria, which had joined them during his march from Prague. The Austrians were drawn up in three lines, on the high grounds be-

* Nothing can be more difficult, than to ascertain with precision the numbers of the German armies; there being scarce an author but what differs in this respect. We have endeavoured to follow those, who, from their situation, must have had the best information.

tween Genlitz and St. John Baptist. Notwithstanding the difficulties the King's troops had to encounter, they marched up to the attack with the most amazing firmness and intrepidity, amidst an incessant fire from the enemy's batteries, which swept away multitudes. The action began about three o'clock in the afternoon, when the Prussian infantry drove the Austrians from two eminences secured with heavy cannon ; but, immediately after, in attacking a third eminence, they were taken in flank by grape-shot poured from the enemy's batteries, and, after a most horrid slaughter, thrown into disorder. The King, animating his troops by his presence, soon rallied them, and they returned to the charge, but without effect. They were a second time repulsed. Prince Ferdinand did every thing in the power of a great general, to retrieve the honour of the day, but to no purpose. Seven times did he lead the infantry on to the attack, and as often were they beat back.—Every manœuvre was put in practice to gain a settlement in the Austrian camp, and all were attended with the same want of success. The Austrian general, in all his operations, cautious, penetrating, and decisive, was every where present, and neglected none of those nicer strokes on which the fate of a day frequently depends. Intimately acquainted with the intrepid bravery and skilful conduct of his Prussian Majesty, he exposed himself in every perilous situation, in order to infuse courage into his troops, who every where caught the fire of emulation from their general, and behaved with the utmost resolution.

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EUROPE.

Battle of
Kolin.

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EUROPE.

Prussians
defeated
by M.
Daun.

WHEN the Prussian infantry had thus been repeatedly drove back, a most furious attack was made by the cavalry, headed by his Majesty in person, upon the enemy's left wing, who received them with amazing fortitude, and soon threw them into confusion.—At last, when the King saw no possibility of changing the fortune of the day, but loss following loss, and misfortune succeeding misfortune, he drew off the remains of his army in such good order as to prevent a pursuit, and likewise to protect his artillery and baggage from falling a prey to the enemy, and retreated to Nimberg.

LEAVING the command of this shattered army with the Prince of Bevern*, although his Majesty had been upon horseback the whole day, without taking any repose, he set off immediately for the camp before Prague, where he arrived next morning, bringing the first news of his own de-

* Augustus William duke of Bevern was born in 1715: in 1733 he served against the French; in 1735 he entered the Prussian service, as lieutenant-colonel; in 1739 he was made a colonel, and wounded at the battle of Molwitz; in 1741 he had a regiment given him; in 1743 was made a major-general; in 1747 governor of Stettin; in 1750 knight of the black eagle, and lieutenant-general. He distinguished himself in the battles of Hohenfriedberg, Lowoschutz, Prague, Kolin, and Breslaw: after which he was made a prisoner, while he went with a servant only to reconnoitre the enemy. He was in 1758 released, without any ransom, for his affinity to the Empress. The King seeming offended at his conduct, he retired to his government at Stettin; where he remained 'till 1762, when he was called to the army in Silesia, and had a corps confided to him, while the King was besieging Schweidnitz. The Austrians, intending to relieve that place, attacked him with an army under the command of Generals Lacy, Laudhon, and Odonell, whom he repulsed several times, though they were three times stronger than he was, and gave the King time to come to his aid. He may, no doubt, be numbered among the first generals of this age.

feat.—He immediately gave orders for raising the siege, which was executed with so much secrecy and dispatch, that all his artillery, ammunition, and baggage, were sent off, and the army on their march, before the garrison knew any thing of the battle. In this action, the loss on both sides was very considerable. The killed and wounded on the side of the Prussians, amounted to between 8000 and 9000 men. Count Daun received two slight wounds, and had a horse shot under him. As soon as the garrison of Prague was informed of the retreat of the Prussians, a considerable body of Austrians, under the command of Prince Charles of Lorraine, sallied out in pursuit ; but, when they came up with their rear, they found it too well covered to hazard an attack, and therefore returned to Prague, leaving the Prussian army to pursue its route unmolested.

THUS ended the battle of Kolin, and siege of Prague ; which, if we advert to consequences, may be reckoned the severest check his Prussian Majesty received during the war.—By the loss of this battle, he found himself under the necessity of evacuating Bohemia, the conquest of which kingdom he was upon the eve of accomplishing. His army too, besides the loss sustained in killed and wounded, suffered greatly by sickness and desertion ; and the Austrians, from their late successes, and consequent junction, were become too powerful for him to make head against. He was therefore obliged to take refuge in Saxony, until an opportunity should offer of retrieving his misfortunes, which, great as they were, he bore

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Siege of
Prague
raised.Consequen-
ces of the
battle of
Kolin.

1757. with a heroism only natural to the most exalted minds. The loss of his mother too, at this time, was a stroke which he felt severely; especially as it was said, that grief for his bad success was a great mean of hastening her death.*

EUROPE.

* The King of Prussia has laid himself open to the imputation of rashness, and want of foresight, in the affair at Kolin. His principal error seems to have been, too much confidence in his own abilities, and too much contempt for those of his enemies. The necessity of his affairs sometimes prompted him to attempt things much above the means he had to accomplish them; and therefore no wonder that many of his projects, though in appearance plausible, wanted solidity, and consequently have not always been attended with success.—The conduct of Daun in this affair was perfectly uniform, and founded upon reasonable principles. His motions were always changed according to the circumstances; now slow and dilatory, now vigorous and active; and he permitted no blunder of the enemy to pass, of which he did not take advantage.—After the battle, the King of Prussia wrote the following letter to Lord Marshal.

“ The imperial grenadiers are an admirable corps; one hundred companies defended a rising ground that my best infantry could not carry. Ferdinand, who commanded them, returned seven times to the charge, but to no purpose. At first he mastered a battery, but could not hold it. The enemy had the advantage of a numerous and well served artillery. It did honour to Lichtenstein, who had the direction; the Prussian artillery alone can dispute it with him. My infantry were too few. All my cavalry were present, and idle spectators, except a bold push by my household troops, and some dragoons. Ferdinand attacked without powder: the enemy, in return, were not sparing of their's. They had the advantage of a rising ground, of intrenchments, and of prodigious artillery. Several of the regiments were repulsed by their musquetry. Henry performed wonders. I tremble for my worthy brothers: they are too brave: fortune turned her back on me this day. I ought to have expected it: she is a female, and I am no gallant. In fact, I ought to have had more infantry.—Success, my dear lord, often occasions a destructive confidence. Twenty-four battalions were not sufficient to dislodge sixty thousand men from an advantageous post. Another time we will do better. What say you of this league, that has only the Marquis of Brandenburgh for its object? The great elector would be surprised to see his grandson at war with the Russians, the Austrians, almost all Germany, and a hundred thousand French auxiliaries.—I know not if it will be a disgrace in me to submit; but I am sure there will be no glory in vanquishing me.”

C H A P. VI.

French army advances towards Hanover—Army of observation, commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, retreats beyond the Weser—Is followed by the French army—Battle of Hastenbeck—Allied army retreats to Stade—Pursued by the French—Convention of Closter-seven.

HITHERTO the war in Germany had been confined to particular spots, the King of Prussia's rapid conquests having deterred the allies of the Empress-Queen from taking the field ; but the defeat at Kolin, and the consequent evacuation of Bohemia, entirely changed the face of affairs. The whole empire now became one vast scene of bloodshed and devastation.

A powerful French army had been assembled, and were on full march to the frontiers of Hanover, under the command of Marshal D'Etrees. His Britannic Majesty then found it necessary to raise an army for the defence of his German dominions, the command of which was given to William Duke of Cumberland, his Majesty's second son, then a general in high esteem for his military talents. This army, under the name of the army of observation, was ordered to rendezvous at Bielefeld ; and thither the generals, who were appointed to command the different divisions, repaired, to receive their orders from the commander in chief, who set out from London on the

1757.
EUROPE.

French army under D'Etrees.

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EUROPE.

Allied army under the Duke of Cumberland.

9th of April, and arrived at Hanover on the 16th, from whence he immediately went to join the army. It consisted of 26,000 Hanoverians, 12,000 Hessians, 6000 Brunswickers, 3000 Prussians, 2000 Saxe-Gothans, and 1000 Lunenburgers, amounting in all to 50,000 effective men, well provided with every necessary, and esteemed as brave troops as any in Germany. Notwithstanding the avowed purpose of raising this army was for the purpose of protecting the electorate of Hanover, there was yet another point in view, which was the making a diversion in favour of his Prussian Majesty, and preventing the French troops from marching to the assistance of the Empress-Queen. It was generally imagined this force was fully sufficient to over-awe the French army, then in great want of provisions, especially forage, insomuch that Marshal D'Etrees, the Princes of Conde and la Marche Conti, princes of the blood, and all the officers without exception, were obliged to send back their horses for want of forage to subsist them.

WHILE the Hanoverian army lay thus encamped on the banks of the Weser, and the French army at a very little distance, several skirmishes happened, with various success; but none of any consequence to be particularly taken notice of.

IT was expected, as the French army was greatly in want of provisions, that they would strain every point to endeavour to pass the Weser, and so get footing in a country which had for a long time been unvisited by armies, and was therefore abounding in plenty. Of this the Ha-

noverian general could not be supposed ignorant, and it was his busineſs, in a ſpecial manner, to guard againſt it; but, from what motive is unknown, this was not even attempted. On the 13th of June, in the afternoon, the Duke, having received intelligence that the enemy had ſent off a large body of troops to Burghotte on his right, he immediately ordered the tents to be struck, and the army to march that evening to Hervorden. While on their march, about the beginning of the night, the van-guard of the French came up with the rear-guard of the allies, commanded by Major-General Einfiedel, attacked them briskly, and put them into conuſion; but they were ſoon rallied, and repulfed the enemy. In the morning they made another attack, but were again repulfed by the Hanoverian guards, which covered the rear of the army.—The allies then encamped at Cofeldt; and the Duke having ordered ſome detachments to paſs the river in the night, between Minden and Oldendorp, they marked out a new camp, in an advantageous ſituation, with the Weser in front, and flanked by eminences and marshes. In the mean time the rear-guard paſſed the river, and, in a few days after, the artillery, baggage, and ammunition.

THE French army fixed their head-quarters at Bielefield, the camp which the allies had left, after ſetting fire to the magazine, which they could not bring away. Here they continued encamped till the 6th of July, when, bridges of pontoons being thrown across the Weser, Marshal D'Etrees ſent off his heavy baggage; and, by the 18th, the

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Duke's army paſſes the Weser.

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whole French army was encamped in the electorate of Hanover. The French general immediately detached a part of his army, under the command of Lieutenant-Generals Broglio and Chevert, against Minden; and another under the command of the Marquis D'Auvel, against Emden, a sea-port belonging to the King of Prussia, and the only one which he had. Both these places, though of great importance, were suffered to fall into the enemy's hand with scarce the shew of resistance, and the inhabitants obliged to take an oath of allegiance to the French King. Marshal D'Etrees then laid part of the electorate of Hanover under contribution; and on the 24th of July, the whole French army marched in three columns towards the village of Latford, then occupied by the Hanoverian Major-General Furstenberg, who, as soon as the French appeared directing their march that way, had been reinforced by a body of troops under the command of Lieutenant-General Sporcken. Notwithstanding which, it was judged impracticable to defend that post; and therefore it was abandoned, and the troops retired to the main army.—The French immediately made two attacks on the allied army, neither of which, tho' conducted with great bravery, proved successful:—Thus repulsed, they encamped upon the heights of Latford, directly opposite to the Duke of Cumberland's out-posts, seemingly resolved to attack the allies as soon as their troops got a little repose.—This induced his Royal Highness, who did not think his situation a very eligible one for giving battle, to change it for one more advantageous.

*Hanover
laid under
contribution.*

This he accordingly effected, by drawing up his army on the eminences between the Weser and the woods ; with the village of Hastenbeck in his front, on his right the Hanielen river, and on his left the wood, where he likewise erected a considerable battery. He then called in all his outposts, and the army lay upon their arms, expecting the French to make an attack.

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IN this situation they were not long in suspense. On the morning of the 25th, the French army was seen advancing in columns, and immediately began a brisk cannonade, which continued all day, and galled the allies very severely, their artillery being in no degree equal to that of the French. — The French general made use of a great many feints and manœuvres, which entirely disconcerted the allies, not knowing where the attack was intended to be made. Right, left, and center, were alternately threatened, and the troops were again obliged to lie all night on their arms. The battery at the end of the wood was repaired, and supported by four battalions of grenadiers, commanded by Major-General Hardenberg. A battalion of grenadiers, with two field-pieces, was also ordered to reinforce Count Schulenberg, who commanded on the left of this battery ; and a new battery of twelve and six pounders was erected behind the village of Hastenbeck.

The allied army disconcerted by the French.

NEXT day, as soon as it was light, upon reconnoitering the enemy, their army was observed to lie in the same position as the day before. About five o'clock, a very brisk cannonading began against the battery behind the village, which con-

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Battle of
Hasten-
beck.

tinued above six hours, and was supported with firmness and resolution by the Hessian infantry and cavalry, who during that time never once gave way, nor were put into confusion. About three hours after, the firing of small arms began on the left of the allied army, which in a short time greatly increased, and the left wing seemed about to give way. Upon this, his Royal Highness detached three Hanoverian battalions, and six squadrons, round the wood by Aferde, to its assistance, who, immediately charging some advanced squadrons of the enemy, drove them back to their main army. The great number of the enemy that appeared in the wood, and marching round that side, made the grenadiers stationed to support the battery there, apprehensive of being surrounded, and cut off from the army. Major-General Hardenberg therefore thought it proper to draw them off towards the left, leaving the battery to fall into the hands of the enemy, who immediately took possession of it without opposition. On this occasion the hereditary Prince of Brunswick behaved with remarkable bravery; for, at the head of the Wolfenbuttle guards, and a battalion of Hanoverians, he charged, with fixed bayonets, a superior number of the enemy in possession of the battery, and retook it; but the French being posted on an eminence which flanked this battery, it was soon abandoned.

THE Duke of Cumberland, at last, finding the enemy had got possession of several of the allied army's most advantageous posts, and, from the inferiority of his artillery, that there was no pos-

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ability of dislodging them, ordered a retreat, which was effected in tolerable order, the French general not chusing to quit his advantageous position for the sake of a pursuit.—In this action, which was by no means a regular battle, the allied army was undoubtedly worsted, but their loss was but inconsiderable; for, altho' the cannonading and skirmishing continued three days, it amounted only to about 1400 killed, wounded, and prisoners, and a few pieces of cannon which fell into the hands of the enemy.—The French acknowledged to have lost 1500 men in killed and wounded.

THE consequences of this action were not more honourable and glorious to the French, than disgraceful and humiliating to the Duke of Cumberland. He retired with his army, first to Hamelen; in which, being a fortified town, he left a garrison; and afterwards to Nienburg. The archives and most valuable effects of Hanover had been removed, for security, to Stade; in order to preserve a communication with which, and likewise to cover Bremen and Verden, his Royal Highness removed to Hoya, in the neighbourhood of which town he encamped.—The French army immediately attacked Hamelen, and soon obliged the garrison to capitulate. In this town they found sixty brass cannon, and several mortars, with forty ovens, and great quantities of ammunition and provisions. A great many sick and wounded, whom the Duke had left here in his retreat, were made prisoners; not being included in the capitulation.

Duke of
Cumber-
land re-
treats be-
fore the
French ar-
my.

1757. EUROPE. M. d'Etrees superseded by the D. de Richlieu. ABOUT this time, by some court-manceuvre of Madame de Pompadour, by whom the councils of the French monarch were entirely guided, Marshal D'Etrees was removed from the command, being supereded by the Duke de Richlieu*, who had been on this occasion created a Marshal of France. Though greatly superior to Marshal D'Etrees, in the charms of person, and the refined profession of a courtier, he was by no means capable of vying with him in the nobler exploits of the field, and the more rugged service of the camp.—The courtiers of Lewis XV. pretended to find fault with the late commander, for not having, long before this time, conquered the whole electorate of Hanover, and marched as far as Magdeburg, in Upper Saxony ; and the orders for putting this disgrace upon him, were issued just about the very time he gained the battle of Hastenbeck.—Such at this time was the confidence of the French court, that it thought the army had nothing further to do than to see and conquer.

THE Duke de Richlieu, having taken upon himself the command, immediately detached a body of 4000 men, to lay the whole electorate of

*—“ You know the Due de Richlieu, now marshal, &c. &c.—By what means ?—Not by the purity of his character, the depth of his knowledge, or any uncommon penetration or sagacity. Women alone formed and raised him. The Dutches of Burgundy took a fancy to him, and had him before he was sixteen years old ; this put him in favour among the *beau monde* : and the late regent's eldest daughter, now Madam de Modene, took him next, and was near marrying him. These early connections with women of the first distinction, gave him those manners, graces, and address, which you see he has ; and which I can assure you, is all he has ; for, strip him of them, and he will be one of the poorest men in Europe.” *Chesterfield's letters*.

Hanover, as well as the territories of the Duke of Wolfenbuttle, under contribution, which they did with the utmost severity. In particular, Gottingen was commanded to furnish, within a limited time, and upon pain of military execution, 4000 pounds of white bread, 2000 bushels of oats, 100 loads of hay, and other provisions, which was more than could be found in the place. The whole electorate being in the hands of the enemy, the Duke de Chevreuse was appointed governor of the city of Hanover, and a detachment of 2000 men sent under his command to take possession of it. —Immediately upon his arrival, the Hanoverian garrison delivered up their arms, on condition of being allowed to retire whither they pleased. At the same time, a part of the French army was sent, under the command of M. de Contades, against the principality of Cassel, which they soon made themselves masters of without opposition, the magistrates of Cassel delivering up the keys of their city as soon as the French army appeared before it, and the master of the horse of that prince promising to supply them with every thing the country could afford.

THE Duke of Cumberland, who had remained in his camp near Hoya, from the 1st to the 24th of August, inactive and unmolested; having received intelligence, that a large body of French troops had passed the Alter, upon two bridges which they had laid over in the night, immediately ordered the army to march to Hausen, his left wing being too much exposed in his former position. The French army continued advancing

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EUROPE.

Hanover
laid under
contribution
by the
French ar-
my.

1757- as the Duke retired, which obliged him again to change his situation ; and he now took post between Ottersberg and Rothenburg, where it was expected he would make a stand, as it was a post naturally strong, and easily defended.—But an unaccountable fatality seemed to preside over all his measures : For the French army, having taken possession of Verden and Bremen without any resistance, endeavoured to seize upon all the posts round him ; of which as soon as the Duke was informed, and that his communication with Stade was in danger of being cut off, he again decamped, and abandoned the strong post of Rothenburg. On the 1st of September, he encamped at Selsingen ; but the French army appearing in his rear, he was at last obliged, with the troops under his command, to take refuge under the cannon of Stade.—Here hemmed in by the enemy on all sides, in a corner where it was impossible to act, and equally so to retreat, and without any conceivable means of providing his army with subsistence, he was obliged to have recourse to the mediation of the Count de Lynar, his Danish Majesty's minister ; and, on the 8th of September, signed the ever-memorable convention of Closterf^even, by which the whole Hanoverian army under his command laid down their arms, and were sent into quarters of cantonment, as prisoners of war at large.—Thus ended the operations of the army of observation !

Duke of
Cumber-
land takes
refuge un-
der the can-
non of
Stade.

Surrenders
to the
French ar-
my.

THE pernicious consequences of this convention were severely felt. The King of Prussia was deprived of that aid which he so much wanted, and

had a right to expect; and the French army, now at full liberty, and delivered from all hostilities in this quarter, was preparing to attack that monarch's dominions, which were in no condition to oppose them.

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THE adulatory annals of the times have endeavoured to throw a veil over the misconduct of the Duke of Cumberland in this campaign.* It is, however, glaring and obvious. The little military reputation he possessed, was acquired (how justly we shall not say) by quelling an insurrection in a part of his father's British dominions. At the head of a superior number of tried veterans, he discomfited, with an unnecessary slaughter, an undisciplined, half-armed rabble. This action was magnified into a prodigy of valour; and he was dignified with the title of Hero, and Deliverer of his country. But, should we even allow him the title of Conqueror in this affair, it cannot be denied, but that he forfeited the noblest part of that character, humanity, by his subsequent cruelty and barbarity.

PROUD of his rank, highly susceptible of flattery, and conceited of his abilities, he despised the salutary advice of the generals under him; and, at the beginning of this campaign, allowed the French to take every advantage, while he remained in his camp, irresolute, and inactive. The permitting the French army to pass the Weser, was his first blunder. But even then, and after the defeat

Misconduct
of the Duke
of Cumberland.

* It was insinuated, as a palliation of his Royal Highness's bad generalship, that he was constrained by the councils of the Hanoverian ministry, and acted in opposition to his own opinion.

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at Hastenbeck, what prospect could he have in retreating along the banks of that river? He might, with the greatest facility, have retired, by the way of Halberstadt, to Magdeburg, where, after a march of 100 miles, his army would have been in a place of safety. Instead of following this plan, he marched 150 miles, successively retreating from Hamelen to Nienberg, Hoya, Rothenburg, Selsingen, and, at last, to Stade, where he was so cooped up as to be incapable of extricating himself otherwise than by this shameful convention.—His operations in Germany being now at an end, he set off for England, where he arrived about the middle of October, and soon after resigned all his military offices; retiring, like another Cincinnatus, from the hurry and bustle of war, if not with so great glory, at least with a better fortune, and to a better farm.

BUT while we reprobate his cruelty, and despise his abilities as a general, justice and impartiality oblige us to acknowledge that his conduct in private life was highly praise-worthy. He was the patron of friendless merit, and alleviated, with a diffusive liberality, the distresses of the poor and the unfortunate.

C H A P. VII.

Expedition against Rochfort—Fort on the isle of Aix demolished—Inactivity of the British commanders—Return of the fleet to England.

HERE, for a little while, we shall leave the King of Prussia in the most dangerous situation ; and take a view of an enterprise which was concerted in England, and of which the principal motive was to relieve him from his present embarrassed condition.

THE French had, at this time, in a manner evacuated their own country, to fall upon Germany with their whole force. Exhausted of troops, the service greatly exceeded the few that were left ; and so vigorous an exertion on the continental side, had rendered a proper attention to the maritime parts impracticable.—The English ministry, well informed of this circumstance, set on foot an expedition, to which this situation of affairs in France was particularly favourable. To make a diversion in favour of the King of Prussia, and at the same time to give an effectual blow to the marine of France, were the objects of this enterprise. To answer this end, an attack upon one of their chief arsenals was judged most effectual ; and private intelligence determined the choice to Rochfort ; a place little inferior to Brest in its docks, yards, magazines of naval stores, and in the number of king's ships fitted out from it,

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An expedi-
tion against
the coast of
France.

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THE dispatch requisite in an expedition of this nature was obvious, and Mr. Pitt used every endeavour to accelerate the failing of the fleet; but such was the unpardonable negligence of the contractors,* that though the troops and ships of

* This delay has likewise been imputed to that envious malignity, which is ever ready to thwart the measures of great men.—Certain it is, that quickness and dispatch were the constant attendants of all Mr. Pitt's enterprises; but, as this was the first, perhaps his colleagues in office were not yet roused from their former negligence.—The following anecdote, which is said to be authentic, strongly marks the character of the minister.—It was preparatory to one of the secret expeditions during the last war, that the minister had given orders to the different presiding officers of the navy, military, and ordnance departments, to prepare a large body of forces, a certain number of ships, and a proportionable quantity of ordnance, stores, &c. and to have them all in readiness by a given day. To those orders he received an answer from each of these officers, declaring the total impossibility of a compliance with them. Notwithstanding it was at a very late hour, he sent immediately for his secretary; and, after speaking in terms of the highest indignation at the treatment he met with from the ignorance or negligence of his Majesty's servants, he gave the following commands:—“ I desire, Mr. Wood, that you will immediately go to Lord Anson; you need not trouble yourself to search the admiralty, he is not to be found there; you must pursue him to the gaming-house, and tell him from me, that if he does not obey the orders of government which he has received at my hands, that I will most assuredly impeach him. Proceed from him to Lord Ligonier; and though he should be bolstered with harlots, undraw his curtains, and repeat the same message. Then take your course to Sir Charles Frederick, and assure him, that if his Majesty's orders are not obeyed, these shall be the last which he shall receive from me.”—In consequence of these commands, Mr. Wood proceeded to White's, and told his errand to the first lord of the admiralty; who insisted that the secretary of state was out of his senses, and that it was impossible to comply with his wishes: “ However, he added, as mad-men must be answered, tell him, that I will do my utmost to satisfy him.” From thence he went to the commander in chief of the forces, and delivered the same message. He also said, that it was an impracticable business: “ and the secretary knows it, (added the old lord); nevertheless he is in the right to make us do what we can; and what it is possible to do, inform him, shall be done.” The surveyor general of the ordnance was next informed of Mr. Pitt's resolution; and, after some little consideration, he began to think that the orders

war were ready early in the month of August, they did not sail from Spithead till the 8th of September. Pity it is, that the designs of the greatest geniuses are liable to be frustrated by such contemptible and insignificant beings.—This formidable armament consisted of sixteen ships of the line, seven frigates, two bomb-kettches, two fire-ships, two busses,* and fifty-five transports; on board of which were ten regiments of foot, two

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Fleet sails
from Spit-
head.

might be completed within the time prescribed. In short, the army, navy, ordnance, military stores, &c. in spite of impossibilities, were all ready on the day appointed.

* viz.

Rates.	Guns.	Men.	Ships.	Commanders.
1st	100	870	Royal George	Matt. Buckle
2d	90	780	Ramillies (Adm. Hawke)	James Hobbs
		770	Neptune	James Galbraith
		750	Namur	Peter Dennis
	84	770	Royal William	Witt. Taylor
	80	700	Barfleur	Samuel Graves
3d	80	666	Prince's Amelia	Stephen Colby
	74	700	Magnanime	Hon. R. Howe
	74	700	Torbay	Hon. A. Keppel
		600	Dublin	Geo. B. Rodney
	70	520	Burford	James Young
	64	500	Alcide	James Douglas
	60	420	America	Hon. John Byron
		420	Achilles	H. L. Barrington
		420	Medway	Hon. Ch. Proby
		420	Dunkirk	Robert Digby
5th	32	220	Southampton	J. Gilchrist
6th	28	200	Coventry	Carr. Scrope
Frigate	18	120	Cormorant	Benj. Clive
		120	Postilion	William Cooper
		120	Beaver	Edw. Gascoigne
	16	80	Pelican	James O'Hara
	14	80	Escort	Charles Inglis
Bomb	8	60	Firedrake	Owen Edwards
		60	Infernal	Jas. M'Kenzie
Fireship		45	Pluto	John Lindsay
		45	Proserpine	Francis Banks
Buss	6	45	Canterbury	Tho. Lampriere
		45	Medway	Charles Lucas
Hof. ship	22	100	Thetis	John Moutray
			Hunter cutter.	

It appears by the books of the admiralty, that this was the finest fleet, with the heaviest weight of metal, and best found, that ever sailed from the British nation.

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regiments of marines, sixty light horse, and a formidable train of artillery. Sir Edward Hawke, with the Admirals Knowles and Broderic, commanded the fleet ; and Sir John Mordaunt, with the Generals Conway and Cornwallis, commanded the army.

Arrive off
the French
coast.

THE destination of this armament was kept a profound secret, and puzzled the penetration of the most shrewd politicians ; but an universal spirit was diffused among the troops, to whom it was sufficient to know they were going against the enemy. On the 23d, about eight in the morning, the van of the fleet stood towards the Isle of Aix, which lies in the mouth of the river leading up to Rochfort ; the rest of the ships anchoring at about two leagues distance from the island. Captain Howe in the Magnanime led the van. About noon, the French fired at him from their fort ; but did little execution. He continued his course with the greatest composure, without firing a single gun ; till having gained the length of the fort, he bore down, and dropped his anchors as close to the walls as the ship could come. He then began to return their salutations ; and so incessant was his fire, that in less than a minute his ship seemed one continued blaze. The fort, unable to withstand so dreadful a cannonade, surrendered in less than an hour ; and part of the land-forces were put on shore, to take possession of the island.*

* Notwithstanding the very severe orders against drunkenness, both soldiers and sailors got exceedingly intoxicated on this occasion. The poor inhabitants were plundered and insulted ; even the church was pillaged, the priest robbed of his little library, and his robes became a masquerading habit for the drunken tars.

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EUROPE.

THIS first conquest, however unimportant, was considered as an omen of further success. It gave spirits to the whole fleet; and had the troops been landed that night, or even next morning, there was good reason to suppose, that every thing would have succeeded that could have been expected from such a force. But, as if it had been intended to give the enemy time to recollect themselves, and gather their forces together, eight days were suffered to elapse since the fleet had been seen hovering off the French coast; and the greatest part of the time was spent in holding councils of war, and sounding along the shore.

THE day after the taking of the little island of Aix, Sir Edward Hawke sent Admiral Broderic, with Captains Dennis, Douglas, and Buckle, to reconnoitre and found the coast, and to fix upon a proper place to land the troops which were intended to act against Rochfort. These gentlemen reported, that there were two places at which the troops might be conveniently landed; and that there was a small fort at one of these places, but which, according to the opinion of Colonel Wolfe, who had previously reconnoitred it, might be easily silenced by a single ship. In consequence of these reports, the commanders in chief seemed determined to proceed; but were staggered in their resolution, by the information of some prisoners. A council of war was had recourse to. Irresolute deliberation, and inactive caution, took place of spirited enterprise, and daring resolution; and instead of proceeding immediately to action, the time was spent in talking about it. The result

Procrastination of
the British
commanders,

1757.
EUROPE.

of this long deliberation was, That an attempt upon Rochfort was neither adviseable nor practicable.—Another council of war, however, composed of the same members, being soon after called, they unanimously resolved, That it *was* adviseable to land the troops!

Troops or-
dered to
disembark.

ACCORDINGLY, on the 28th of September, orders were given to the troops to be ready to disembark from the transports at twelve o'clock at night. The difficulty attending the execution of these orders, was obvious to the most unobserving soldier in the fleet. The ships were at least four miles from the place where they intended to land; which was now, as may naturally be supposed, in a more prepared order to receive them; and two distinct encampments were said to be observed at a little distance from the shore. Notwithstanding those obstacles, and though the landing, both as to the time and manner, bore great resemblance to a forlorn hope, there appeared not the least sign of fear among the troops; but, on the contrary, things were carried on with so much alertness and dispatch, that the boats were filled at least an hour before the time appointed.

THE night was cold and boisterous; and the boats, crowded full of men, remained beating against the sides of the vessels, for the space of four hours; at the expiration of which, the troops were ordered to return to their respective ships.

Return to
their ships.

—Sir Edward Hawke declared, that he could not be answerable for the safety of his Majesty's ships, if they continued much longer on the coast at that season of the year. The two following days

were spent in blowing up the fortifications on the island of Aix; and, on the 1st of October, the fleet, with the army on board, made the best of their way home, where they all arrived safe on the 6th day of the same month.*

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Fleet arrives in Britain.

* His Majesty's instructions to Sir John Mordaunt are curious, and well explain the intention of this expedition.

“ GEORGE, R.

1st, You shall immediately, upon the receipt of these instructions, repair to the Isle of Wight, where we have appointed ships to convey you, and the forces under your command, to the coast of France; and, so soon as the said forces shall be embarked, you shall accordingly proceed, without loss of time, under convoy of a squadron of our ships of war, to be commanded by our trusty and well-beloved Sir Edward Hawke, knight of the Bath, admiral of the blue squadron of our fleet; whom we have appointed commander in chief of our ships to be employed in this expedition; the said admiral, or the commander in chief of our said ships for the time being, being instructed to *co-operate* with you, and to be *aiding and assisting* in all such enterprises, as, by these our instructions, you shall be directed to undertake for our service.

2d, Whereas we have determined, with the blessing of God, to prosecute the just war in which we are engaged against the French king, with the utmost vigour; and its being highly expedient, and of urgent necessity, to make some expedition, that may cause a diversion, and engage the enemy to employ, in their own defence, a considerable part of their forces, destined to invade and oppress the liberty of the empire, and to subvert the independency of Europe; and if possible to make some effectual impression on the enemy, which, by disturbing and shaking the credit of their public loans, impairing the strength and resources of their navy, as well as disconcerting, and in part frustrating their dangerous and extensive operations of war, may reflect lustre on our arms, and add life and strength to the common cause: and whereas we are persuaded, that nothing, in the present situation of affairs, can so speedily and effectually annoy and distress France, as a successful enterprize against Rochfort: our will and pleasure is, that you do attempt, as far as it shall be found practicable, a descent, with the forces under your command, on the French coast, at or near Rochfort, in order to attack, if practicable, and by a vigorous impression force that place; and to burn and destroy, to the utmost of your power, all docks, magazines, arsenals, and shipping, that shall be found there, and exert such other efforts as you shall judge most proper for annoying the enemy.

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SUCH was the conclusion of the Rochfort ~~expedition~~ ; which, for a time, dispirited the nation in proportion to the sanguine hope it had raised. When the mighty Armada first spread its sails, it

3d. After the attempt on Rochfort shall either have succeeded or failed ; and in case the circumstances of our forces and fleet shall, with prospect of success, still admit of further operations, you are next to consider Port L'Orient and Bourdeaux, as the most important objects of our arms, on the coast of France : and our will and pleasure is, that you do proceed successively to an attempt on both, or either of those places, as shall be judged practicable ; or on any other place that shall be thought most adviseable, from Bourdeaux homeward to Havre, in order to carry and spread, with as much rapidity as may be, a warm alarm along the maritime provinces of France.

4th. In case, by the blessing of God upon our arms, you shall make yourself master of any place on the coast of France, our will and pleasure is, that you do not keep possession thereof ; but that, after demolishing and destroying, as far as may be, all works, defences, magazines, arsenals, shipping, and naval stores, you do proceed, successively, on the ulterior part of this expedition, according as any of them shall be judged adviseable, and may be performed within such time as shall be consistent with your return with the troops under your command, so as to be in England at or about, or as near as may be, the latter end of September, unless the circumstances of our forces and fleet shall necessarily require their return sooner ; and you are to land the troops at Portsmouth, or such other of our ports as the exigency of the case may suggest.

5th. Whereas it is necessary, that, upon certain occasions, you should have the assistance of a council of war, we have thought fit to appoint such a council, which shall consist of four of our principal land-officers, and of an equal number of our principal sea-commanders, including the commanders in chief of our land and sea-forces, (except in cases happening at land, relating to the carrying on any military operations, to be performed by our land-forces only ; in which cases you may call a council of war, consisting of such officers of our land-forces as you shall think proper) ; and all such land and sea-officers, in the several cases before mentioned, are hereby respectively directed, from time to time, to be aiding and assisting with their advice, so often as they shall be called together by you, or by the commander in chief of our squadron for that purpose ; and in all such councils of war, when assembled, the majority of voices shall determine the resolutions thereof ; and in case the voices shall happen to be equal, the president shall have the casting vote.

carried with it such an air of conquest, and so elevated the minds of those who wished well to their country, that its return, without effecting any thing but the demolition of the little fort of Aix, appeared so much below their conception, they could compare it to nothing but the mountain in labour which brought forth a mouse. The clamour of the nation in general was so great, as to bring the commander in chief of the land-forces, Sir John Mordaunt, to a court-martial, in which, from the dubiety of the evidence against him, he was acquitted.—There remained, however, this consolation ; that, though nothing was done, there was nothing undone ; for the whole armament came safe and entire home again, without the loss of any thing more than time and

1757.
EUROPE,

Public diff.
content.

6th, And whereas the success of this expedition will very much depend upon an entire good understanding between our land and sea officers, we do hereby strictly enjoin and require you, on your part, to maintain and cultivate such good understanding and agreement ; and to order that the soldiers under your command should man the ships, when there should be occasion for them, and when they can be spared from the land service ; as the commander in chief of our squadron is instructed on his part, to entertain and cultivate the same good understanding and agreement ; and to order the sailors and marines, and also the soldiers serving as a part of the complements of our ships, to assist our land forces, if judged expedient, by taking post on shore, manning batteries, covering the boats, securing the safe re-embarkation of the troops, and such other service as may be consistent with the safety of our fleet. And in order to establish the strictest union that may be between you and the commander in chief of our ships, you are hereby required to communicate these instructions to him, and he will be directed to communicate those he shall receive to you.

7th, You shall, from time to time, and as you shall have opportunity, send constant accounts of your proceedings in the execution of these our instructions, to one of our principal secretaries of state, from whom you will receive such further orders and directions as we may think proper to give to you.

G. R."

1757. expence; and the experience gained by it, in some measure compensated for that loss.

THE court of enquiry and the court-martial appointed on the occasion, threw very little light upon this intricate affair. The commander in chief was honourably acquitted; and measures were taken to prevent a parliamentary enquiry. But the public was far from being satisfied. The contrast between the lenity of this sentence, and the rigour of that passed on the unfortunate Byng, excited an universal murmur. The failure of this enterprize, was attributed by many to some secret cause; and there were not wanting some refining politicians, who pretended to discover a tenderness for Hanover, or at least a connection with the convention at Stade.*—The minister and admiral were, however, unanimously acquitted by the public, so that this grand expedition miscarried without a cause.

*—"In short, there must have been some secret in that whole affair, which has not yet transpired; and I cannot help suspecting that it came from Stade. *We* had not been successful there; perhaps *we* were not desirous that an expedition, in which *we* had neither been consulted nor concerned, should prove so. Mordaunt was *our* creature; and a word to the wife will sometimes go a great way.—The day after we had taken the island of Aix, Colonel Wolfe publicly offered to do the business with 500 men and three ships only. In all these complicated political machines, there are so many wheels within wheels, that it is always difficult, and sometimes impossible, to guess which of them gives direction to the whole. Mr Pitt is convinced that the principal wheel, or, if you will, *the spoke in his wheel*, came from Stade. This is certain, at least, that Mordaunt was the man of confidence with that person. Whatever be the truth of the case, there is, to be sure, hitherto an *hiatus valde defendus*." Chesterfield.

C H A P. VIII.

Desperate situation of his Prussian Majesty—Memel taken by the Russians—Zittau stormed, and taken by the Austrians—Russians lay waste the Prussian dominions—Opposed by M. Lehwald—Battle of Norkitten—Sudden retreat of the Russians out of Prussia.

THE affairs of the King of Prussia now claim our attention; and, in this place, it will not be improper to take a short view of the many and almost insurmountable difficulties he had to encounter. Deprived of the assistance of his allies by the convention of Closter-seven, he had nothing to trust to, but his own magnanimity, and the bravery of his troops.—The whole Germanic body was now let loose upon him. When this monarch was put under the ban of the empire, all the princes who compose it, were required to furnish their respective contingents of men and money against him; notwithstanding which, they came in but very slowly, and with the utmost reluctance. Four thousand men belonging to the Duke of Wirtemberg, mutinied against their officers, and marched home again, maugre all the efforts to detain them; and the Elector Palatine lost above 1000 men by desertion. However, after many delays, this army was at last completed; and, being joined by the French under the command of the Prince of Soubise, amounting in all to about 65,000 men, were in full march to

1757.
EUROPE.

Army of
execution
slowly col-
lected.

Joined by
the French.

1757. enter Saxony.—The Russians, under the command of Marshal Apraxin and General Fermor, amounting to 80,000 regulars, besides Cossacs and other barbarians, had already entered Ducal Prussia, which they were laying waste with fire and sword, and committing every species of outrage. Europe. Three several Austrian armies, amounting to about 120,000, were in the field ; one laying siege to Schweidnitz in Silesia, another to Zittau in Lusatia, and a third presented itself before the gates of Berlin. An army of 22,000 Swedes had penetrated into Prussian Pomerania, taken a couple of towns, and laid the whole country under contribution. Besides all these, the French army under the Duke de Richlieu, amounting to 81,000, being, by the convention of Closter-seven, left at liberty to turn their arms against Prussia, had penetrated into Brandenburg, plundering the towns, laying waste the country, and practising every enormity to gratify the rapacity of a needy general, whose fortunes had been greatly shattered by a course of luxurious dissipation.

His des-
perate situa-
tion.

THE eyes of all Europe were now turned upon his Prussian Majesty ; and it was generally believed, that his ruin was upon the eve of being accomplished.—Surrounded with enemies, any one of whom was sufficient to crush him ; almost the whole of his dominions in the hands of strangers ; his subjects oppressed, ruined, and murdered in cold blood, with all the wanton cruelty of inhuman barbarity ; and without a friendly power to extricate him out of this deplorable situation ; he found relief from his misfortunes in his own mag-

nanimity ; and his genius, fertile in expedients, and enterprising in action, pointed out to him the means to overcome those difficulties, which he, perhaps, of all men, was only capable of surmounting.* So little was his mind affected with his present distresses, that at this time he made a sort of philosophical testament, which he wrote in French verse.

1757.

EUROPE.

And magnanimity.

Previous to the battle of Prague, the Empress of Russia had published an order, strictly prohibiting all her subjects, who were captains of ships, from assisting the Prussians ; and authorising her

* The following letter, said to be published by his authority, describes his situation in a very picturesque manner :

“ Many persons, who saw the King of Prussia when he passed lately through Leipsic, cannot express how much he is altered. They say he is so much worn away, that they scarce knew him. This, indeed, is not to be wondered at; he hath not a body of iron, like Charles XII. and he endures as great fatigues as he did. He is as much on horseback as Charles was, and often lies upon the ground. His inward sufferings cannot be less than his outward : Let us cast our eyes on a map of the Prussian dominions; and measure what he hath left of the many fair possessions he had in the month of April last, of which a space of seven months hath stript him. Whence can he have men ? he is shut out from the empire ; and from whence can he draw money ? the dutchy of Guelders, the dutchy of Cleves, the principality of Muers, the county of Lingen, the county of Lipstadt, the principality of Minden, East-Friesland, Embden, and its infant company, part of the archbishopric of Magdeburg, some other parts of the Marche, Ducal Pomerania, a great part of Silesia, a great part of the kingdom of Prussia, Berlin itself, almost all his dominions, in short, are either taken from him, or laid under contribution, and possessed by his enemies, who collect the public revenues, fatten on the contributions, and with the money which they draw from the electorate of Hanover, and other conquests, defray the expences of the war. This picture certainly differs greatly from that which the King of Prussia might have sketched out, the day he took arms to enter Saxony. Add to this, the Duke of Cumberland’s convention, which deprived him of all his allies, and left him without any assistance whatever, excepting four or five hundred thousand pounds sterling, which the British parliament may give him. Add likewise some domestic uneasinesses.”

1757.
EUROPE.

commanders by sea, to make prize of all such who should be found so offending, by the transportation of troops, arms, or ammunition. She had sent a fleet of men of war to block up the Prussian ports in the Baltic, which took several ships employed in carrying provisions and merchandise from one place to another. The commandant of Memel, a sea-port of Poland, but subject to the King of Prussia, upon a Russian man of war appearing before it, sent an officer to know whether he came as a friend or an enemy.—The Russian captain made no hesitation in declaring, that his orders were to make prize of all Prussian vessels he should meet with. Upon which the commandant issued orders for firing upon all Russian ships that should appear before that place.

THE Russian army, under Marshal Apraxin, had hitherto proceeded so slowly, having been upon their march upwards of six months, as made it generally doubted whether they really intended to act against his Prussian Majesty; but, on a sudden, orders were given for quickening their march, and they soon appeared earnestly determined to ruin that monarch.—The first open appearance of hostility, was their attack on Memel, which soon surrendered by capitulation, the garrison marching out with all the honours of war. The King of Prussia, easily foreseeing what enormous cruelties were to be expected from such barbarous enemies, who were unacquainted with the art of making war as practised by civilized nations, and who took every opportunity wantonly to pillage, waste, and destroy, published a declaration; in

Memel taken by the Russians.

which, after avowing his motives for making war on the Empress-Queen, and exposing the artifices by which Russia was induced to espouse her quarrel, he concludes with threatening, that whatever excesses and disorders the Russian troops should commit in his dominions, he would retaliate on the provinces and subjects of Saxony.

1757.
EUROPE.

UPON his Prussian Majesty's quitting Bohemia, having sent his heavy artillery to Dresden, he encamped on the banks of the Elbe, where he strongly entrenched his main army. The troops under Marshal Keith encamped on the opposite shore, a communication being kept up between the two armies by means of a bridge. At the same time he took every precaution to secure the passes into Saxony, by strong detachments from his army. The Austrians, being thus prevented from penetrating into Saxony by the way of the Elbe, marched a detachment into the circle of Buntzlaw, where they suddenly fell upon the important post of Gabel, which they took, after an obstinate resistance by the Prussian garrison, consisting of four battalions, who, with Major-General Putkammer, were under the necessity of surrendering prisoners of war.

The Austrians
seize
Gabel.

A detachment under the command of the Prince of Prussia had been sent to watch the motions of this army; but the Austrians having thus outmarched them towards Lusatia, his Majesty found himself under the necessity of retreating, for which he made so good a disposition, that he did not lose a single man, though he passed in sight of the Austrian army. The Prussian troops began

1757.
EUROPE.

their march on the 20th of June, and by the end of the month encamped at Bautzen in Lusatia, without being in the least harassed by the enemy, though great numbers of Austrian hussars, and other irregular troops, frequently appeared in their rear.

IMMEDIATELY after the taking of Gabel, the Austrians marched a strong detachment to attack Zittau, a trading town in Upper Saxony, belonging to the King of Poland, but now in possession of the Prussians, who had garrisoned it with six battalions, and in which they had a considerable magazine. This town they attacked with such fury, as if they were determined to raze it to the foundation. Though the inhabitants, as subjects of the King of Poland, were friends and allies, they paid no regard to their sufferings, but kept up a continual cannonade and bombardment, till almost the whole place was reduced to ashes.— The troops who composed the garrison, finding they could not preserve the town, made their escape, carrying with them what they could of the magazine, leaving a colonel, and about 400 men, to keep possession as long as it was tenible.— The town being set on fire in several places, the Austrians, taking advantage of the confusion which this produced, entered it sword in hand, making no kind of distinction between Prussians and the inhabitants, but destroying every thing before them, with the most dreadful carnage. Instead of assisting the inhabitants to quench the flames, the Pandours, Sclavonians, and other irregular troops, immediately began to plunder such houses as the

Zittau
stormed,
and taken
by the Au-
strians.

fire had not reached, carrying off all the valuables they could find. In fine, the whole town was destroyed, excepting little more than an hundred houses, two churches, and the council library. All the other public buildings, consisting of two cathedrals, orphan-house, schools, town-house, and prison, with all the archives of the town-council, were reduced to ashes. The whole of this transaction was effected under the eye of the Prince of Prussia, who was not in a condition to prevent it. Indeed, he and the detachment under his command were in danger of being surrounded by the Austrians ; but he was fortunately extricated from this danger, by the approach of the King's army to Bautzen, when the enemy retired from their posts on the right. Soon after this, the Prince of Prussia quitted the army, and retired to Berlin, where he soon after died ; an event which affected the King considerably, being sensible that grief and a concern for his welfare had no small share in his death.

MARSHAL Keith, who, with the army under his command, had been left to guard the passes of the mountains of Bohemia, now joined the King's army, after having been much harrassed in his march by the enemy's irregular troops, and lost part of his baggage. The Prussian army now amounted to 60,000 men, strongly encamped between Bautzen and Goerlitz, besides a party consisting of twelve battalions and ten squadrons, under the command of the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, which was left to cover Dresden.

1757.

EUROPE.

1757.
EUROPE.

ABOUT the beginning of July, the Empress-Queen thought proper to recal her ministers from the court of London; in consequence of which, Mr. Keith, the British minister at Vienna, left that place, as did also the British minister at Brussels. About the same time, all communication was ordered to be broke off between England and the Austrian Netherlands; notwithstanding which, the pacquet-boats still continued to pass to and from Ostend with letters as usual. On the 19th of July, the Austrian garrisons of Ostend and Nieuport evacuated these places, and were replaced by French garrisons under the command of M. de la Motte, though the Empress-Queen still reserved to herself the full exercise of all her rights of sovereignty in the low countries.

Gueldres
surrenders
to the
French.

THE city of Gueldres, which had been for about two months blocked up by the French army, at last surrendered, the garrison being reduced to great extremity for want of provisions. By the capitulation, which is dated the 24th of August, the troops which garrisoned the town, were to march out with all the honours of war, and were to be conducted to Berlin; but, by the time they came to Cologne, they were so reduced by desertion, as to amount only to forty-seven men, besides the commandant.

THE Prince of Anhalt-Desfau, with the army under his command, still lay strongly entrenched in his camp at Pirna, between whom and the Austrian troops several skirmishes happened, with various success; the most considerable of which was an attack made on the camp, on the 10th of

August, when the Austrians were repulsed, with the loss of two pieces of cannon, and a good many killed and wounded.

1757.
EUROPE.

HITHERTO Silesia had the good fortune not to have been visited with the horrors of war this season. At length Baron Jahnus, an Austrian Colonel, with a small party under his command, entered that country, and made himself master of several undefended places, viz. Hirschberg, Waldenberg, Gottesburg, Frankenstein, and Landshut; and afterwards made an attempt upon Strigau, in which was a Prussian garrison, but was repulsed with considerable loss.

THE Russians, who, since the taking of Memel, had remained pretty quiet, now began again to bestir themselves, advancing, with all the horrors of inhuman barbarity, into the heart of Prussia.—Field-Marshal Lehwald, who, with 30,000 men under his command, had been left for the defence of that kingdom, was encamped near Velau, and had the whole Russian army to cope with, amounting to three times the number of his troops. Not being in a condition with this small force to protect the King his master's subjects from the depredations daily committed by the Russians, he resolved to hazard a battle, by attacking them in their camp at Norkitten, though strongly fortified, and in an advantageous situation; their army consisting of four lines, each of which was defended by an entrenchment. Accordingly, on the 30th of August, at five o'clock in the morning, the attack was begun, and carried on with such vigour by the Prussians, as entirely to break the enemy's

The Russian army advances against Prussia.

Attacked by M. Lehwald.

1757.
EUROPE.

Prussians
retire.

first line, and force all their batteries. The Russian cavalry were entirely routed by the Prince of Holstein Gottorp, at the head of his regiment of dragoons; immediately after which, he fell upon a regiment of grenadiers, who were all cut to pieces. — When the Prussians came up to the second line, Marshal Lehwald, perceiving that he could not attempt to carry it, without running the hazard of losing his whole army, thought it more prudent to retire, which he did deliberately, and in good order, the enemy not thinking proper to stir out of their trenches to pursue him. The loss of the Prussians in this action, amounted to 3000 men; and that of the enemy, to about 5000. The Russian general, Lapuchin, was wounded and taken prisoner, as was likewise a colonel of the Russian artillery; but the former was sent back on his parole. The Prussians lost no officer of distinction, the only one wounded being Lieutenant-General Count Dohna.

Precipitate
retreat of
the Russian
army out
of Prussia.

AFTER this action, the Russians remained quite inactive in their camp till the 13th of September, when, to the surprise of every body, they made a most precipitate retreat out of Prussia, leaving about fifteen thousand sick and wounded men behind them, a great part of the military stores, and 80 pieces of cannon. The real cause of this unaccountable retreat, remains to this day an impenetrable secret, nothing having transpired on which to ground a probable conjecture as to the reason of so extraordinary a proceeding. In order to prevent a pursuit, Marshal Apraxin concealed his real design, by making his irregular troops

1757.
EUROPE.

advance towards the Prussian camp; by which means, Marshal Lehwald was not informed of it till three days afterwards. He then dispatched Prince George of Holstein with ten thousand horse in pursuit of them; but notwithstanding all his endeavours, he could not come up with their army, they having made forced marches in order to be the sooner out of an enemy's country, burning and destroying the villages as they went along. However, the Prussians made a few stragglers prisoners, and a good many were killed by the country people, out of revenge for the miseries they had made them undergo. In ordering this retreat, Marshal Apraxin had divided his army into two columns, one of which directed its way through the bailiwick of Absternen, and threw bridges over the river Jura; whilst the other took the road towards Memel, where the pursuit of the Prussians was stopped; the bridges over that river being destroyed by the violence of the stream. All the roads were strewed with dead carcasses of men and horses, the Russian army having suffered for want of provisions; the countries through which they passed being entirely ruined, so that they could find no other subsistence than roots and herbage.*

Pursued by
the Prus-
sians.

* Previous to this campaign, the Russian troops were but little known; it is no wonder therefore that M. Lehwald should deem his troops greatly superior to theirs, and attack them with such an inferior number. But experience has proved, that the Russian infantry is by far superior to any in Europe. They cannot be defeated; they must be killed; and great bodies of cavalry only can effect this.

C H A P. IX.

The Prussian monarch offers battle to the Austrians, which they reject—Leipsic subjected to military execution—Frederic advances against the combined army—Battle of Rosbach.

1757. **EUROPE.** **LET** us now take a view of the transactions of the army under the command of his Prussian Majesty in person, which, as was said before, was encamped between Bautzen and Goerlitz. The Austrian army, amounting, by their own account, to 130,000 men, was strongly encamped on the banks of the river Weisle. Although the army under the King of Prussia did not amount to half that number, being about 60,000, he resolved to offer the Austrians battle. For this purpose he removed his head-quarters to Bernstedel, and, on the 15th of August, his army came within cannon-shot of the enemy's camp. The Austrians immediately struck their tents, and drew up in order of battle upon the spot. Frederic likewise formed his army over against them; but the evening approaching, and being desirous of informing himself of the state of the ground between the two armies, he deferred the examination of it till next day; and the troops on both sides spent the night under arms. Next morning, his Prussian Majesty, upon reconnoitring the enemy, found their right defended by the river Weisle; the main body of their army extended along a rising ground,

King of
Prussia of-
fers battle
to the Au-
strians.

at the bottom of the hill, covered with wood, which protected their left ; and in their front was a brook, passable but in three places, and only for three or four men a-breast. There was an opening on their left, where three or four battalions might have marched in front, but they had placed three lines of infantry behind ; and within musket-shot of this opening, on a hill which flanked it, were placed four thousand foot, with fifty pieces of cannon.

1757.

EUROPE.

IN this strong situation was the Austrian army when the King of Prussia offered it battle, but without effect. Four days did his army present But in vain. itself in order of battle before the enemy's camp, who, though, as formerly said, double its number, would not move a step to meet him. His Majesty finding that nothing would do to bring them to an engagement, returned to his camp at Bernstedel ; but before he had gone half a mile, he again drew up his army in a line of battle, and remained in that position for upwards of an hour, but with no better success than before, the Austrians not daring to leave their camp.

THE army of the empire, called the army of execution, consisting of the troops raised by the different Germanic states, in obedience to the decrees of the Aulic council, having been joined by the French army under the Prince de Soubise, had advanced into Saxony, and encamped at Erfurth. When his Prussian Majesty found that nothing would prevail upon the Austrians to quit their camp, he immediately formed the resolution of marching against this army. For this purpose,

1757.
EUROPE.

Frederic
goes in
search of
the com-
bined army.

he ordered Marshal Keith to join him with the troops under his command, consisting of sixteen battalions and forty squadrons. With these, and several other detachments which had likewise joined him, his whole force amounted only to 40,000 men; having left the rest of his army, under the command of the Prince of Bevern, strongly encamped in the neighbourhood of Dresden. Marching with the utmost celerity, he arrived at Frfurth on the 14th of September; but the enemy, having intelligence of his approach, had retreated first to Gotha, and afterwards to Eysenach, where they entrenched themselves in a very strong camp; and his Majesty fixed his head-quarters at Kirschlaben, near Erfurth, after detaching General Seydelitz with a party under his command, to take possession of Gotha, which the enemy had just quitted.

AT this time, an affair happened, which, tho' not very material of itself, yet, as it marks the Prussian general's good conduct and skill in improving circumstances, must not be omitted. On the 19th of September, an attempt was made by a part of the combined army, to surprize and carry off General Seydelitz and his party, amounting to about 1200 men, who occupied Gotha. For this purpose the Prince of Saxe-Hildburghausen detached a body of between 7000 and 8000 men, who, after marching all night, arrived at Gotha about eight in the morning. General Seydelitz, though surprised, made a good retreat, not losing 20 men.—The enemy immediately took possession of the place, expecting to repose themselves after the

The Prus-
sian general
Seydelitz
surprized.

1757.

EUROPE.

night's fatigue. About this time a fog happened to arise, which General Seydelitz perceiving, determined to improve it. Concealing himself behind some hills about a league off, he caused 100 dragoons to dismount to represent infantry, and divided the rest of his troops into twenty-two small bodies, which extended themselves very far, and, by the favour of the fog, appeared like so many squadrons. At one in the afternoon, he marched forward, and attacked a body of French with his hussars only. News were immediately carried to the French generals, that the whole Prussian army was advancing, that they lay behind the hills, and that they were extending towards the left, in order to surround them; whereupon they made all possible haste to retreat, and, after having marched all night, were obliged to return the way they came, without getting any refreshment.—General Seydelitz pursued them, killed about 130, and made one lieutenant-colonel, three majors, four lieutenants, and sixty-two private men prisoners, besides taking a good deal of baggage.

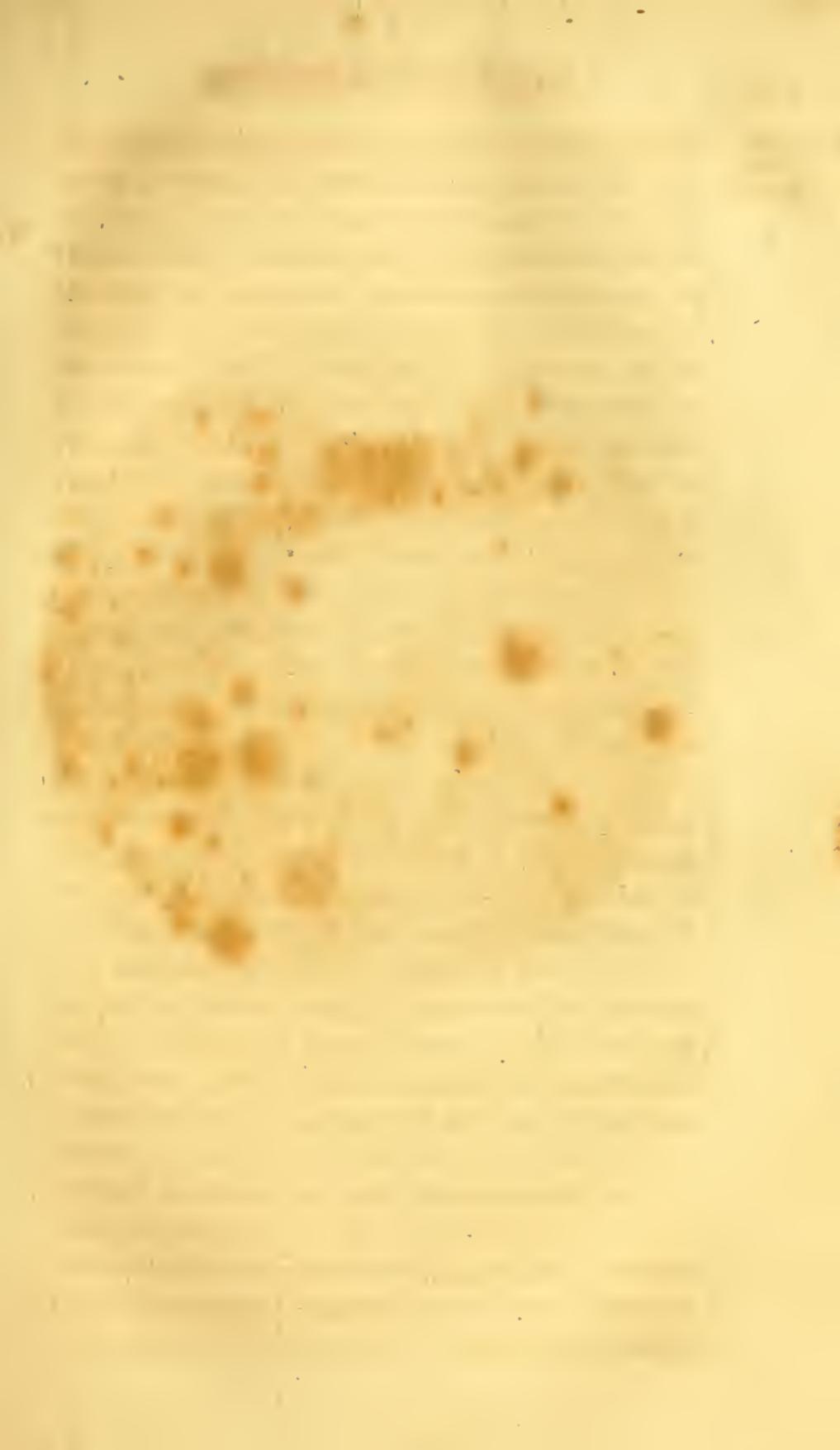
His success-
ful manœuv-
vre.

UPON intelligence of this action, his Prussian Majesty advanced towards Eysenach, with a design to offer the enemy battle; but he found them so strongly entrenched, that an attack was judged impracticable. He was then obliged to retire again towards Erfurth, for want of provisions, and afterwards to Naumberg, on the river Sala; upon which the combined army again took possession of Gotha and Erfurth.

1757.
EUROPE.

Austrians
defeat a
party of
Prussians
under Ge-
neral Win-
terfield.

SOON after the King of Prussia left Bernstedel, the Austrians took possession of it, making prisoners a Prussian battalion, which had been left there.—On the 7th of September, two battalions of the troops under the command of General Winterfield, being part of the Prince of Bevorn's army, having been posted on a high ground on the other side of the Neiss, near Hennersdorff, in the neighbourhood of Goerlitz, were attacked by 15,000 Austrians, who made themselves masters of the eminence, after being several times repulsed. On this occasion the Prussians suffered a very considerable loss in killed and wounded. Their brave General Winterfield was killed by a cannon-ball, as he was leading up a reinforcement to the assistance of the battalions that were engaged. When the King received the news of his death, and being at the same time informed of the Swedes beginning hostilities in Pomerania, he could not forbear shedding tears, saying, “ I may find resources against the multitude of my enemies ; but how few men are to be found equal to Winterfield !”—The loss of the Austrians in this action, was very little inferior to that of the Prussians. The young Count of Groesbeeck and the Marquis d'Asque were killed, and several officers of distinction wounded, among whom were the Generals Nadasti and Clerici, Count d'Arbreg, Colonel Elrickhausen, &c. Six pieces of Prussian cannon, and six pair of colours, fell into the hands of the Austrians, who likewise made General Kameke, the Count d'Anhalt, and a few other officers, prisoners.



Military Memoirs.



Prince Ferdinand.

1757.

EUROPE

THE Prince of Bevern, after this action, found it necessary to retreat, with the army under his command, from Goerlitz to Rothenburg, and soon afterwards passed the Queiss at Sygersdorff; he then marched to Buntzlau in Silesia, and, at length, arrived without any loss, at Breslau, on the first of October. Immediately upon his arrival, he ordered several new works to be added to the fortifications of that place, and chose a very strong situation on the other side of the Oder for his camp, and under the cannon of that city.

THE French army under the Duke de Richlieu, having no enemy to make head against it since the famous convention of Closter-seven, a part of it had advanced into the territories of Halberstadt and Magdeburg, ravaging these countries, and laying them under contribution. Its progress, however, was soon stopped by a part of the army of Prince Ferdinand, (to whom the defence of those provinces had been committed by his Prussian Majesty) under the command of Count Horn, who obliged the French to evacuate Halberstadt, with a considerable loss, making Colonel Lusignan, nineteen other officers, and near 500 men prisoners, besides taking a great quantity of baggage. But, on the 29th of September, the Duke de Richlieu, with the main army, again took possession of Halberstadt, which obliged Prince Ferdinand to retire to Winsleben, near the city of Magdeburg.

French army receive a check.

WHATEVER the dominions of his Prussian Majesty might have suffered from the incursions of strangers, was amply retaliated upon those places.

1757.
EUROPE.

belonging to the enemy of which he had taken possession. Among others, the unfortunate city of Leipzic now felt most severely what it was to be in the power of a conqueror. The King had ordered his commandant in that city, to demand of the inhabitants a contribution of the enormous sum of three hundred thousand crowns, (half of which was much beyond their power to raise), under the pain of military execution, allowing them but a very short time for that purpose. All representations and remonstrances were in vain ; his Majesty's orders were peremptory. Their utmost endeavours to comply with the demand, proved ineffectual ; and the short time allowed them being expired, their houses were delivered up to the soldiery, who immediately took possession of the best apartments, and lived at discretion.—

Leipzic sub-
jected to
military
execution.

On the 15th of October, while the city was in this deplorable situation, an express arrived from his Majesty, giving notice that he would soon be there.—Frederic, who never travelled in state, but with the utmost expedition, arrived in less than a quarter of an hour after, attended only by a few of his guards. A rumour was immediately spread, that the city would be delivered to pillage, which threw the inhabitants into the utmost consternation. His Majesty, however, soon eased them of their fears, by declaring, that, on condition half the sum required should be immediately paid, he was willing to spare the place. All the money they could possibly collect among the merchants, traders, and others, amounted only to fifty thousand crowns. This would by no means

satisfy the King, who insisted for the full hundred and fifty thousand. The magistrates and principal inhabitants then drew bills of exchange upon London and Amsterdam for seventy thousand more.

—This, however, was not enough. No abatement would be made.—At last they gave hostages in security of the other thirty thousand, to be paid against a certain time.—Still the military execution went on ; and all the satisfaction the miserable inhabitants could obtain, was, that it should cease as soon as advice was received of their bills being accepted.

IN the mean time, the Austrians, who had made themselves masters of Lignitz, and part of Silesia, now laid siege to Schweidnitz. They likewise made frequent incursions into Brandenburg, levying contributions, and oppressing the defenceless inhabitants.—This induced his Prussian Majesty to detach the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau from Leipzic, with ten thousand men, to defend Berlin ; whilst, with the troops under his own command, he marched to Interbeck, on the frontiers of Lower Lusatia, in order to cover Brandenburg, and preserve the communication with Silesia.

Austrians
lay siege to
Schweid-
nitz.

WHILE his Majesty was employed in taking these precautions, a body of 16,000 Austrians, under the command of General Haddick, entered Brandenburg on the 16th of October, and on the 17th presented themselves before Berlin. This obliged the Queen and Prussian royal family to take refuge in Magdeburg ; and the most valuable records of the kingdom were sent to the fort of

1757.

EUROPE.

Berlin laid
under con-
tribution.

Spandau, at the conflux of the Havel and the Sphe. The Austrian General demanded of the city a contribution of six hundred thousand crowns, of which he received two hundred and ten thousand. But upon intelligence of the approach of the Prince of Anhalt-Dessau, the Austrians immediately pillaged the suburbs, and retired with the utmost precipitation ; and the van-guard of the Prussian army entered the city on the evening of their departure.

His Prussian Majesty had frequently endeavoured to bring the combined army to a battle something upon an equal footing. But the two generals, the Princes of Hildburghausen and Soubie, the one commanding what was called the army of execution, and the other that of France, seemed perfectly to understand one another, and cautiously declined it, notwithstanding their superiority of numbers. Frederic, therefore, had recourse to one of those strokes of generalship, by which the merit of a commander is better known than by heading troops in a field of battle, and for which alone he stood unrivalled. About the middle of October he made a feint, as if he intended to march his army immediately into winter-quarters, leaving Marshal Keith with only about 8000 men to defend Leipzig.

FREDERIC's designs were not easily seen thro', and, on this occasion, the enemy were completely deceived.—They now looked upon Leipzig as already in their possession, and reckoned upon Marshal Keith and his little army as their prisoners.—Having passed the Sala, they immediately marched

Stratagem
of his Pruf-
sian Majesty
to bring the
combined
army to a
battle.

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to that city, and summoned the Marshal to surrender. His answer was, that he was left there to defend the city, which he would do to the last extremity. The enemy then prepared to besiege the place ; but, before they could get any thing in readiness for that purpose, they were alarmed with advice of the approach of his Prussian Majesty. He, foreseeing what would happen, had privately given orders for all his distant detachments to join him, and he was now advancing by long marches to Leipzig.—This entirely disconcerted the French and Imperialists, who immediately retreated from that city, and repassed the Sala at Weissenfels, Meresburg, and Halle, where they broke down the bridges. The King arrived with succeeded his army at Leipzig on the 27th of October, where he staid to refresh the troops till the 30th, when he marched to Lutzen. In order to pass the Sala, the Prussian army were obliged to repair the bridges which the enemy had destroyed at Weissenfels, Meresburg, and Halle, in each of which places they left a battalion. Having passed that river through these towns, the whole army joined on the 3d of November ; and, in the evening of the same day, came in sight of the enemy, and encamped in a bottom between the villages of Bederow and Rosbach. The Prussian army, having left parties in several towns through which they passed, amounted to scarce 20,000 men, while that of the enemy consisted of 40,000 French under the Prince de Soubise, and 25,000 Imperialists under the Prince of Hildburghausen.

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NOVEMBER 4. The two armies kept a brisk cannonade against each other, but without doing very material damage to either side. On the 5th, at nine o'clock in the morning, the Prussian army could perceive the enemy every where in motion, and hear their drums beat the march. So near at this time were the two armies, that the Prussians could distinctly see the enemy's infantry, which had been posted on the rising grounds over against them, filing off towards their right; at the same time that a large body of cavalry wheeled round towards their left, along the rising grounds with which the whole Prussian camp was surrounded. Soon afterwards their cavalry was observed to halt, and to fall back again to the right. From motions so contradictory, no certain judgment could be formed of the enemy's real design; but, as it was known that their army wanted bread, it was thought they had resolved to repass the Unstrut. About two o'clock in the afternoon, however, all doubts were cleared up; and it plainly appeared, that they intended to attack the King's army, and that all the motions which had been observed in the forenoon, were made with a view to surround the Prussian camp, and to cut off their retreat to Meissenburg, which, in case of a defeat, was the only place to which they could have retired. As soon as his Prussian Majesty was fully certain of the designs of the enemy, he resolved to prevent them by beginning the attack, which, from the dispositions of the enemy, he determined to make with the left wing only. He therefore immediately sent orders to the general commanding on

Doubtful
motions of
the combin-
ed army.

the right, to decline engaging, and, in consequence of the attack, to take the most proper position to prevent being surrounded. About four o'clock, all the cavalry of the right wing, except a few, marched at full gallop to the left ; where being arrived, they immediately formed against that of the enemy.

IN this situation, and a battle being now inevitable, Frederic addressed his troops in nearly the following terms :—“ My dear friends, the hour is now come, in which all that is, and all that ought to be dear to us, depends upon the swords which are now drawn for the battle. Time permits me to say but little, nor is there occasion to say much. You know that there is no labour, no hunger, no cold, no watching, no danger, that I have not shared with you hitherto ; and you now see me ready to lay down my life, with you, and for you. All I ask is, the same pledge of fidelity and affection that I give. And let me add, not as an incitement to your courage, but as a testimony of my own gratitude, that from this hour, until you go into quarters, your pay shall be double.—*Acquit yourselves like men, and put your confidence in God.*”

THIS speech rendered the meanest soldier in his army an hero ; and the cavalry rushed forward to the attack, with an irresistible impetuosity.—The French cavalry advanced to meet them with great resolution, and the first charge was exceeding fierce. The encounter, however, did not last long. The enemy, being put into disorder, were soon

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King of
Prussia's
speech to
his army.

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Rösbach.

routed. They were pursued by the Prussians with great spirit, till they reached a rising ground, of which they took the advantage to rally. The Prussian cavalry still pursuing, fell upon them here afresh, and gave them so total a defeat, that they fled with the utmost precipitation. All this while the cannonading between the two armies continued with incredible fury. The fire of the infantry now began, which, on the side of the Prussians, was so close and well-levelled, that it did amazing execution. The whole left wing advancing with a steady fire against the enemy's batteries, carried them one after another, obliging the French to give way in great disorder. The right wing of the Prussians, observing the left advance, immediately changed its position, and, taking advantage of a rising ground, planted it with sixteen pieces of heavy artillery, which were so pointed, as partly to take the enemy's right in flank, and their left in front. By this fire, the left of the enemy suffered extremely. Their right, already in disorder, could no longer support itself against the fire of this new battery, and therefore gave way entirely, and fled on all sides. At five o'clock the rout became general, and the cannonading ceased. The Prussians pursued the enemy, while there was any light to distinguish them by.—Had the victory been decided a few hours sooner, this famous army, so formidable in the morning, and which appeared strong enough to decide the fate of an empire, would have been totally destroyed, and that too by a body of men not one-third of their number. In short, to use the words of a cele-

brated French writer, “ It was not a battle, but “ a powerful army presenting itself to fight, and “ then running away.”

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ON a review of this celebrated action, we are at a loss which to admire most, the good conduct or intrepid bravery of the Prussian monarch. Here we see him, though in imminent danger of being surrounded by a powerful army, remaining easy and quiet, observing every circumstance, and ready to take advantage of those which should appear in his favour. Depending on the bravery of his troops, and the minute exactness of his generals, his orders were given with coolness and deliberation, and executed with a punctuality seldom to be observed in enterprises of this nature. On the other hand, the operations of the combined army were hesitating, blundering, and ill executed. When the King retired to form his army behind the hills, the generals of the enemy immediately concluded it a flight, and hurried on with an unguarded precipitation. Marching without a van-guard, under cover of which their army might have formed, their whole line, irregular and in confusion, owing to the hurry with which they advanced, was all at once exposed to the heavy and well-directed fire of the Prussians. Under these circumstances, forming a line of battle was impossible ; and on this the success of the day principally depended. In fine, never was a victory, where the numbers were so disproportioned, got at so easy a rate. The loss of the Prussians amounted only to about 300 men killed and wounded, while that of the enemy amounted to

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near 2000 killed. The Prussian army took on this occasion, eleven generals, 300 officers, and about 6000 men prisoners, with 72 pieces of cannon, and 300 waggons loaded with baggage. General Meincke, on the side of the Prussians, was killed, and Prince Henry and General Seydelitz wounded. The day after the battle, great numbers of the Imperial army deserted, and joined the King of Prussia; and the rest were so totally dispersed, as never to be heard of as an army more. — Thus this celebrated battle, which, in almost any other country but Germany, would have proved perfectly decisive, and put an end to the war, was productive of nothing more, than enabling one of the parties to carry it on with greater vigour, and to face his enemies on more equal terms than before.

THE French under Duke de Richlieu had been preparing to go into winter-quarters; but, upon intelligence of this defeat, they marched a large body of troops to Duderstadt, in order to facilitate the retreat of their countrymen, who, with the utmost precipitation, made the best of their way to the county of Hohenstein, and from thence to Halberstadt, in the greatest distress for want of provisions, and every other necessary.

C H A P. X.

Schweidnitz taken by the Austrians—Prince of Bévern attacked in his entrenchments before Breslau, and defeated—Breslau taken—Battle of Lissa—King of Prussia retakes Breslau—Leignitz taken—Hanoverian forces recover their liberty, and assemble under Prince Ferdinand—Conclusion of the campaign 1757.

WE have already said, that the Austrians had invested Schweidnitz, under the command of General Nadasti. On the 26th of October, they opened the trenches before it. General Fouquet, who commanded the Prussian garrison, made several successful sallies, damaging the enemy's works, and making several prisoners. On the 6th of November, the Austrians began to cannonade the city furiously; and on the 11th, made themselves masters of the ramparts by assault. The garrison, however, during the siege, having thrown up a strong entrenchment in the market-place, retired thither, where they held out till next day, when they surrendered prisoners of war.

SCHWEIDNITZ thus reduced, General Nadasti, after leaving in it a sufficient garrison, marched, with the rest of the troops under his command, to join the main Austrian army, under Prince Charles of Lorraine, and Marshal Daun. While the siege of Schweidnitz was going on, this army had invested Breslau on the left of the Oder; the

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Schweidnitz taken.

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Prince of Bevern, with the army under his command, being encamped under the cannon of the city, and defending it on the right. Receiving intelligence of the King of Prussia's late victory at Rosbach, and that he was advancing to the relief of Breslau, the Austrian generals immediately came to the resolution of attacking the Prince of Bevern in his entrenchments. This was accordingly executed on the 22d of November, under a most furious discharge of their artillery, consisting of 40 twenty-four pounders. The Prussians sustained the attack with amazing resolution; but at last were overpowered by numbers, and began to lose ground, retiring from one entrenchment to another. Night coming on, gave the Prince of Bevern an opportunity of retiring into the city, which he immediately did, resolving to defend it till the King should come to its relief.

THIS, however, was prevented by a very unforeseen accident. On the 24th, the Prince of Bevern going out to reconnoitre the enemy, attended only by a single servant, fell in with a party of Croats, whom he mistook for the Prussian hussars, who made him prisoner. The Prussians, in this action, lost about 3000 men, in killed, wounded, and prisoners.—The loss of the Austrians in killed and wounded was much greater, they being exposed to the whole fire of the Prussian batteries, from nine o'clock in the morning till the evening; and tho' fortune at last declared in their favour, yet they afterwards acknowledged, that such another victory would have been nearly equal to a defeat.

Battle of
Breslau.

By the unfortunate accident of the Prince of Bevern being taken prisoner, the command of the Prussian army devolved on Lieutenant-General Kyow, who, finding himself not in a condition to maintain possession of such an extensive and ill-fortified place as Breslau, against so powerful an army as that of the enemy, determined to march with the army towards Glogau, leaving only about four battalions in the place, under the command of Lieutenant-General de Lestewitz, in order to secure the town from being pillaged, by obtaining a capitulation. Accordingly, on the 25th of November, the city surrendered, the garrison marching out with all the honours of war; but under an engagement, not to serve against the Empress-Queen, or her allies, for the space of two years.

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Breslau ta-
ken.

His Prussian Majesty, immediately after the battle of Rosbach, having put himself at the head of part of his army, marched with his usual rapidity into Silesia; having first detached Marshal Keith with the other part, to make an irruption into Bohemia.—On the 24th of November, his Majesty arrived at Naumburg, where he staid a few days to refresh his troops. He then pursued his march to Barchwitz, where he was immediately joined by several bodies of men, particularly by great part of the army lately under the Prince of Bevern, and the whole late garrison of Schweidnitz, amounting to about 4000, who had been made prisoners of war by the Austrians, but who had made their escape as they were conducting to prison, in the following manner. Hearing

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of the King of Prussia's victory over the combined army at Rosbach, and at the same time observing that they were but slenderly guarded, they unanimously rose upon their escort, who, not expecting any such thing, were easily dispersed. Having succeeded thus far in their design, they immediately set off to join the King's army, marching at a hazard, not having any certain direction where to find him.—Luckily, however, they fell in with him at Barchwitz, while he was on his march, tho' too late, to the relief of Breslau.

THE army under the King amounted, now, to about 40,000 men; with which, though greatly inferior to that of the enemy, he determined to attack the Austrians, who were strongly entrenched at Lissa, near Breslau. On the 4th of December, he arrived at Neumarck, where he found a considerable magazine belonging to the enemy, and all their camp ovens.—This magazine was guarded by two regiments of Croats, who, upon his Majesty's approach, retired to an adjoining rising ground. Here they were surrounded by the Prussian hussars, and summoned to surrender prisoners of war.—This, however, they thought proper to refuse, making the appearance of resistance. Upon which General Zeithen, with his hussars, was ordered to fall upon them sword in hand; which was immediately executed, and some hundreds of them having been cut to pieces, the rest threw down their arms, and begged for quarter. After distributing the bread his Majesty found at Neumarck among his soldiers, and reposing the troops for that night, he begun his march early next morning, towards Lissa, to meet the enemy.

A party of
Croats cut
off by the
Prussians.

ON the first notice of his Prussian Majesty's approach, the two Austrian Generals, Prince Charles of Lorraine, and Marshal Daun, called a council of war; in which it was unanimously resolved, to march out of their camp, and meet the enemy about two German miles from their entrenchments. Elated with their late success against the Prince of Bevern, they affected to despise the small number of the Prussians, notwithstanding the King was at their head; and thus, for once, an ill-timed confidence got the better of Marshal Daun's usual sagacity and circumspection.

ON the 5th of December, about seven o'clock in the morning, General Zeithen, who led the Prussian van-guard, fell in with a large body of the enemy's cavalry, who had been detached to retard the King's march till the Austrians had got some batteries erected. This party he immediately attacked, and drove to a considerable distance. Being then got so near the enemy, that he could perceive their whole army forming, he immediately acquainted his Majesty of it, who, after observing their disposition himself, drew up his army against them, with that celerity and accuracy of judgment for which he was so remarkable. The enemy, he found, had erected a battery of forty pieces of large cannon, so as entirely to cover their right wing. With the attack of this battery the action began. Upon this service, Frederic ordered his two battalions of guards, troops reckoned at that time the best in the world, with the regiments of the Margrave Charles, and of Itzenplitz. These troops, notwithstanding a most dread-

Battle of
Lissa.

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ful fire, which swept them away by multitudes, went calmly and dreadfully forward, with bayonets fixed, to the very mouths of the cannon. Their undaunted resolution, in contempt of death, was irresistible. The battery was abandoned by the enemy, almost as soon as they got up to it. The Austrian artillery was now turned upon their late masters, and played upon them most furiously with their own ammunition.

His Majesty, who could foresee consequences farther than any man of his time, had made a most excellent disposition, and provided against every contingency. Observing that General Nadasti was placed with a corps de reserve upon the enemy's left, in order to take his right in flank, he posted four battalions of grenadiers behind the cavalry of his right wing. When that general, therefore, made a furious charge upon his cavalry, he met with so warm a reception from the grenadiers, as forced the Austrians to retire with the greatest precipitation.—At length the enemy, being thrown into confusion, gave way, and retired to a little distance, where they again formed; but were immediately attacked by the Prussians, with redoubled vigour. In short, the Austrians rallied three several times, and returned to the charge, but were as often obliged to give way before the determined bravery of the Prussians. On the approach of night, the rout became general, and the enemy fled; one party towards Breslau, while another took the route of Schweidnitz. According to the Prussian accounts of this battle, they lost only about 500 men killed, and 2300 wounded,

Battle of
Lissa.

while the loss of the Austrians amounted to about 7000 killed and wounded. Among the first, were Generals Luchefi, Otterwolf, and Prince Stolberg; and among the wounded were the Generals Haller, Macquire, Lacy, Lobkowitz, and Preysac.—The Prussians lost no officer of note. There were taken prisoners in the action and pursuit, of the Austrians, upwards of 20,000 men, among whom were the Generals Nostitz and Odonnel. The Prussians likewise took 116 pieces of cannon, 51 pair of colours, and 4000 baggage-waggons.

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As no time was to be lost at this season of the year, his Prussian Majesty immediately marched to Breslau, which he invested on the 7th, and, in two days, every thing was in readiness to besiege it in form. The besieged, dispirited with their late defeat at Lissa, and having about 4000 sick or wounded in the garrison, did not make a very obstinate defence. A bomb, during the siege, having set fire to a magazine, and damaged one of the bastions, likewise accelerated the taking of the place. Accordingly, on the 20th of December, Breslau surrendered. The garrison, consisting of about 14,000 men, including the sick and wounded, were made prisoners of war. Among these were fourteen officers of high rank. The Prussians found in this place the Austrian military chest, and eighty pieces of cannon.—The loss of the besiegers was very trifling, amounting only to about twenty men in all from the time they began their approaches.

Breslau re-taken.

WHILE the Prussian monarch lay before Breslau, he sent General Driesen with a body of troops

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Leignitz
taken.

to besiege Leignitz ; and on the 26th of December it capitulated, Colonel Bulow, the governor, with the garrison under his command, consisting of 3000 men, obtaining leave to retire into Bohemia.

NOTWITHSTANDING all his success, the King of Prussia was very unwilling to go into winter-quarters, while the strong fortress of Schweidnitz remained in the hands of the enemy ; but as a siege at this time was impracticable, a blockade was formed, as strict as the rigour of the season would permit. This place, however, was not taken till the month of April 1758 ; for which reason, we shall postpone the account of the further operations against it till that period.

THE successes, as well as the misfortunes of the Prussian monarch, flowed upon him all at once. —By the unaccountable retreat of the Russian army, Marshal Lehwald was now at liberty to proceed against the Swedes, who, as we have already mentioned, under a pretence of guarantying the treaty of Westphalia, had sent a numerous army, under the command of General Ungern-Sternberg, into Prussian Pomerania ; where they had raised contributions, without meeting any obstacle. They retreated, however, as the Prussian general advanced, abandoned all they had taken, and retired under the cannon of Stralsund ; exhibiting a striking proof, how much they were degenerated from those brave troops, who were led on to victory by Charles XII. and whose military virtues, but a few years before, had struck terror into all Europe.

Swedes re-
treat before
the Prus-
sians.

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THOUGH the convention of Closter-seven was equally binding upon the French as upon the Hanoverians, the former behaved with all the insolence of tyrants over slaves. The rapacity of the Duke de Richlieu knew no bounds ; one cruel exaction succeeded another, and, though all were submitted to, the wretched inhabitants found no relief from plundering and pillaging.* The licentiousness of the soldiery, kept pace with the enormities of their leader. Money and booty was all that Richlieu had in view ; nor indeed durst he repress the brutality of his soldiers, which not only carried them beyond all the bounds of military discipline, but led them into habits of life which proved fatal to them, from the diseases they introduced. Sensible of the growing weakness of his army, and willing to guard against the effects of it, the French general required the Hessians and Hanoverians to deliver up their arms, a condition which had not been stipulated by the convention of Closter-seven. The court of Versailles had

Distresses
of the Ha-
noverians.

* From this general censure, it is but justice to except the Duke de Randan, the French governor of Hanover. When he was about to withdraw his forces from that city, the inhabitants were overwhelmed with the fear of being subjected to every species of violence and abuse ; but their apprehensions were happily disappointed by the honour and integrity of that nobleman. He took the most effectual measures to restrain the soldiers within the bounds of the most rigid discipline and moderation ; and, instead of destroying his magazine of provisions, according to the usual practice of war, he ordered the whole to be either sold at a low price, or distributed among the poor of the city, who had been long exposed to the horrors of war.—The grateful Hanoverians were so deeply impressed with a sense of this truly heroic behaviour, that they thankfully acknowledged it in a letter to the Count de Clermont ; and on the day of solemn thanksgiving to Heaven, for their being delivered from their enemies, the clergy in their sermons did not fail to extol the charity and benevolence of the Duke de Randan.

1757. likewise refused to consider this convention as ob-
~~EUROPE.~~ligatory upon her. Treaties between nations, are
seldom observed any longer, than interest or fear
hold the union ; and among nations that take
every advantage, political faith is a term without
meaning. The Hanoverians only wanted a pre-
text to take arms, and a general to head them. They
were not long in want of either.—Richlieu had
made a further breach of the articles, by attempt-
ing to seize upon places not comprehended in
them ; and by shutting the troops up in such nar-
row districts of cantonment, as rendered it im-
possible for the inhabitants to subsist. The op-
pressions of the tax-gatherers, whom the French
had appointed, were likewise so severe, as to drive
the inhabitants to despair.—All these circumstanes
co-operating together, and the battle of Rosbach
critically happening at the same time, Prince Fer-
dinand of Brunswick put himself at the head of the
Hanoverians resume
their arms. Hanoverians, who resumed their arms, and broke
from their disgraceful confinement. The French
were in no condition to resist the spirit of liberty,
inflamed by resentment. They were every where
beaten. The Hanoverians took the town of Har-
burg ; and the gallant resistance made by the ca-
stle, which was also reduced, was the only instance
in which the French could be said to act like sol-
diers or men.—By this sudden insurrection of the
Hanoverian forces, the King of Prussia's affairs
were greatly mended ; and he was now enabled
to oppose his enemies upon a much more equal
footing.

THUS ended the German campaign of 1757 ; which, for variety of events, the number of great actions, and the uncertainty of its issue, was the most important of any recorded either in ancient or modern history. Within the compass of a single year, revolutions happened, which appeared to require the duration of a century.—The King of Prussia at first victorious ; the Austrians every where flying before him ; while he advances, with a rapid march, to the gates of Vienna. A single battle turns the scale. A new general defeats the Prussian monarch, and hurls him down to the same state of humiliation, to which he had just reduced the Austrian power. Apparently on the brink of ruin, abandoned by his allies, and surrounded by enemies intent on his destruction, another battle, the probable consequences of which were the total annihilation of his little army, raises him again beyond all hope ; and the Austrians, and their numerous allies, are, in their turn, defeated and dispersed.—Forty thousand Hanoverians, either from the misconduct of their leader, or from some hitherto unknown influence, submit to 80,000 French, without a battle. Under the direction of a more enterprising general, they resume their arms, recover their country ; and the French, reduced in their numbers, and vanquished without fighting, retire beyond the Rhine.—The Russians, though every where successful, suddenly retreat as if pursued by a victorious enemy ; and the Swedes fly before the conquering Prussians, without daring to stand a battle.

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NEVER was the art of war carried to such a pitch as by the King of Prussia; and, it must be added, its horrors also. While we are dazzled with the gallant exploits of the warrior, we are sometimes at a loss to find the milder and more amiable virtues of the man. Happy had it been for mankind, if to those wonderful and heroic qualities by which he obtained conquests, there had been added that lenity, that temperate use of victory, which finishes the character of a true hero. The outrages committed by a barbarous and inhuman enemy, by no means justify retaliation. We do not accuse the King of Prussia of absolute inhumanity; but there is a severity, a disregard for the interests of mankind, discoverable in some of his transactions, which cannot be reconciled with that character which he assumes to himself, a philosopher, and a lover of mankind. Humanity is never more practicable, and never shines with such lustre, as amidst the horrors of war; and the reciprocal exertion of this virtue between the British and French, redounds infinitely more to their mutual honour, than all the art and valour they can display.—From the annals of this campaign, succeeding generals will take their lessons of devastation, and refine upon the arts of increasing human calamity.

C H A P. XI.

Unsuccessful expedition against Louisbourg—Fort William Henry taken by the French—Admiral Watson and Colonel Clive reduce Calcutta, and humble the nabob—Chandenagore taken—Nabob defeated and slain—Advantageous treaty with the new nabob—Admiral Watson dies.

THE consequences of the ill-conducted councils of the old ministry, still continued to spread their baleful influence over the British operations in America. Want of unanimity in our measures at home, had produced carelessness and inactivity, in our commanders abroad. Party had swallowed up the small remains of patriotism, and the spirit of discord had pervaded the camp, as well as the cabinet. Our commanders knew not to whom they should be accountable for their neglects, or who was to reward their services; and were consequently deficient in that firmness and enterprising resolution, without which the greatest talents and best intentions can do nothing in war.

THE expedition against Crown Point, which had engrossed the principal attention in the beginning, was now laid aside; and it was resolved to attack Louisbourg, which was deemed of much greater importance. Lord Loudon had collected a body of 6000 troops, with which he embarked at New-York on the 19th of June, and arrived at Halifax on the 29th. Admiral Holbourne did

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Expedition
against
Louisbourg.

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AMERICA.Delays of
the British
command-
ers.

not reach that rendezvous before the 9th of July. So much time being lost, it was naturally imagined, that the commanders would proceed immediately to action ; but, as if delay had been an essential part of their instructions, near a month was consumed at Halifax, in exercising the troops, and accustoming them to divers sorts of attacks and defences.* When this formidable armament was ready to proceed to the place of its destination, a circumstance happened, which struck a panic into the troops, and rendered the whole scheme abortive. A packet, supposed to be a stratagem to intimidate the British commanders, with an exaggerated account of the French force at Louisbourg, threw itself in the way of the English fleet, and was taken with all her dispatches, tho' chased many hours ; a circumstance sufficient to suspect a contrivance, for real packets always throw their dispatches overboard. By the letters found in this pretended packet, the naval strength at Louisbourg was fixed at seventeen ships of the line, and three frigates ; and the land forces amounted to 6000 Europeans, 3000 natives, and 300 Indians. It was likewise remarked, that the place was well supplied with military stores, and

* Lord Charles Hay, a major-general in this armament, and one of the bravest and best officers in this service, ridiculed the behaviour of the commanders in this respect. He said, " That they kept the courage of his Majesty's soldiers at bay, and expended the nation's wealth in making sham-fights and planting cabbages, when they ought to have been fighting the enemies of their king and country in reality."—In the ensuing council of war, he was the only officer for proceeding ; but he was put under an arrest, not without strong suspicion of his being a madman ; and afterwards tried for his life, on an accusation of mutiny.

that the people were desirous of nothing more than to be attacked.

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THIS intelligence immediately suspended the preparations against Louisbourg. Councils of war were held, the result of which was, to lay aside, for the present, the intended expedition ; a resolution which appears to have originated from the exaggerated account of the French forces.—The commanders, in this expedition, seemed determined to trust nothing to fortune or resolution. Every circumstance of difficulty and danger was weighed in the scale of rigid prudence, before the execution of it was attempted. The consequence was, what is generally the case where too much deliberation and caution is used, that nothing was done.—Lord Loudon with the land forces returned to New-York, and the admiral continued for some time cruising off Cape Breton, in expectation of drawing the French fleet to an engagement, or at any rate to block up Louisbourg harbour. In both these expectations he was disappointed. The French, whose force was greatly inferior to his, were too wise to attack him ; and, on the 25th of September, a terrible storm arose, which dispersed and shattered his fleet, one ship being lost, eleven dismasted, and the rest very much damaged. Leaving eight men of war to protect the trade, watch Louisbourg, and annoy the enemy, he steered with all speed for England.

Expedition
against
Louisbourg
laid aside.

THE proceedings in America during the remainder of this year, were a series of disgraces and disappointments. By taking Oswego, the French became entire masters of all the lakes ;

and the English were unable to hinder their collecting the Indians from all parts, and obliging them to act in their favour. Instead of endeavouring to prevent this destructive alliance, we abandoned to the mercy of the enemy, all the country of the Five Nations, the only body of Indians who preserved even the appearance of friendship to us. Our forts were demolished, our frontiers invaded by the French and their savages, who destroyed all our fine settlements on the Mohawk's river, and the German flats ; and at last the siege of Fort William Henry, built on the southern edge of Lake George, was formed ; a place of the utmost importance for covering that frontier.

French
form the
siege of
Fort Wil-
liam Hen-
ry.

THE THERE was a garrison of 2500 men within Fort William Henry ; and General Webb, with about 4000 men, was posted at no great distance. By Lord Loudon's draughting off the forces from the northern provinces for the expedition against Louisbourg, the frontiers were left exposed to the designs of the French, who prepared to take advantage of their absence. On this occasion, the activity and watchfulness of M. Montcalm were conspicuous. No sooner was it known that the troops were embarked for Halifax, than he assembled an army of 8000 men, including Canadians and Indians, drawn from Crown Point, Ticonderoga, and the adjacent posts. The assembling of these forces was not executed with such secrecy, but that an early account of it was sent to General Webb. That commander gave no credit to the report ; judging it impossible that the French could raise a force sufficient to dispute the posse-

sion of the fort with him and the garrison. His incredulity was attended with the most fatal effects. No care was taken to bring the militia together, which, had it been done, would have rendered the English far superior to their enemies. On the 2d of August, Montcalm appeared on the lake, which so intimidated Webb, that he marched off early the next morning, leaving the defence of the fort to the Colonels Monro and Young.

1757.
AMERICA.

MONTCALM, informed of Webb's retreat, summoned the garrison to surrender ; but was given to understand from Colonel Monro, that nothing but extremity would make him give up the fort. — The garrison behaved with courage and skill, so as to retard the enemy's works for four days ; during which time they had the misfortune to burst most of their cannon and mortars. Thus reduced, and no prospect of succour from without appearing, and being advised to surrender by a letter from General Webb, intercepted and sent into the fort by M. Montcalm, the garrison capitulated on the 9th of August.—They engaged not to serve against the French for 18 months ; and obtained the favour of marching out with their arms and baggage. The French savages paid so little regard to the terms of capitulation, that they plundered the English soldiers, as they marched out ; scalped the Indians and Blacks, that had been in the garrison ; and practised a thousand other inhumanities, from which the French generals pretended to restrain them, but to no purpose. The French demolished the fort, and carried off all they found in it.

Garrison surrenders.

1757.

THE conclusion of this inglorious campaign in North America, was more disgraceful to the British arms than even the two former. An army of 20,000 men, exclusive of *Provincials*, and a vast naval force, provided with every thing that could make war glorious and successful, were permitted to loiter away a whole year, in doing worse than nothing. The French succeeded in every thing they attempted, though their force was greatly inferior to the English.

ASIA.

IT was in the East that success began first to dawn upon the British arms. No sooner did intelligence of the fatal disaster at Calcutta arrive at Madras, than Admiral Watson, with Colonel Clive and the military on board, failed to take revenge for the cruelty practised on their countrymen by the nabob. After a tedious voyage, he arrived at the port of Balaore, in the kingdom of Bengal, on the 5th of December. Here he strengthened his force with what recruits he could draw together; and, entering the Ganges, proceeded to attack Busbudgia fort, which commanded that part of the river. After a short resistance, he made himself master of this fort, which was extremely well situated for defence, but badly provided with cannon and ammunition. As he proceeded up the river, the enemy abandoned several small batteries, which would have obstructed his progress, and a clear passage was opened to him to the fort of Calcutta. Fired with indignation and revenge at the affecting sight of this place, the troops attacked it with so much spirit,

Admiral
Watson
fails for
Bengal.

that it surrendered in a few hours.—It was then proposed to reduce Hughley, which was situated further up the Ganges ; and this was likewise effected with the same facility.

1757.

ASIA.

Calcutta
retaken.

THE nabob was now convinced of the necessity of providing a more respectable force, to stem the progress of the British arms, than the feeble garrisons of unexperienced Indians. Assisted by French officers, engineers, and gunners, he assembled an army of 10,000 horse, and about 15,000 foot. With this numerous body, he took the route of Calcutta, and, on the 2d of February, passed the English camp, at the distance of about a mile, and pitched his tents on an advantageous spot of ground near the town.

NOTWITHSTANDING the great superiority of the enemy in point of numbers, the British commanders did not hesitate a moment about what was to be done. A detachment of 600 sailors were draughted from the several ships to join Colonel Clive, in order to force and drive the nabob from his camp.

ACCORDINGLY, on the 5th, about five in the morning, the British army advanced towards the enemy, and, notwithstanding the superiority of numbers, defeated them with great slaughter.—This attack, though not so decisive as might have been wished, was sufficient to make the nabob very solicitous to hasten a peace ; which, in a short time, was concluded much to the advantage of the English East-India Company. They were re-established in their ancient privileges, an immunity from all taxes was granted, and a re-

Nabob de-
feated.

1757. stitution promised for all that the trade had suffered in the taking of Calcutta.

ASIA. HAVING thus humbled the nabob, and re-established the Company's affairs in Bengal, the British commanders resolved to turn their arms against the French ; having just received intelligence from Europe, of war's being declared between Britain and France. It was agreed to begin with Chandenagore, a place of considerable strength, and the principal settlement of the French in that part of India, situated a little higher up the river than Calcutta. Colonel Clive, with about 700 Europeans and 1600 Blacks, undertook the land service ; and Admiral Watson directed the attack by sea. His fleet, consisting of three ships, the Kent, Tyger, and Salisbury, came to an anchor about two miles below Chandenagore ; where he found the passage obstructed by the sinking of several large ships, both above and below the forts, for there were four in the whole. This difficulty was, however, soon surmounted. The admiral proceeded up the river ; and, on the 24th of March, got a-breast of the forts. The attack, both by sea and land, was so vigorous, that in less than three hours the garrison capitulated. Five hundred Europeans, and 700 Blacks, surrendered prisoners of war ; 183 pieces of cannon were taken ; and a large sum in ready money, with a vast quantity of goods, became the property of the captors.

Chandenagore taken.

THE French power in India having thus received a severe check, it became necessary to advert to the proceedings of the nabob, whose di-

latory performance of his obligations by treaty, and his strong attachment to the French interest, gave just reason to suspect that his intentions were bad.—The ferocity of his manners, and the cruelty of his disposition, had disgusted even his own subjects ; and, as success is the only title that those nabobs can shew for possession, Jaffier Ali Kawn, then a principal officer in his army, and his prime minister, who pretended to have a right to the nabobship, put himself at the head of a conspiracy against him, and applied to the English for assistance.

It would be equally tiresome and unentertaining to enter into a particular discussion of the rights of these rival nabobs. Certain it is, that the English found it expedient to enter into a treaty with Jaffier, and the rest of the conspirators ; in which it was stipulated, that the company should immediately renew hostilities with Suraja Dowla, to oblige him to fulfil the articles of the late treaty ; and Jaffier, on his part, promised to desert his master, with the best troops in his army, on the field of battle. Accordingly, Colonel Clive took the field with an army of 1000 Europeans, and 2000 Blacks ; besides 50 seamen, to be employed as gunners, and in directing the artillery.—The admiral engaged to garrison Chandenagore with his seamen ; and a 20 gun ship was stationed above Hughley, to preserve a communication between the fleet and army. On the 19th of June, a detachment was sent to attack Catwa, which surrendered at the first summons.

COLONEL Clive continued at Catwa three days, expecting advices from Jaffier ; but, not receiv-

1757.
ASIA.

Colonel
Clive takes
the field.

1757.
ASIA.

ing any, he crossed the river on the 22d, and advanced to attack the nabob's army, which was encamped on the plains of Plassey, and consisted of 20,000 men, well provided with artillery; exclusive of two divisions under the command of the conspirators.—However lightly the British commander might think of the Indian troops, it appeared rash and desperate to march up to the mouths of so numerous an artillery, which was placed in an advantageous situation, and under the direction of French gunners. A fortunate circumstance relieved him from this embarrassment. A heavy shower of rain had made the enemy draw their cannon into the camp under cover. Clive immediately availed himself of this, and placed a detachment to prevent their being again brought into action. Three different well-directed attacks were made upon the enemy's trenches, and each of them proved successful; in short, the nabob's army was in a little time completely routed. ^{The nabob} _{completely} ^{routed.} 42 pieces of large cannon fell into the hands of the victors; whose loss was quite inconsiderable.

SUCH was the facility with which the most important conquests were gained over this weak, effeminate, and unwarlike people. The customs, habits, and opinions of the Asiatics, all tend to effeminate the body, and dispirit the mind. Let us conceive a numerous army led on to battle, dressed in long silken garments, with no other courage than what they possess from the inspiration of opium, with the same views whether defeated or victorious, their general mounted on an

elephant, and consequently a more conspicuous object of aim ; their artillery drawn by oxen, impatient and furious on the slightest wound ; if we reflect on all these circumstances, we shall not be surprised at their most numerous armies being defeated by a handful of European troops, hardened by discipline, and animated by honour.

1757.
ASIA.

IMMEDIATELY upon victory's appearing in favour of the British, Jaffier Ali Kawn, and the other conspirators, declared themselves openly against their defeated sovereign, and hastened away to secure Muxadavad, whither they were soon followed by the British army. In a few days, Ali Kawn was proclaimed nabob, according to treaty ; and soon after Surajah Dowla was traced, seized, and put to death.—Many were the advantages which the English East-India Company derived from this revolution in Bengal. The French were for ever prohibited from settling in the three provinces of Bengal, Bohar, and Orixá ; the company's territories were greatly enlarged ; their privileges confirmed ; two millions sterling were granted as an indemnification to the sufferers at Calcutta ; a lease of the salt-petre of Patna was granted to the company ; and the army and navy were rewarded with a present of 625,000 l. Sterl. besides immense riches in jewels, &c. bestowed on the officers.—The public joy at these signal advantages, was considerably abated by the death of Admiral Watson, who fell a victim to the unwholesomeness of the climate ; after having established a lasting reputation, for his wisdom, his courage, and his humanity.

Advanta-
geous trea-
ty with the
new nabob.

Admiral
Watson
dies.

C H A P. XII.

Expedition against St. Malo—Ships burned—Fleet returns—Expedition against Cherbourg—Its harbour destroyed—Defeat at St. Cas.

1758.

EUROPE.

The invading armament assembles.

THE late unsuccessful expedition against the coast of France, was far from dispiriting the enterprising genius of the British minister. He was determined to carry on this littoral war with vigour. Accordingly, in the month of May, the army of invasion assembled again in the isle of Wight. It consisted of 15 battalions, 400 of the artillery, and 540 light horse ; in all about 13,000 men. The principal command was vested in Charles Duke of Marlborough, grandson of the celebrated hero, whose name is yet a terror to France ; and the subordinate general officers, were, Lieutenant-Generals Lord George Sackville, and the Earl of Ancram ; Major-Generals, Waldegrave, Mostyn, Dury, Boscowen, and Elliot. Two distinct fleets were assembled at Spithead ; the first, consisting of twenty-two sail of the line, was commanded by Lord Anson ; the second, consisting of several frigates, sloops, fire-ships, transports, &c. was under the command of commodore Howe, who was entrusted with the direction of every thing that related to the landing of the troops in the enemy's dominions.

BOTH fleets sailed from St. Helen's on the first of June. Lord Anson, with the line of battle

ships, stood away to the west ; whilst Commodore Howe steered across the channel.—On the 5th of June, the whole fleet stood into the bay of Cancalle, at a little distance from St. Malo ; where the forces were landed without opposition.—The troops lay upon their arms all night ; and next morning a spot of ground was marked out for a camp, which was fortified with entrenchments, in order to secure a retreat.—Notwithstanding the strict orders against marauding, as well as the personal vigilance and moderation of the officers, the soldiers plundered and destroyed every thing that fell in their way, to the disgrace of discipline, and reproach of humanity.

1758.
EUROPE.

Troops
landed.

EARLY in the morning, on the 7th of June, the army marched towards St. Malo in two columns ; the first commanded by the Duke of Marlborough, and Lord George Sackville ; the second commanded by Lord Ancram. After a march of six miles, the army encamped at the distance of little more than a mile from the town of St Malo ; which, upon examination, was found by no means liable to be taken by surprise ; and a siege, from our want of proper artillery, was altogether impracticable.—As soon as it was dark, the light horse, and piquets of the whole army, marched down to the harbour, and set fire to about an hundred sail of shipping, which lay under the cannon of the fort, and to several magazines filled with naval stores ; and all this was performed without the least interruption from the enemy.—On the 10th, the tents were struck, and the army, in one column, marched back to Cancalle.

Enemy's
shipping
destroyed.

1758. THE intention of this invasion being fully answered, the troops were reimbarked, and sailed on the 16th early in the morning; and in the evening, came to an anchor off the harbour of St. Malo. The weather proving tempestuous, the fleet returned to Cancalle bay next morning, and continued there till the 22d, when they again failed.—The squadron continued beating about the channel, and seemed at different times to threaten several other places on the French coast; but provisions being nearly exhausted, and the men grown sickly from their being crowded in the transports, it was judged necessary to return home, and the whole fleet arrived at St. Helen's on the 29th of June.

Fleet returns.

HOWEVER short of the public expectation the success of this expedition might fall, yet, as it exceeded the Rochfort enterprise, and as the operations of this armament were not yet at an end, the people were tolerably well satisfied, and expected greater exploits from the next attempt.—The sticklers for a continental war, indeed, kept up their usual clamour, and called these attempts breaking windows with guineas, and again applied the fable of the mountain and the mouse.

THE Duke of Marlborough, and Lord George Sackville, having been ordered to command the British forces which were sent to Germany to reinforce Prince Ferdinand, Lieutenant-General Bligh was appointed to command the army of invasion, which was encamped on the isle of Wight, but did not now amount to more than 6000 men. Prince Edward (afterwards Duke of York) re-

solved to go as a volunteer in this expedition, on board of Commodore Howe's ship, in which he served as a midshipman.

1758.

EUROPE.

THIS armament, so much reduced in its numbers and strength, sailed from St. Helen's on the 1st of August, and, on the 6th, came to an anchor before Cherbourg,* into which a few bomb-shells were thrown that night. Early next morning, the fleet got under way, and brought up about two leagues west of the town, where it was resolved to land the troops. The enemy had thrown up several entrenchments, and planted some batteries along the coast; and there appeared about 2000 regular troops, besides militia, who threatened to oppose the landing of the British forces. On the 7th, at two in the afternoon, the grenadiers and guards, commanded by General Dury, landed without opposition, under an incessant fire from the fleet. Forming his troops on the beach, the general marched immediately towards the enemy. He received their fire, and then attacked them with such resolution, that they soon fled in the utmost confusion, and with a considerable loss.

Fleet fails
a second
time.

Troops
land, and
disperse the
enemy.

* Cherbourg is an open half-fortified town, with a bad harbour; but its peculiar situation in the channel renders it of importance; being so situated, as to annoy the English, and protect the French commerce in time of war. It is about 70 miles from Portsmouth. Mr Bellidor, the famous engineer, had demonstrated its importance, and proposed a plan for the improvement and defence of the harbour, as well as for the fortification of the town. This plan was approved, and partly put in execution by the building of a mole, digging a basin, and making sluices and flood-gates, with excellent materials, at a vast expence. As these works were left unfinished, in all appearance the plan had fallen into disrepute.

1758.
EUROPE.

THE remainder of the forces being landed, General Bligh encamped at a village called Erville; a situation, it was said, in every respect improper.—Next morning the army proceeded towards Cherbourg, in two columns, which they entered without the least opposition. The inhabitants, confiding in a promise of protection from the general, received their hostile visitors with politeness and hospitality. But their confidence was abused; the common soldiers returned to their infamous practice of pillaging; and it was not till they had done a considerable deal of mischief, that they were restrained by the general.

THE British commander now proceeded, according to his instructions, to demolish the harbour and basin, which was executed under the direction of the engineers. In the mean time, the British light-horse were scouring the adjacent country, and had frequent skirmishes with the enemy; in one of which, Captain Lindsay, a brave and gallant officer, was unfortunately killed.

THE harbour and basin being now destroyed, all the vessels found there burned, and hostages taken for the contributions levied on the town, the troops evacuated Cherbourg, and reembarked without any interruption.—It is remarkable, that this army continued ten days in France unopposed and unmolested.

THE news of this advantage were received in England with the greatest joy. All the brass cannon and mortars taken at Cherbourg were drawn, in pompous procession, through the city, amidst the joyful acclamations of the people, whose minds

The harbour of
Cherbourg
demolished.

were now as much elevated, as they had been but a little time before depressed.

1758.

EUROPE.

THE operations of the little army of invasion were not yet at an end. The fleet weighed anchor on the 18th of August, and steered for St. Malo; but were obliged, by contrary winds, to run for the English coast; and it was the 4th of September before it came to an anchor in the bay of St. Lunaire, about two leagues west of St. Malo.—The troops were immediately landed, not without some misfortune, one of the boats being overset by a frigate. Four companies of grenadiers, under the command of Sir William Boothby, were detached to destroy the shipping in the harbour of Briac, a place near St. Malo; which was executed effectually.

Troops a^d
gain landed
near St.
Malo.

THE British army continued in their camp near St. Lunaire four days, which was spent in deliberating whether an attempt upon St. Malo was practicable, and it was finally determined to be impracticable. It being found impossible to reimbark the troops at the same place where they had landed, it was resolved that they should proceed to the bay of St. Cas, and there remain till the ships were ready to receive them. Accordingly the fleet stood away to the westward; and General Bligh, with his little army, began his march, on the 8th of September, towards Gildau, where he was told the river, which he must necessarily pass, was fordable at low water. On his arrival at this place, he found himself misinformed as to the time of fording, for it was high water instead of low; and the troops were obliged to wait nine

1758. hours before they could attempt to pass ; and EUROPE. then they were fired upon from the opposite village, by which Lord Frederic Cavendish, and a few grenadiers, were slightly wounded.—It was only three o'clock in the afternoon, when the troops passed this river ; and, from a seeming fatality, they marched no farther that evening.*

NEXT day, Sunday the 10th, they proceeded towards Mattingnon, where they met with some small opposition from a party of the enemy. Here the general received intelligence, that nine battalions of foot, two squadrons of dragoons, with 500 *guardes de coûts* were on their march from Brest, under the command of the Duke d'Aiguillon, and that they were not above two leagues distant from the British army. This intelligence had no effect on the general's conduct. He proceeded in the same slow and dilatory manner. The usual drums, preparatory to a march, were beat early next morning ; and the army proceeded, in a single column, towards St. Cas, which is about three leagues from Mattingnon. The march of those three miles, however, contained in it circumstances and incidents more puzzling and unaccountable, than that of Hannibal over the Alps ; and we are better acquainted with the particulars of the latter, than the former. When the head of the column had attained the heights which environ the bay of St. Cas, about half a mile from

*British army
march to-
wards St.
Cas.*

* A blind infatuated security seems to have possessed the leaders of the British army. They appear to have thought it impossible that their career could be stopped ; for it was vauntingly said by some of the principal officers—“ By G—d, a man might march through France with a single company of grenadiers.”

the sea, they had orders to halt, and the regiments formed the line as they advanced in succession ; but before the grenadiers in the rear reached the ground, the youngest brigade was ordered to march down to the beach. Meanwhile the frigates which were intended to cover the embarkation, and the boats, were approaching the land. The grenadiers marched deliberately down to the beach, and there rested on their arms, whilst the battalions were conveyed to their transports in the flat-bottom boats.

1758.
EUROPE.

SCARCE had the British grenadiers quitted the heights, when they were occupied by the enemy. When they began to descend, the British commodore made a signal for his frigates to fire ; which order was executed with such skill and dexterity, that many of them were killed, and their whole army thrown into confusion. The troops were now all embarked, except the grenadiers of the whole army, and four companies of the first regiment of guards ; in all about 1400 men. Indeed the whole army might have been embarked by this time, had the boats returned with that punctuality which was requisite ; and even when they did come, many of them were employed in carrying off horses and cows instead of men.— The enemy continued to advance, and their artillery began to play upon the boats with great effect. Major-General Dury, who was now the senior officer on shore, formed this small remnant of the British army ; but instead of endeavouring to maintain his ground, which was advantageous, he quitted it, and advanced up the hill to meet the enemy.

And are
followed by
the enemy.

1758.
EUROPE.

IT is a delicate and a difficult point to form any opinion of the behaviour of a general in such a situation as the present : few, but those who have been in such situations, can judge of them ; and it might appear arrogant in one who is not a soldier, to pretend to point out the deficiencies of a commander in so critical a conjuncture. The bravery of the troops, on this desperate occasion, did honour to their country. They sustained the attack with great fortitude ; and it was not till their ammunition was entirely spent, that they retreated to the boats. Unhappily the boats then on shore were insufficient to receive half the number of men which now crowded to the beach, and they were in an instant so overloaded, that most of them were aground.

IN this terrible condition, exposed to the fire of a numerous army, they remained for some time ; till, at last, Commodore Howe ordered himself to be rowed ashore, and took one of the flat-bottom boats in tow. Animated by this noble pattern, the rest of the fleet followed his example, and about 700 men were brought on board. The remaining 700 were, many of them, shot or drowned ; but the far greater part were taken prisoners. General Dury, Lieutenant Colonel Wilkinson, and Sir John Armitage, a volunteer, were killed. Lord Frederic Cavendish, Lieutenant-Colonels Pierson and Lambert, and sixteen officers of inferior rank, with four captains of the navy, were taken prisoners.

THIS unfortunate disaster was by most people imputed to the injudicious and dilatory con-

Rear-guard
of the Bri-
tish army
cut off.

1758.
EUROPE.

duct of the general. After the design against St. Malo was laid aside, his remaining so long on shore, and penetrating so far into the country without any visible object, is perfectly unaccountable. His marching through the enemy's country, in a single column, was highly imprudent ; and communicating his midnight motions by beat of drum, to an enemy double his force, was quite inexcusable.—The slaughter would have been much less, had not the French soldiers been exasperated by the fire from the frigates, which still continued after the British troops were defeated ; but this was no sooner silenced, than immediate quarter and protection was granted.—The loss of the French, on this occasion, was very considerable, and exceeded that of the English.—Several civilities passed between the Duke d'Aguillon and the British commanders, who were favoured with a list of the prisoners, and assured that the wounded should receive all possible comfort and assistance.—These matters being settled, Commodore Howe returned to Spithead, and the troops were disembarked.

THE public were, as usual, very much dispirited by this check. The enemies of the minister endeavoured to throw the blame upon him, but in vain ; the plan was allowed to have been well concerted, however it might be bungled in the execution. The French exulted in the trivial advantage they had gained ; and magnified it into a mighty victory ; when indeed they ought to have been ashamed to have suffered such a handful of men to ravage their country, for such a length of time, with impunity.

Armament
returns to
England.

C H A P. XIII.

Hoya and Minden taken from the French—Their distress—They retire beyond the Rhine—Embden taken by Commodore Holmes—Schweidnitz taken—King of Prussia enters Moravia, and lays siege to Olmutz—Embarraffed by Count Daun—Siege of Olmutz raised—King of Prussia marches into Bohemia.

1758.

EUROPE.

THE various fortunes and bloody events of the last campaign in Germany, had not disposed any of the powers at war to make so much as a proposal for peace. The enemies of the King of Prussia were more strongly united against him by fear and hatred, than they would have been either by interest or principle. That his troops might have some repose, the campaign did not open till the beginning of April. The consequences of the battle of Lissa had been extremely favourable to that monarch, as by the contributions he raised in Saxony, he was enabled to spare his own dominions, and to send a small body of cavalry to the assistance of Prince Ferdinand.

THE Count de Clermont had superseded the Duke de Richlieu in the command of the French army in Westphalia. But the change of their general proved of no service. They retreated, or rather fled, every where before the Hanoverians, who marched in two divisions; one on the right to the country of Bremen, and another, under

General Zastrow, to the left toward Gifforn. In a few days, the French retired from Ottersburg, Bremen, and Ferden, and the castle of Rottenburg did not hold out above six hours.

1758.

EUROPE.

IT was expected that Count Chabot, who was posted with a strong detachment at Hoya upon the Weser, would make a vigorous stand; and Prince Ferdinand appointed his nephew, the young Prince of Brunswic, with four battalions of foot, and some light horse, to dislodge him. This prince, though but twenty years of age, had seen a great deal of action; and his genius was so truly military, that he had performed exploits which would have done honour to the ablest generals. He had signalized himself at the battle of Hastedtbeck; and such was his ardour for glory, that he had, though with the seeming disapprobation of his father, followed his uncle to the field. The enterprise he was charged with, was not only full of difficulties, but a train of disappointments threatened to render it unsuccessful.

HE had a broad and deep river to pass, and but one float to carry his troops over it. Before the half of his detachment had passed, a strong wind arose, which rendered the float useless; so that his party, small as it was, was divided. Conscious that not a moment was to be lost, the Prince resolved not to delay his time in attempting to join his forces, but to proceed immediately, with those he had left, against the enemy. It was the 23d of February, and between four and five o'clock in the morning; and he determined to surprise the town, before it was day-light sufficient.

Gallant action of the Hereditary Prince of Brunswic.

1758. for the French to discover the small handful of men he was attended with. Before he arrived at the town, an accidental firing had alarmed the enemy, who were prepared to meet him ; but the prince, by his courage and excellent dispositions, conquered all opposition. He beat the enemy from the possession of a bridge they held, took possession of the town, and forced Chabot, the French commandant, who had thrown himself into the castle, to surrender it with all his stores and magazines.

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

Distress of
the French
army.

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

1758.

EUROPE.

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

Commo-
dore
Holmes
takes pos-
session of
Embden.

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

1758.
EUROPE.

The Duke
de Belleisle
put at the
head of the
French ad-
ministra-
tion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Schweid-
nitz taken.

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

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THE Prussian monarch's affairs wearing so promising an appearance, he resolved upon an offensive war, and to make the untouched country of Moravia its theatre. To conceal his design, after the reduction of Schweidnitz, he ordered some troops to take post as if he intended to invade Bohemia ; but all of a sudden, making a rapid march, he opened trenches before the city of Ol-

King of
Prussia lays
siege to Ol-
mutz.

mutz, the barrier of Moravia, on the 27th of May. The flattering prospect of carrying the war to the gates of Vienna, was probably Frederic's main motive in this expedition, which at first threw the Austrian councils into great perplexity.

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

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

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

Disadvan-
tageous po-
sition of the
Prussian ar-
my.

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ASIA.

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

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

Daun intercepts an important Prussian convoy.

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

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King of
Prussia
marches in
to Bohemia.

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

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

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

C H A P. XIV.

Prince Ferdinand passes the Rhine—Battle of Creveld—Battle of Sangerhausen—Action at Meer—Prince Ferdinand repasses the Rhine—Allies defeated at Lanwerenhagen—They retire into winter-quarters.

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

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Prince Fer-
dinand pa-
sses the
Rhine.

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

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

Battle of
Creyelt.

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

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EUROPE.

Count de
Gifors kil-
led.

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

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

Hessian army defeated by the French.

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

British
troops sent
to Ger-
many.

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

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

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

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

Gen. Imhoff
defeats the
French.

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

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Prince Fer-
dinand re-
passes the
Rhine.

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

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

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

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

C H A P. XV.

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

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

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King of
Prussia's
critical si-
tuation.

1758. EUROPE. Berlin ; but, at last, leaving the Generals Harsch and de Ville on the southern frontiers of Silesia, to amuse the Prussians, he began his march, by Zittau, Goerlitz, and Bautzen, towards Dresden. By crossing at Meissen, he might have cut off all communication between Dresden and Leipsic ; and, by attacking Prince Henry, who was now encamped at Seidelitz, he might have put him between two fires, that of his own army, and that of the army of the empire. But the vigilance of Prince Henry, who secured a communication with his brother, and took care to keep Dresden at his back, frustrated, for that time, all the schemes of that cautious general.

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

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

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

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

Battle of
Custrin.

1758.
EUROPE.

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

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

Battle of
Custrin.

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

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EUROPE.

Loss on
both sides.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Situation of
both armies.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1758. in killed, wounded, and prisoners, about 7000 of his best men, ordered a retreat behind his artillery, which was placed in the middle of his camp, and which, with the help of his cavalry, put a stop to all pursuit from the Austrians, whose loss in killed and wounded amounted to above 5000. All the further consequences of this bloody action, were, that his Prussian Majesty still kept possession of Bautzen, but extended his right wing towards Weissenburg.—The occasion of this unfortunate disaster, cannot, to this day, be accounted for. Certain it is, that his Prussian Majesty's extricating himself from so dreadful a dilemma, conveys a more exalted idea of his military talents, than the most splendid of his victories.

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

The Russ-
ians lay
siege to Col-
berg.

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

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Obliged to
raise the
siege.

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

1758.
EUROPE. in determining. Having received large reinforcements from his brother's army, he left his camp at Dobreschutz, the night of the 24th of October, and, without opposition from the enemy, reached the plain of Goerlitz ; where he defeated a party of Austrians, who wanted to fortify themselves there. This march eased him of all apprehensions from Daun's army ; and, in fact, blasted all the laurels which the latter had acquired at Hohkirchen.

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

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

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

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

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COUNT Schmettau commanded in Dresden, with an army of 12,000 men. The Electors of Saxony had long been the patrons of ingenious arts and manufactures. Their subjects had rivalled the ancients, in many curious works of the chisel, the furnace, the laboratory, the needle, the loom, and the pencil ; and they had greatly exceeded the Easterns, even the Chinese themselves, in their boasted productions of porcelain. The soil of the country, and the genius of the inhabitants, were wonderfully well adapted to the improvement of every manual art ; and a long series of internal tranquillity, while the flames of war raged around, had rendered Saxony the paradise of Germany. Even the expences of its

Prosperity
of the city
of Dresden.

court, the most luxurious of any in Europe, had contributed to enrich the inhabitants, who gave specimens of their wealth in the magnificence of their buildings. The suburbs of Dresden, where the principal nobility, merchants, and manufacturers reside, formed of themselves a most superb city, and are greatly superior to that which lies within the walls. Unfortunately the builders of the houses had not reflected, that it was possible,

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

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

Daun threatens the
Prussian go-
vernor.

he was accountable. Daun threatened to make him personally answerable to himself. Upon which

Schmettau replied, that he would not only burn the suburbs, but, if the city was attacked, he

His spirited
answer.

would defend it street by street, and at last take refuge in the castle, where the royal family re-

sided, and defend that likewise. This answer, being made public, brought the magistrates and the chief inhabitants on their knees before the

Prussian governor ; and the royal family implored him, with all the moving eloquence of distress, to

change his resolution, which, if executed, would leave them destitute of a habitation. Schmettau's

answer was, that Daun, and not he, could grant their request ; and instantly ordered the houses of

The suburbs
burned.

the suburbs to be filled with combustible materials, and, at three in the morning, November 10, they

were fired ; and the houses in which they had

been deposited, were reduced to ashes.

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

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

The siege
raised.

1758. EUROPE. activity of the Prussian monarch, his generals, and officers, six sieges were raised almost at the same time ; namely, those of Colberg, Neiss, Cosel, Torgau, Leipzig, and Dresden.

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

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

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

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C H A P. XVI.

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

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AMERICA.

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

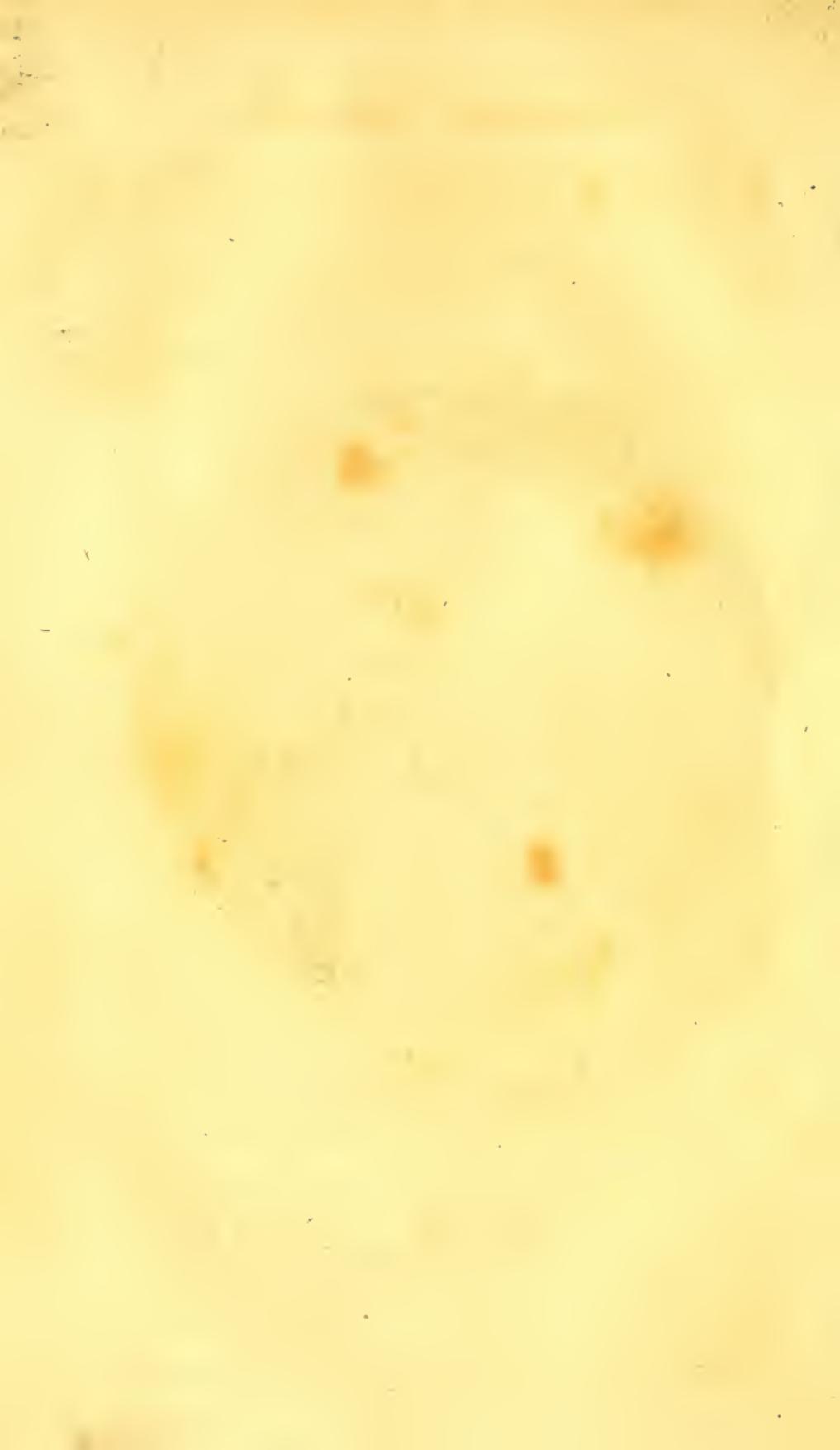
Expedition
against
Louisbourg.

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

Military Memoirs.



Admiral Boscawen.



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

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

The troops landed.

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

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

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

if he and his garrison did not instantly surrender 1758.
AMERICA.
prisoners of war ; which they immediately did.

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

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

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Expedition
against Ti-
conderoga.

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

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

Skirmish
with the
enemies ad-
vanced
guard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fort Frontenac taken.

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

Expedition
against Fort
du Quesne.

THE execution of the expedition intended against Fort du Quesne was committed to General Forbes, an officer of great experience, who had been tutored in the art of war by General Campbell, who lost his life at Fontenoy, and who had been present at most of the considerable actions in Europe during the preceding war. He had now a spacious field to display his talents. This enterprise had hitherto been fatal to our troops ; and the failings of his predecessors contributed to render the general more cautious and circumspect. He particularly adverted to those deficiencies which had occasioned the fall of the unfortunate Braddock.—He marched from Philadelphia, with a considerable army, through a prodigious track of country, intricate and unknown, and infested on every side by the enemy's Indians. Major Grant, with a body of Highlanders and provincials, as being most proper for that service, had the command of the advanced guard, which consisted of about 800 men ; but advancing too near the fort, probably with an intention of surprising it, he was defeated and taken prisoner by the garrison.

The fort a-
bandoned
by the ene-
my.

The main body of the army coming up, the garrison, which did not exceed 500 men, after damaging their works, fell down the Ohio, and left the general to enter the place. The fort was repaired, and the name changed, with an obvious propriety, to that of Pittsburg.—The general

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

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AMERICA.

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

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

ASIA.

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

1758.
ASIA.

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

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

Engage-
ment be-
tween Po-
cock and
d'Ache.

Fort St.
David ta-
ken.

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

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

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

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ASIA.

Second engagement between Pocock and d'Ache.

AFRICA.

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the English, and his dislike of the French, whom he wished to drive from their settlements on the river Senegal. Mr. Cumming informed himself particularly of the nature, extent, and importance of the gum trade, and also the situation and strength of the French forts on that coast; and, on his return to England, communicated his observations and project to the board of trade. The ministry approved, and finally adopted his plan.

Expedition
against Se-
negal.

—After a considerable delay, a small squadron was fitted out, consisting of three ships of war, a sloop, and three busses. They had on board 200 marines, a detachment of matrofles, and ten pieces of cannon and eight mortars.

Succeeds.

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

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

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

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Goree taken.

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

C H A P. XVII.

Detached naval transactions in the year 1758.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Engagement
between the
Terrible and
Vengeance.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EUROPE.

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

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

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

784

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

The following English ships were taken by the French :

Warwick	60
Greenwich	50
Winchelsea	24

134

650 Balance in favour of the English.

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

C H A P. XVIII.

Situation and resources of the contending powers—

Prince Ferdinand defeated at Bergon—Successful operations of the French army—Battle of Minden—Gallant exploits of the Hereditary Prince of Brunswick—Munster surrenders to the allies.

THE affairs of Germany still carried the same uncertain and undecisive appearance. The victories and defeats, which both parties had reciprocally gained and suffered, were productive of no consequences. The destruction and plundering of numberless towns, the spilling of a prodigious quantity of blood, and the vast expences which fell upon all, far from exciting a desire of accommodation, served only to confirm the animosity of the belligerent powers. Both parties seemed intent on revenge, and the prospect of peace was farther removed than ever. The neutral powers with-held their mediation; and the contending ones were actuated by motives of convenience, as well as resentment. The impending death of the Spanish monarch would in all probability involve the southern parts of Europe in the war, and consequently give a new turn to the face of affairs, in which all parties expected to find an advantage. The great exertions made on both sides, far from exhausting, seemed scarcely to have diminished their strength; and whatever difficulties might have occurred in raising supplies

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EUROPE.

The prospect of peace far removed.

1758. of money and of men, they were apparently sur-
EUROPE. mounted before the opening of the campaign.

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

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

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

French lay
siege to
Francfort.

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EUROPE.

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

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

Battle of
Bergen.

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

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

Rapid pro-
gress of the
French ar-
my.

1759.
EUROPE. encamped in a very advantageous situation at Petershagen, about nine miles from the French.

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

Manœuvre
of Prince
Ferdinand.

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

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

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

Battle of
Minden or
Thorn-
hausen.

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AFRICA.

1759.
EUROPE.Battle of
Mindens.

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

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

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

Battle of
Minden.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Consequen-
ces of the
battle of
Minden,
not very
consider-
able.

1759. defeat ; and, indeed, the successes on either side, appeared as a compact, by which both engaged to lose much, and gain little.

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

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

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

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

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

Hereditary
Prince
marches to
the assist-
ance of his
Prussian
Majesty.

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

1759. ~~EUROPE.~~ were entirely blasted. This disappointment may be ascribed to three causes ; their unexpected and extraordinary defeat at Minden, the vigilance of Prince Ferdinand, and the bad conduct of their own commanders.

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

C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

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

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

1759.
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EUROPE.

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

Operations
of Prince
Henry.

1759. under contribuition. In taking possession of Bamberg, the Prussians were guilty of some unjustifiable irregularities, which were productive of loud and just complaints, and, in due time, of a severe retaliation. During Prince Henry's absence in Franconia, a body of Austrians had penetrated into Saxony.

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

General Wedel defeated by the Russians.

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

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

1759.

EUROPE.

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

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

Daun re-
inforces the
Russian ar-
my.

1759. motion ; and, having formed them in a wood, advanced towards the enemy. The action began about eleven, with a severe cannonade ; which having produced the effect he desired from it, he charged the left wing of the Russians with his best troops disposed in columns. After a most obstinate conflict, the enemies entrenchments were forced with a prodigious slaughter, and 72 pieces of cannon were taken. A narrow defile was afterwards passed ; and several redoubts that covered the village of Cunnersdorf, were taken by assault, one after another. The Russians made a firm stand at the village ; but they were overborne by the impetuosity of the Prussians, who drove them from post to post, quite to their last redoubts. As the Russians never quit their ground, till they are hewn down in their ranks, this success was attended with an inconceivable slaughter. After a most furious contest of six hours, fortune seemed to declare in favour of the Prussians. The enemy had been driven from all the ground they occupied before the battle, and more than half of their artillery was taken. In those circumstances, Frederic dispatched the following billet to the Queen at Berlin : “ Madam, we have beat the Russians from their entrenchments. In two hours, expect to hear of a glorious victory.” This news arrived at Berlin, just as the post was going out ; and the account of his Prussian Majesty’s success, was circulated throughout Europe. But this intimation was premature, and subjected him to the ridicule of his enemies. The Russians had been severely handled, but were not defeated. Count Soltikoff rallied

Battle of
Cunners-
dorf.

1759.

EUROPE.

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

Battle of
Cunners-
dorf.

1759. whole into irreparable disorder. Being thus put into confusion, the Prussian army was seized with a panic, and in a few minutes totally defeated and dispersed. The personal efforts of the King, who hazarded his life in the hottest parts of the battle, were of no avail. He led on his troops three times to the charge; two horses were killed under him; and his cloaths, in several parts, were penetrated with musquet-balls. Nothing but the approach of night, could have saved the Prussian army from total destruction.—This was by far the most bloody action, that had happened since the commencement of hostilities; and, perhaps, modern history cannot furnish so desperate an engagement. The Prussians lost upwards of 20,000 men, in killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. General Putkammer was killed on the spot; and the generals Seidelitz, Itzenplitz, Hulsen, Finck, and Wedel, the prince of Wurtemberg, and five major-generals, were wounded. Of the enemy, 10,000 were killed. The Prussians lost all their artillery and baggage.

Battle of Cunnen-
dorf.

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

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

1759.

EUROPE.

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

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

Parallel be-
tween the
King of
Prussia and
Prince Fer-
dinand.

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

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

Extraordi-
nary march
of Prince
Henry.

1759.
EUROPE.

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

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

1759.
EUROPE.

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

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

General
Finck sur-
rounded.

vigilance, every avenue through which it was possible for the Prussians to escape.

1759.
EUROPE.

THE morning presented a dreadful and discouraging sight to the Prussian army. The hills on every side of them were covered with great bodies of the enemy ; and every defile presented a hedge of bayonets, thro' which it would have been madness to attempt to penetrate. In this alarming condition, fatigued with the hard service of the preceding day, in which they had exhausted almost all their ammunition, stripped of the greatest part of their cannon, surrounded on all quarters, without the least prospect of relief, it is not to be wondered at if the Prussian army lost all hope, and all spirit. General Finck was well acquainted with the rigour of his master ; and he felt the thousand embarrassing circumstances that every man of honour and of spirit must feel at such a juncture. The apparent shame of a surrender was great ; but the absurdity of throwing away the lives of so many brave men on a forlorn hope, while there was a possibility of reserving them for better occasions, was, in his opinion, sufficient to counterbalance it. He therefore sent a trumpet to Count Daun, to demand a capitulation ; which was granted in one single article, importing, that he and eight other Prussian generals, with the whole body of troops they commanded, should be received as prisoners of war. To this he was obliged to submit ; and his whole army, consisting of 20,000 men by the Austrian account, and above 12,000 by the Prussian, 64 pieces of cannon,

And forced
to surren-
der.

1759. 50 pair of colours, and 25 standards, fell into the hands of the Austrian general.*

EUROPE.

THIS was a most severe stroke upon his Prussian Majesty; and it was the more mortifying, as it implied a censure on his conduct, for having detached such a numerous body of troops, to a situation where they could not be sustained by the rest of his army.—The Austrians exulted in this cheaply obtained victory, which they considered as catching their enemy in the snare which had been laid for themselves; and they looked upon it as a full indemnification for the capture of the Saxon army, which had surrendered, very near this place, in the year 1756.†

THIS disaster was succeeded by another. General Diercke had been stationed on the banks of the Elbe, opposite to Minden, and being recalled, was obliged to transport his troops in boats, the floating ice preventing the use of his pontoons. Whilst he struggled with these difficulties, his rear guard was attacked by a strong body of Austrians, who, after an obstinate defence, took him, and his men, amounting to between 3 and 4000.

Rear-guard
of a Prus-
sian detach-
ment cut
off.

By these two successive defeats, happening in the close of an unfortunate campaign, his Prussian Majesty was so weakened, that he would hardly have been able to maintain his ground at Freyberg, had not he at this time been reinforced by

* There is strong similarity between this transaction and the surrender of General Burgoyne's army at Saratoga. The particulars of the latter, however, are as yet too little known to trace the affair farther than a general resemblance.

† See p. 33. of this work.

the body of troops under the Hereditary Prince of Brunswic.—Daun, far from being elevated at the advantages he had gained, adhered strictly to his usual cautious management. Instead of pursuing the blow, when it was more probable, than at any other period of the war, that one vigorous effort would have crushed his Prussian Majesty, and put an end to the troubles in that part of Germany, he quietly occupied the strong camp at Pirna, that he might be at hand to succour Dresden, and maintain his communication with Bohemia.—Frederic, finding it impossible to bring the Austrians to an engagement, was obliged at last to desist, and to suffer the shattered remains of his army to repose in winter-quarters.

1759.
EUROPE.

FOUR bloody campaigns had now been fought in Germany, without any prospect of either of the parties being obliged to submit. Never, since the ages of ignorance and barbarity, were the lives of men squandered away with such profusion, as in the course of this German war. As if the common method of carrying on hostilities was not sufficiently destructive, winter campaigns were introduced ; and the troops lavishly exposed to all the rigour and distemper of that inclement season, in despite of nature, and contempt of humanity. In vain the confederate powers of Austria, Russia, France, and Sweden, united their efforts to crush the Prussian monarch. He had been defeated ; he had been out-generalled ; but it was evident, that nothing but the most desperate necessity, nothing but being conquered in the most absolute sense, could ever induce him to submit.

Prussian
army retires
to winter-
quarters.

C H A P. XX.

Expedition against Martinico—Its failure—Guadalupe taken—Ticonderoga and Crown Point abandoned, and taken possession of by General Abercrombie.—General Johnson defeats the French near Niagara, and reduces that fort.

1759. **T**HE success of the last American campaign, had excited a desire in the British ministry, of improving it. Instead of employing the whole strength of the British arms against one object, it was proposed to divide the forces, and to make impressions on different parts, so as to divide, distract, and weaken the enemy. In order to render success more certain, the different expeditions were planned in such a manner, as to co-operate with each other, and even to join occasionally. An attempt against the French Caribbee islands, constituted part of this comprehensive plan.—In the end of the preceding year, a squadron of nine ships of the line, with 60 transports, containing six regiments of foot, were sent thither. The land-forces were commanded by General Hopson, an officer whose age and infirmities, as well as natural caution, disqualified him for such a service; and the sea-force was under the command of Commodore Moore, then in the West-Indies. Martinico*, the

* Martinico, the principal of the French Caribbees, and the seat of government, is situated in the 15th degree of North latitude. It is about 13 leagues in length, and seven in breadth, waved into a variety of

most considerable of all the French islands, was the place of their destination. On the 16th of January, the troops were landed near Port Royal, without meeting with any considerable opposition. The natural strength of the country, however, proved a much greater obstruction to the British troops, than the force of the enemy. The attempt proving ineffectual after repeated efforts, the troops were reembarked. There appears to have been some difference between the commanders, which might occasion the attack's being so suddenly abandoned. It was then determined to proceed to St. Pierre. When they arrived before that place, new difficulties arose, a council of war was held, and the attempt against Martinico was finally abandoned.----Unwilling to return with the disgrace of having done nothing worthy of the greatness of the armament, and the expectation of their country, the commanders resolved to proceed against the island of Guadalupe†, an object of as much importance as Martinico, though of less renown.

Attempt
upon Mar-
tinico drop-
ped.

hills, and well watered with streams and rivulets. The shore is on every side indented with very deep bays; and the sands, only discoverable at low water, form, in many places, a hidden, and almost insurmountable barrier. A lofty ridge of almost impassable mountains, runs north-west and south-east, quite through the island; all the space on both sides, is intersected at inconsiderable distances, with deep gullies, through which the water pours down in the rainy seasons with great impetuosity. In other respects, the island is pleasant and fruitful, well watered, and well cultivated; abounding with plantations and villages along the sea-coast. It is still more considerable for the number of its inhabitants, and the advantages it derives from being the seat of government, and staple of trade, from whence even the sugars of Guadalupe, and other islands, are exported for the European markets. The two principal places are Port Royal and St. Pierre, both towns considerable in this part of the world, for their magnitude, strength, and trade.

† Guadalupe, so called from its resemblance to a chain of mountains

1759.

AMERICA.

Operations
against
Guadalupe.

ON the 23d of January, the fleet arrived before the town of Basse-terre, the capital of the island, and defended by a strong fortress, which, in the opinion of the chief engineer, could not be reduced by the shipping. The commodore was of a different opinion, and brought the ships to bear upon the town and citadel. About nine in the morning, a dreadful cannonade began, which continued with the utmost fury until five in the evening, when the fire of the citadel, and all the other batteries, were effectually silenced. In the mean time, the bombs, which were continually showered upon the town, set it on fire in several places. Nothing could exceed the horror of this scene. The heavy and unremitting fire of so many great ships and batteries, and the blowing up of the powder magazines, were heightened by a continued and permanent line of flames, which extended along the shore, and formed a suitable background to this terrible picture.

NEXT day, the troops landed without opposition, took possession of the town and citadel, and displayed the British colours on the walls. The

of the same name in Old Spain. It is divided into two parts, by a small channel, which the inhabitants cross in a ferry-boat. The western division is called Basse-terre, where the capital stands; and the eastern part is called Grande-terre. No part of the West Indies, perhaps of the world, affords more agreeable and romantic schemes than Guadaloupe. It is full of high mountains, to which the inhabitants convey their valuable effects in time of danger. The valleys are extremely fertile, and produce a great quantity of sugar, cotton, indigo, tobacco, and cassia; besides plenty of rice, potatoes, and all kinds of pulse and fruit peculiar to the country. The country is populous and flourishing, and the government comprehends two smaller islands, called All Saints and Deseda, situated on the eastern side of the island.

island, however, was far from being reduced. The nature of the country, which abounded with passes and defiles, rendered it easy to be defended ; and the inhabitants, who had retired to the mountains, seemed determined to stand out to the last extremity.

1759.

AMERICA.

ON the 27th of February, General Hopson, who, though unfit for this service, was a very worthy man, and a good officer, died, and his command devolved on General Barrington ; a circumstance which contributed not a little to the subsequent reduction of the island. It is not consistent with our plan to enter into a detail of the skirmishing operations of the troops, which were drawn out to a considerable length. The inhabitants pursued the most sensible plan that could be adopted in their situation. Instead of hazarding a general engagement with regular troops, they resolved to weary them out with continual alarms, and to harrass and distress them with perpetual skirmishes ; a plan which the unhealthiness of the climate, and the want of provisions among the British troops, rendered but too likely to succeed. The war was protracted, in this manner, from the 24th of January to the first of May, when the inhabitants thought proper to capitulate ; and the

The island
surrenders.

whole island, and its dependencies, was subjected to the British crown. Scarcely was the capitulation signed, when M. Bompard, general of the French Caribbees, landed at St. Ann's, a port belonging to Guadalupe, with 600 regulars, 2000 buccaniers, and a vast quantity of arms and ammunition. But this body, hearing of the capitulation

1759. being signed, immediately disappeared, tho', had they landed a day sooner, the subjection of the island to the British arms must at least have been doubtful. On the 25th of May, the island of Marigalante surrendered, upon the same terms as had been granted to that of Guadaloupe.*

Expedition
against Ti-
conderoga
and Crown
Point.

THE operations of the British arms on the continent of America, were directed to different objects. To fall as near as possible, at the same time, upon Crown Point, Niagara, and the forts to the south of Lake Erie, whilst a great naval armament, and a considerable body of land-forces, should attempt Quebec by the river St. Laurence, was the plan proposed. The army under General Amherst, destined against Ticonderoga and Crown Point, was the first in motion. The reduction of those forts would naturally lay open the Lake Champlain, which has a communication with the great river St. Laurence. Having established a sufficient naval force on this lake, the general was to proceed to Quebec, in order to form a junction with General Wolfe and Admiral Saunders, who, having entered the river St. Laurence at the opposite quarter, would probably have commenced the siege of Quebec, by the time of his arrival.

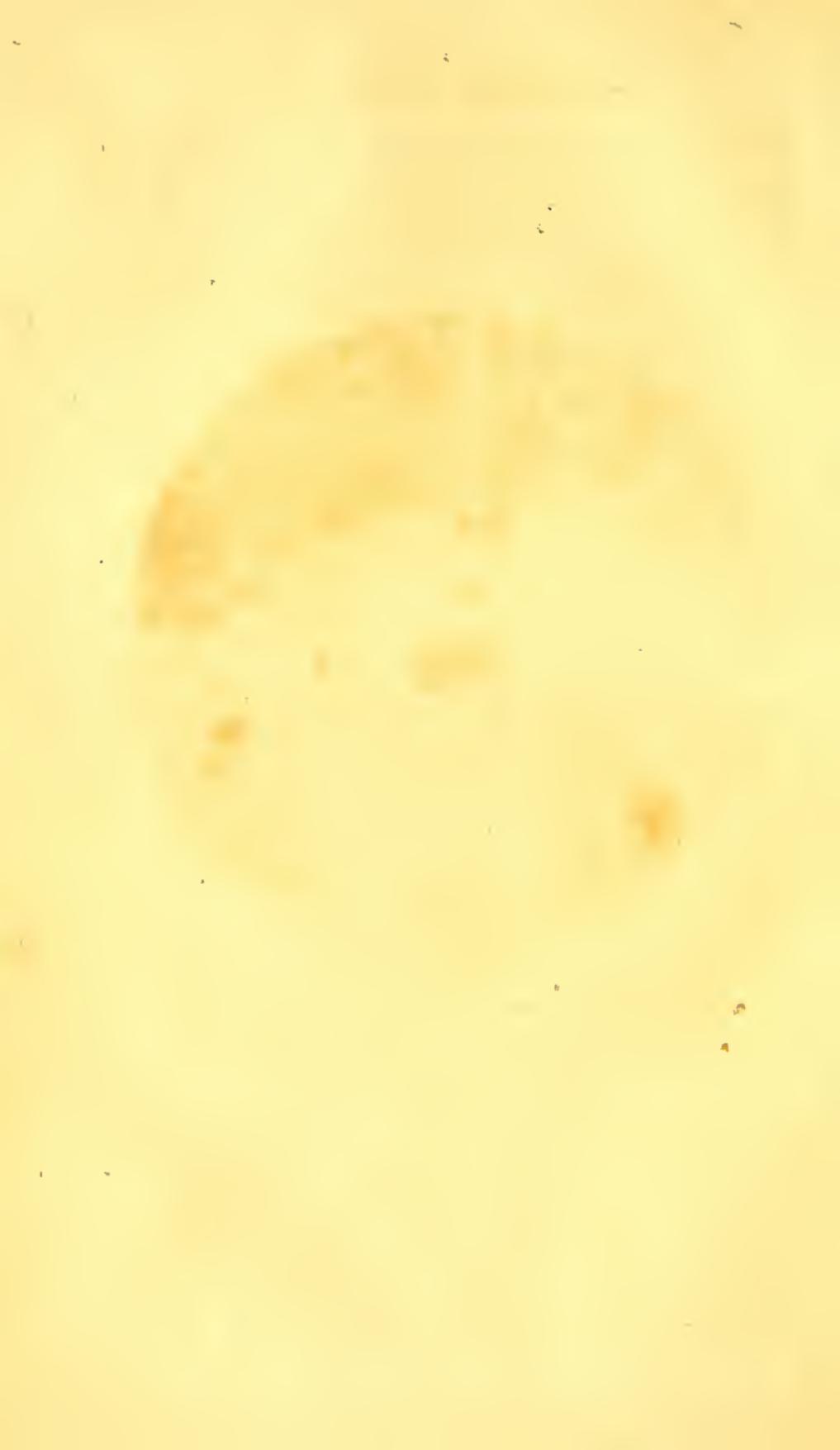
* Most of the inhabitants of Guadaloupe exerted themselves gallantly in the defence of their country. A lady of masculine courage, whose name was Ducharmey, particularly distinguished herself. Having armed her slaves, she headed them in person, made several bold attempts upon an advanced post of the British army, and threw up entrenchments upon a hill opposite to it. At last the works of this virago were stormed by a regular detachment, and, after an obstinate and dangerous conflict, the entrenchments were forced, and the houses and plantations burned; but the lady, who commanded in person during the action, fortunately escaped unhurt.

Military Memoirs.



Cowen Sculp^r

General Amherst



FROM the impediments that were thrown in 1759.
 General Amherst's way, the summer was pretty AMERICA.
 far advanced before he could get his forces across
 Lake George. They landed on the 21st of July,
 and reached the field, where, in the preceding
 year, the British troops had suffered so terrible a
 disaster. The French, after a feeble show of re-
 sistance, abandoned Ticonderoga, and retreated ^{Ticondero-}
 to Crown Point. The only loss attending this ^{ga aban-}
^{doned.} acquisition, was that of Colonel Townshend, who
 was killed in reconnoitring, by a shot from the
 fort. He fell near the spot where the gallant
 Lord Howe was killed, to whom, in the circum-
 stances of birth, qualifications, and character, he
 bore a strong resemblance. Previous to their re-
 treat, the enemy had in some measure disman-
 tled the fortifications; and the first care of the
 general was to repair them, as upon the posses-
 sion of this important post, not only the success
 of his offensive operations depended, but a secure
 retreat in case of a reverse of fortune.

WHILE Amherst was thus employed in repairing Ticonderoga, and endeavouring to render his naval force upon the lake respectable, he received intelligence from his scouting parties, that the enemy had retired from Crown Point. He im-
 mediately detached a party to take possession of ^{French re-}
 the place, and soon after arrived there with the ^{tie from}
 rest of the troops.—The enemy had retired, with ^{Crown}
 about 3500 men, to the bottom of Lake Cham-
 plain, and were posted at the Isle de Noix. They ^{Point.}
 were well provided with artillery; and their force
 upon the lake was such as justified them in hop-

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ing to be able to prevent the farther progress of the British army. Amherst, sensible of the advantages attending a superiority on the lake, had given orders for the building of several vessels with the utmost expedition. These being finished, victualled, and manned, he embarked with the whole army, on the 10th of October, and proceeded a considerable way upon the lake. The general, in his zeal for the service, and anxiety to join General Wolfe, from whom he had not received the least intelligence, seems to have forgot the advanced season of the year, and that it was impossible to contend with so severe and tempestuous a climate. Finding it impracticable to proceed, he prudently postponed his operations to another year, and returned with the army to Crown Point. In the mean time, his little squadron upon the lake, exerted itself with great activity. Three of the French vessels were driven into a bay, two of which were sunk, and the other run aground; General Amherst, having opened communications between Ticonderoga and the governments of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, disposed his troops in winter-quarters.

General Amherst returns to Crown Point.

THE forces appointed to act against Niagara*,

* This is a very important post, and commands in a manner all the interior parts of North America, and is a key as it were to that whole continent. It opens or obstructs a communication with all the Indian nations, and awes and commands all those people. It commands all the great lakes, and secures the navigation of them. It prevents or secures the junction of the two French colonies in Canada or Louisiana, and stops the further progress of the English or French (whichever are possessed of it) in North America. A little above the fort, is the cataract of Niagara, which is esteemed the most remarkable in the world, for the quantity of water, and greatness of the fall.

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under General Prideaux, arrived at that place, without meeting with any obstruction. The fort was invested about the middle of July, and the operations were carrying on with great vigour; when General Prideaux was unfortunately killed, in the trenches, by the bursting of a cohorn. General Amherst, being informed of this disaster, immediately sent Brigadier-General Gage to assume the command of that army. In the mean time, it devolved on Sir William Johnson, who entered into the views, and pursued the measures of the late general, with the greatest spirit. Apprehensive of losing a place of such importance, the French resolved to exert their endeavours for its relief. They collected together all their regular troops and Provincials, with a large body of savages, amounting in all to about 1700 men, in order to give battle to the English, and to raise the siege. General Johnson, having received intelligence of their approach, ordered the light infantry and piquets, supported by some grenadiers and regular foot, to post themselves to the left, on the road leading from Niagara-falls to the fort, by which the French were to pass. The Indians were placed on the flanks; and another regiment was posted, in such a manner, as to secure the trenches from a surprise during an engagement.

ABOUT eight in the morning, the enemy was seen advancing. The Indians in the English service, offered a parly with their countrymen in the French army; but it was rejected. The action was introduced by the horrid scream called the

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war-hoop ; which was said to have been one of the principal causes of General Braddock's defeat, by the panic which it struck into his troops. But it had now lost its effect, and was no longer dreadful. The enemy began the attack with great resolution ; but they met with so warm a reception, from the troops in front, and the Indians on their flanks, that, in less than an hour's time, their whole army was routed, and their general, with most of his officers, taken. The pursuit was continued thro' the woods, for several miles, with great slaughter.

French de-
feated.

THIS battle, fought in the sight of the fort, contributed, in a great measure, to its speedy reduction. The general sent in a list of the prisoners, and exhorted the commandant to surrender before more blood was shed, while he had it in his power to restrain the Indians. The capitulation was signed that night. The garrison, consisting of 607 men, surrendered prisoners of war, and were conducted, with all their baggage, to New York.—The taking of Niagara broke off, effectually, that so much dreaded communication between Canada and Louisiana ; and one of the capital political designs of the French, was defeated in its direct and immediate object.

Niagara
surrenders.

C H A P. XXI.

Expedition against Quebec—Troops take possession of the isle of Orleans—Action at the falls of Montmorenci—Troops remove to Point Levi—Battle of Quebec—General Wolfe killed—French defeated—Quebec surrenders.

HOWEVER interesting the reduction of Crown Point and Niagara might be, they were only intended to be subservient to the conquest of Quebec, the grand object of all our operations. The scheme, by which the two armies, employed against those forts, were to join and co-operate with the northern armament under General Wolfe, was too refined and complicated to be put in execution; and had success depended entirely on that circumstance, the French flag might still have been displayed at Quebec.

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ADMIRAL Saunders commanded the fleet; and the operations by land, were intrusted to the conduct of Major-General James Wolfe, whose military genius was so eminently displayed at the siege of Louisbourg. His subordinates in command, were Brigadiers Monckton, Townshend, and Murray.

ON the 26th of June, the whole armament arrived at the isle of Orleans, a few leagues from Quebec, after a prosperous navigation. By the assistance of some excellent charts, taken from the enemy, the Admiral experienced none of those

Army ar-
rives before
Quebec.

1759. difficulties, with which the navigation of the river St. Laurence is said to be attended. Next day, the troops were landed on the island, which is about twenty miles in length, and seven in breadth; highly cultivated, and abounding with people, villages, and plantations. It extends quite up to the basin of Quebec ; and its most westerly point approaches so nearly to another on the continent, called Point Levi, that the harbour of Quebec appears to be land-locked on all sides. The possession of these two points, were of the utmost importance; and the first operation of General Wolfe, was to secure them, which was done with little difficulty.

THE city now appeared in full view, and presented to the British troops, at once, a tempting, and a discouraging sight. Nature seems to have peculiarly studied the defence of Quebec, no place in the world being better calculated to stand out against an enemy.* The French had left nothing

* Quebec lies on the most navigable river in the world, with a harbour of fresh water, capable of containing 100 men of war of the line, at the distance of 120 leagues from the ocean. It consists of an upper and lower town; the former built on a lofty rock, which runs, with a bold and steep front, along the western banks of the river St. Laurence. At the termination of this ridge, the river St. Charles, from the north-west, falls into that of St. Laurence, and renders the ground on which Quebec stands, a kind of peninsula. On the side of the river St. Laurence, is an extensive sand-bank, which prohibits the approach of large vessels. There is no other way, therefore, to attack Quebec, than by surmounting the above-mentioned precipice, or crossing the river St. Charles. The former, to all appearance, is wholly unadviseable, and almost impossible: the latter is difficult and dangerous in the extreme. All the country northward of the river St. Charles, for more than five miles, is rough, broken, and unequal, full of rivulets and gullies; and so continues to the river of Montmorenci, which flows by the foot of a steep and woody hill.

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undone, which might add to the natural strength of the country. Their troops, amounting to 2,000 men, and commanded by M. Montcalm, an able and hitherto fortunate general, were encamped in a very advantageous situation, along the shore, from the river St. Charles, to the falls of Montmorenci, every accessible part being deeply entrenched.

To attack a place possessed of so many advantages, with such a handful of men as the British army consisted of, was not only deviating from the established maxims of war, but was, in all appearance, a rash and fool-hardy attempt. Wolfe was well acquainted with the difficulties he had to encounter ; and, though of a temper highly sanguine and adventurous, he began almost to despair. He was resolved, however, to leave nothing unattempted : he was not without hope of being joined by General Amherst ; and he knew, while the British squadron maintained its station in the river, he should always have it in his power to retreat in case of emergency.—The west point of the isle of Orleans, and that of Levi, being secured, batteries were erected upon the high grounds, which fired continually upon the town. Admiral Saunders was stationed in the north channel of the isle of Orleans, opposite to the falls of Montmorenci ; while Admiral Holmes proceeded up the river, beyond the town, which not only diverted the enemy's attention from the quarter on which the attack was intended, but prevented their attempts against the batteries already erected by the English.

Disposition
of the fleet.

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All attempts to bring the French to an engagement, ineffectual.

THE fleet being thus judiciously disposed, General Wolfe caused the troops to be transported over the river St. Laurence, to the north-east of Montmorenci; with a view, after he had crossed the latter, of moving towards the enemy's flanks, and enticing them to an engagement. Every means was used for this purpose, but without effect. M. Montcalm was well apprised of the importance of his situation; and, though superior in number to the English, was resolved to risk nothing, and to rely entirely on the strength of the country.

MEAN-WHILE, the fleet was exposed to the most imminent danger. A violent storm had caused several transports to run foul of each other; many boats foundered, and several large ships lost their anchors. The enemy, taking advantage of the confusion which they imagined this disaster must produce, sent down seven fire-ships from Quebec, at mid-night, among the British fleet, which lay so thick as to cover the whole surface of the river. This scheme, though well contrived, and seasonably executed, was entirely defeated by the skill and vigilance of Admiral Saunders, and the dexterity of his mariners; who resolutely boarded the fire-ships, run them fast aground, and prevented them from doing the smallest damage to the British squadron.

WOLFE, finding that every endeavour to draw the enemy to a engagement was unsuccessful, and sensible that the approach of winter would soon terminate all military operations in that northern climate, formed the resolution of attacking them

in their entrenchments, on the side of Montmorenci.—There was a redoubt situated close to the water's edge, and, to appearance, without gunshot of the entrenchment on the hill. The general foresaw, that if the enemy should suffer this fort to be reduced, he could afterwards reconnoitre their situation at leisure, and determine the place at which they could be most easily attacked: on the other hand, should they endeavour to support it, he would be enabled to bring on a general engagement. This plan, judicious and practicable as it may appear, failed, from one of those accidents which can neither be foreseen nor prevented.

ON the 30th of July, in the forenoon, the troops destined to this attack, were embarked in boats, in order to be transported across the channel. To facilitate their passage, the Centurion ship of war was stationed in the channel, to check the fire of the lower battery, which commanded the ford; a numerous train of artillery was placed upon the eminence, to batter the left of the enemy's entrenchment; and two flat-bottomed armed vessels were run aground near the redoubt, to favour the descent of the forces. The confusion which these manœuvres produced among the enemy, determined the general to storm the entrenchment immediately. Orders were issued for the Brigadiers Monckton, Townshend, and Murray, to put their troops in motion, at a certain signal, which was accordingly given at a proper time of the tide. Several boats, however, were run aground, which caused a considerable delay,

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The attack
made at
Montmo-
renci.

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during which the troops were exposed to a severe fire from the enemy. In the mean time, the general, in person, sounded the shore, and pointed out the place where the troops might be landed with least difficulty.

THIRTEEN companies of grenadiers, and 200 of the second American battalion, were the first who landed. They had orders to form upon the beach, and to wait for the corps that was to sustain them, before they began the attack. Instead of attending to this necessary injunction, they rushed, with an impetuous ardour, towards the enemy's entrenchments, in the most tumultuous disorder. This confusion was increased by a severe and steady fire from the entrenchments, which forced them to take shelter under a redoubt, which the enemy had abandoned on their approach.—In this distressful situation they remained a considerable time, unable to form under so hot a fire, notwithstanding every effort of their officers. Night was now drawing on; a violent tempest was gathering, and the tide was beginning to make. For these reasons, the general judged it not adviseable to persevere in so dangerous an attack, as a second repulse might render the retreat of the troops hazardous and uncertain. He therefore ordered them to retreat, and to form behind Monckton's brigade, which was now drawn up on the beach, in good order. The whole repassed the river without molestation; the general exposing his person, with that intrepidity, which distinguished him, both during the attack, and the retreat.

British
troops re-
tire with a
considera-
ble loss.

THE loss which attended this mortifying check, was very considerable. Above 500 men, and many brave officers, were killed or wounded; but, though the army was considerably weakened, the general was resolved to proceed with vigour, as long as there remained a possibility of success. Admiral Holmes's squadron, which had returned to assist in the late unsuccessful attack, was ordered to move up the river, attended by Brigadier Murray, with 1200 men. Nothing of great moment was effected by this detachment. Several magazines of the enemy were destroyed, but they could not come near their men of war; so that they returned to their former station. By some prisoners taken in this expedition, they learned, that the fort of Niagara was taken, Ticonderoga and Crown Point abandoned, and General Amherst employed in making preparations to attack the corps under M. Burlemaque at the Isle du Noix.

THE ill fortune which had hitherto attended all his operations, made a deep impression on the mind of General Wolfe. He had planned, he had attempted, he had executed, every thing that might insure success; he had faced every danger in person, and braved every difficulty and fatigue; but the prospect of victory and conquest, was as yet far distant. He well knew, that the want of success in all military expeditions, was oftener attributed to misconduct, than misfortune; and the thought of returning, without having performed any thing worthy of himself, and the public hope, was more terrible to him than death. He was often

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1759. seen to sigh ; he was often heard to complain ; and the tumult of his mind, added to the fatigues of body he had undergone, disordered his whole constitution, which was naturally delicate and tender. He was seized with a violent fever, which, for some time, totally disabled him. In this feeble condition, he begged of the general officers, to consult together for the public utility ; and the result of their deliberation was, that 4000 or 5000 men, conveyed above the town, might be able to draw the enemy from their situation, and to bring them to a general engagement.

IT was at this period, that General Wolfe dispatched an express to England, with an account of his proceedings. In this elegant and truly military letter, tho' written in the style of despondency, we may discover the scholar, the philosopher, the warrior, and the politician. It may be exhibited as a standard of military eloquence ; and would have ranked the author among our best writers, had not his military exploits placed him among our greatest commanders.*

AGREEABLE to the plan which had been formed for a general assault, the general and admiral reconnoitred the town ; and concluded, from their own observation, enforced by the opinion of the

* This letter is perhaps one of the clearest and most elegant accounts of a series of military operations, which has ever been published. The concluding paragraph is singularly excellent.

“ By the list of disabled officers (many of whom are of rank) you may perceive, Sir, that the army is much weakened. By the nature of the river, the most formidable part of this armament is deprived of the power of acting, yet we have almost the whole force of Canada to oppose. In this situation, there is such a choice of difficulties, that I own myself at a loss how to determine. The affairs of Great Britain,

Gen. Wolfe
sickens.

chief engineer, that such an attack could not be hazarded with any prospect of success. The scheme, therefore, of drawing the enemy to an engagement, was now finally adopted. The troops quitted the camp at Montmorenci, were reembarked and landed at Point Levi ; and Admiral Holmes's division made movements up the river, in order to draw the attention of the enemy as much from the town as possible. This was attended with a better effect than before ; for, tho' Montcalm still maintained his advantageous post, he detached M. de Bougainville with 1500 men, to watch the motions of the English admiral.

ADMIRAL SAUNDERS, who still remained in his first position, was ordered to make a feint, with every appearance of reality, as if the troops intended to land below the town, and attack the French entrenchments on the Beauport shore. On the 12th of September, about one in the morning, the general embarked the troops aboard the transports, and proceeded three leagues farther up the river than the intended place of landing. They were then put into boats, and began to fall down with the tide to the place of disembarkation. The boats glided gently along, unobserved by the French centinels posted on the shore ; but,

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I know, require the most vigorous measures ; but then the courage of a handful of brave men, should be exerted only where there is some hope of a favourable event. However, you may be assured, Sir, that the small part of the campaign which remains, shall be employed (as far as I am able) for the honour of his Majesty, and the interest of the nation ; in which I am sure of being well seconded by the admiral, and by the generals. Happy, if our efforts here, can contribute to the success of his Majesty's arms in any other parts of America."

1759. by the rapidity of the current, and the darkness of the night, they overshot the mark, and were carried a little below the intended place of attack. The ships of war followed them, and, by a well-conducted navigation, arrived just at the time concerted to cover their landing.—When we consider the danger and difficulty attending this enterprise, we cannot but admire the dexterity with which it was performed. The stream was rapid, the shore shelving, the bank above lined with centinels, and the landing-place so narrow as to be easily missed in the dark.—When the troops were landed, the heights of Abraham appeared before them, which rise abruptly, with a steep ascent, from the banks of the river. A little path flanted up the hill from the landing-place, so narrow that two could not go abreast; and even this was entrenched, and defended by a captain's guard. These difficulties, however discouraging and perplexing, served only to animate the troops. The light infantry and the Highlanders, under Colonel Howe, ascended the precipice with admirable courage and activity. They were obliged to pull themselves up by the stumps and boughs of trees, which covered the declivity. The captain's guard, which defended this pass, was soon dispeised; the whole army mounted without further molestation, and were drawn up in order by the general as they arrived.

Troops land, and ascend the heights of Abraham.

MONTCALM could scarcely credit the intelligence he received, of the British forces having gained the heights of Abraham, which he had confidently deemed inaccessible; but, finding it

but too true, and being conscious that the British fleet might destroy the low town, while the high town was attacked by the army, he resolved to hazard a battle ; and, quitting Beauport, passed the river St. Charles, and formed his troops opposite to ours.

GENERAL WOLFE, perceiving the approach ^{Position of the British army;} of the enemy, began to form his own line, which consisted of six battalions, and the Louisbourg grenadiers. The right of this body, was commanded by Brigadier Monckton ; the left, by Brigadier Murray ; and the rear was protected by the light infantry, under Colonel Howe. As the enemy discovered an intention of flanking the left of the English, General Townshend was sent thither with the regiment of Amherst, which he formed *en potence*, that is, in a body which presents two faces to the enemy. His numbers were soon increased by two battalions ; and another battalion was drawn up as a reserve, formed in eight subdivisions, with large intervals.—The right of the enemy was composed of half the colony troops, supported by two battalions of regulars, and a body of Canadians and savages ; their centre consisted of a column, formed by two other regular battalions ; and the remainder of the colony troops, with one battalion, were posted on the left. The bushes and corn-fields in their front, were filled with detachments of Indians, and the best marksmen, who, previous to the engagement, kept up a galling, though irregular, fire upon the British troops.

1759-
AMERICA.

^{and of the}
French.

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AMERICA.

Battle of
Quebec.

ABOUT nine in the morning, the enemy advanced to the charge, with great spirit, and in good order; but their fire, from its beginning too soon, was irregular and ineffectual. The British troops, on the contrary, reserved their fire, until the French had approached within forty yards of their line, when they poured in a most dreadful discharge, which took place in its full extent. This fire was continued with great deliberation and spirit, and the enemy began to give way on all sides. At this critical time, General Wolfe, who stood conspicuous in the front of the line, where the attack was the most warm, received a ball in his breast, under which he sunk; and was carried behind the ranks, where he soon expired.* General Monckton, the second in command, fell immediately after, and was likewise conveyed off the field of battle. The command now devolved on General Townshend, who showed himself equal to so arduous a duty. Notwith-

* The circumstances attending the death of so great a person, are deserving of a particular relation. He first received a shot in the wrist; but, to avoid discouraging his troops, he wrapt a handkerchief round his hand, and continued giving orders without the least emotion. Soon after, he received another ball in his belly, which he likewise concealed, and exerted himself as before. But a third ball, more fatal, pierced his breast; under which he sunk, and was carried off to a small distance in the rear. As he lay struggling with the anguish and weakness of three grievous wounds, he seemed only solicitous about the fortune of the battle. He begged one who attended him, to support him to view the field; but as he found that the approach of death had dimmed and confused his sight, he desired an officer to give him an account of what he saw. The officer answered, that the enemy seemed broken. He repeated his question a few minutes after, with much anxiety; when he was told, that the enemy was totally routed, and that they fled in all parts. "Then," said he, "I am satisfied;" and he immediately expired.

standing the discouraging circumstance of losing two generals, the troops preserved their spirit, and every regiment seemed to exert itself with a view to its own peculiar character. The grenadiers pressed on with their bayonets, and soon broke the centre of the enemy ; when the Highlanders, drawing their broad swords, fell in among them with irresistible impetuosity, and drove them with great slaughter into the town. Colonel Howe, with his light infantry, maintained his station on the left during the whole action, and entirely prevented the attempts of the Indians and Canadians upon that quarter.

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AMERICA.

French de-
feated.

VICTORY had scarcely declared in favour of the British forces, when a new enemy appeared, which threatened to put all again to the hazard. M. Bougainville, who had been detached up the river, had turned back, on being informed that the British troops had gained the heights of Abraham, and now appeared in the rear with a body of 2000 men. Fortunately, he arrived too late to have any share in the battle. The main body of the French army, was broken and dispersed ; and General Townshend established his rear so effectually, that Bougainville, after a feeble attempt, thought proper to retire among woods and swamps, where the British commander wisely declined following him.

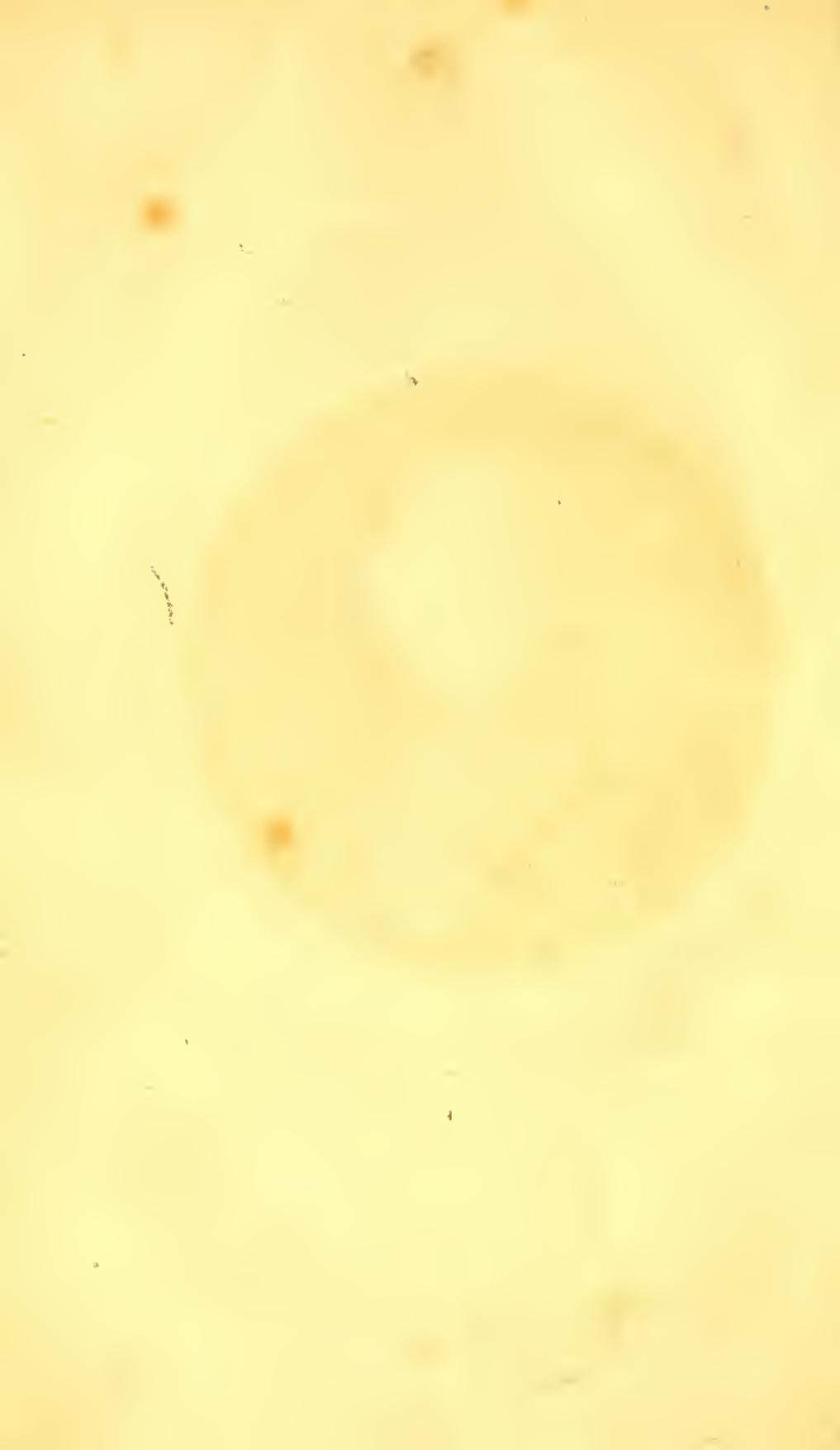
MONTCALM was mortally wounded in the engagement, and conveyed into Quebec. His second in command likewise received a wound, of which he afterwards died on board an English ship. About 1000 of the enemy, including a

1759. great number of officers, were taken prisoners ; and about 500 were slain on the field of battle.—
AMERICA. If we except the death of General Wolfe, and reflect on the importance of the victory, the loss of the British troops was quite inconsiderable. It did not amount to above 500 men.

Character of Gen. Wolfe. THE death of this great general, was a national misfortune ; and, perhaps, our loss that day was greater, than the conquest of Canada was advantageous. Never was honour more firmly established upon the principles of virtue, than in him. He seemed formed by nature for military greatness. His memory was retentive, his judgment deep, his comprehension quick and clear, and his capacity extensive. His passion for glory, prompted him to acquire every species of military knowledge, that study could comprehend, or actual service illustrate or confirm. With the true fire of a soldier, he possessed the milder qualifications of the man. He was generous, gentle, complacent, and humane. Contemning every little art for the acquisition of wealth, he scorned to prolong a burthensome war, to enrich himself with the spoils of his country. His rank in the army, was owing to no parliamentary interest, nor family-connections : merit alone raised him ; and that great man, whose comprehensive genius directed the operations of the war, had long discovered his abilities, and marked him for his own. If we view his fate with the eye of a soldier, it was, of all others, the most to be envied, by those who have a true relish for military glory. He had happily effected the enterprise in which



GENERAL WOLFE.



He was engaged, fully answered the expectations of his country, and, expiring in the arms of victory, left, to future times, an heroic example of military skill, discipline, and fortitude. But, tho' he thus expired with every circumstance of glory that could grace the death of a soldier, it is still to be regretted, that he did not survive to enjoy those honours, which his great merit claimed, and which his country would have delighted to bestow on him.

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AMERICA.

IMMEDIATELY after the action, Admiral Saunders, who had all along spiritedly co-operated with the land-forces for the advantage of the service, failed up with an intention to attack the lower town, while General Townshend was preparing to assault the upper part. This double attack was anticipated by a proposal of capitulation from the town; which, after mature deliberation, was accepted, and signed on the 18th of September. The terms were honourable to the garrison, and advantageous to the inhabitants, who were allowed the free exercise of their religion, and the possession of their civil rights, until a general peace should decide their future condition.—The fortifications were in tolerable order; but the houses were entirely demolished. General Murray, with a garrison of 5000 men, was left to defend the place; and the remainder returned to England with the fleet, which sailed soon, lest it should be locked up by the frost in the river St. Laurence.—Brigadier Monckton was conveyed to New-York, where he happily recovered of his wound.

Quebec surrenders.

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AMERICA.

THUS was the conquest of Quebec happily completed; an enterprise which strongly proves, that intrepidity and perseverance will get the better of obstacles apparently insurmountable. When we consider the strength of the country, the numbers of the besieged, and the advanced season at which the attack was commenced; the success which attended it, is matter of the greatest astonishment. Every manœuvre displayed the judgement and genius of the general, and the bravery of the troops. It is but justice to the navy, to observe, that they co-operated with an unanimity, ardour, and perseverance, never enough to be commended.

THE news of this important conquest, arrived in England but a few days after the express which General Wolfe had sent off after the affair of Montmorenci. The despondency occasioned by the latter, was great. The conquest of Canada was a measure ardently wished for by the people, and, from their high opinion of Wolfe, they were almost assured of success; but, when *he* began to doubt, they thought they had just reason to despair. It is difficult to describe the various and mixed emotions, with which every one was effected, when intelligence was brought, of Quebec's being taken, and General Wolfe killed. The sudden transition from such a dejection to the highest joy, mixed with grief and pity at the fate of the general, was singular and affecting. The rapture and riot which the news excited among the populace, were blended with the praise of the gallant Wolfe; and the sort of mourning triumph which every

where manifested itself, while it did honour to the ^{1759.} memory of the general, displayed the generous ^{AMERICA.} and humane feelings of the people.*

THE French army, soon after the surrender of ^{French ar-} Quebec, retired to Montreal and Trois Rivieres, ^{my retires.} the only places of any consequence they had left in Canada. The country along the river, was laid waste for a considerable extent, to deprive the French troops of subsistence, and so render any attempt for recovering Quebec in the winter abortive; a measure, which, however repugnant to humanity, was judged to be absolutely necessary.

* "A little circumstance was talked of at that time, and it deserves to be recorded, as it shows a fineness of sentiment, and a justness of thinking in the lower kind of people, that is rarely met with even among persons of education. The mother of General Wolfe was an object marked out for pity, by great and peculiar distress; the public wound pierced her mind with a particular affliction, who had experienced the dutiful son, the amiable domestic character, whilst the world admired the accomplished officer. Within a few months, she had lost her husband; she now lost this son, her only child. The populace of the village where she lived, unanimously agreed to admit no illuminations or firings, or any other sign of rejoicing whatever near her house, lest they should seem, by an ill-timed triumph, to insult over her grief. There was a justness in this; and whoever knows the people, knows that they made no small sacrifice on this occasion."

C H A P. XXII.

General Lally besieges Madras—Obliged to raise the siege—Major Brereton repulsed—Lally completely routed by Colonel Coote—Third engagement between Pocock and d'Ache—Treachery of the Dutch chastised.

1759.

ASIA.

Gen. Lally
lays siege to
Madras.

THE French force in the East-Indies, was highly respectable; and there was just reason for them to hope, that the losses they sustained in other parts of the world, would be balanced by their successes in this.—We left General Lally making preparations to besiege Madras.* On the 14th of December 1758, he advanced with his whole force to attack the place; while the British detachments retreated into the garrison. The inhabitants were thrown into the utmost consternation; and it re-

* This town was built about an hundred years ago, by one William Langhorne, in the country of Arcot, and by the sea-side. It is placed in the midst of a sandy tract, altogether dry; and there is no water fit for drinking, but what is fetched from the distance of more than a mile. It has increased so much since its establishment, that it has been divided into three districts. The first of these, known in Europe by the name of Fort St. George, and in India by that of the White Town, is occupied by about 500 English. It is defended only by a slight wall, and four ill-constructed bastions. To the north, lies the Black Town, which is larger, and still worse fortified; and is the quarter where the Jews, Armenians, Moors, and the richest Indians, reside. Beyond this, are the suburbs, which are entirely defenceless, and full of inhabitants. The three divisions, and the whole territory, which is not more than 15 miles in circumference, contain 250,000 inhabitants, almost all of them natives of India. The business carried on here, by the company, and the private merchants, has rendered Madras one of the most opulent and important places in India.

quired some immediate address, to keep up the spirits of the garrison, and prevent a general despondency. For that purpose, a sally was made, under the command of Colonel Draper; and, had the spirit and bravery of the commander been seconded by the troops of Madras, the town would, in all probability, have been relieved from the horrors of a siege. After a warm and bloody dispute, Colonel Draper was obliged to retire into the fort; and nothing further was attempted without the works, as the garrison was not very numerous.

1759.

ASIA.

IN the mean time, the enemies batteries played vigorously against the town, but the artillery of the garrison was much better managed. The French acted with a timidity, and want of judgement on this occasion, by no means suitable to their national character. It was in vain that Lally attempted to lead on his men to a breach that had been practicable for several days; it continued open for a fortnight, and not one dared to venture the assault. To add to his embarrassments, he was very ill supplied with provisions, and he found that the garrison had received a reinforcement. Despairing, therefore, of success, he raised the siege that very night, abandoning forty pieces of cannon, and retreated to the territory of Arcot.—The failure of the French, in this attempt, was greatly owing to the skill and bravery of the British commanders. Governor Pigot, Colonels Laurence and Draper, and Major Brereton, particularly distinguished themselves.

French grow timorous,
and raise the siege.

1759.
ASIA.

THE transactions of the war in this part of the world, consisted chiefly of detached expeditions, which are of too little moment to require a particular relation.—The troops under Lally, behaved in the most dastardly manner. The remonstrances he sent home on this occasion, will paint the horror and unfeeliness of his mind, at the cowardice, corruption, and degeneracy of those he commanded; while the English not only triumphed over him, but reduced the opulent city of Surat, on the western peninsula of India. On the 16th of

English army takes the field,

April, the British army took the field under Major Brereton, and possessed themselves of the important town and fort of Conjeveram, while Major Ford stormed and took the city of Masuli-

makes some valuable acquisitions;

patan. Thus a sea-coast, of 800 miles in extent, along a trading and manufacturing country, fell into the hands of the English; while the trade of the French was confined to Pondicherry, and a few inconsiderable places in the neighbourhood. The coast thus acquired by the English, adjoined to the province of Bengal, out of which the French were entirely driven by Colonel Clive.

but meet with a check.

THOSE successes, however, were, in some measure, balanced by a repulse which Major Brereton met with, in attempting to dislodge Lally and his confederates from a strong post he held under the cannon of a fort. This check, which happened in September, cost the British between 3 and 400 killed and wounded.—Encouraged by this advantage, Lally was preparing to besiege Trichenopoly; but, Colonel Coote, on the 30th of November, took Wandewash, one of the most important forts

1759.

ASIA.

on that coast, in three days time, and made the garrison prisoners of war. Ten days after, he took Carangoly, which he obliged the garrison to evacuate. Lally, alarmed at this great success, determined to risk a general engagement, or to re-take Wandewash, which he besieged with 2200 Europeans, and between 9 and 10,000 Blacks. He pushed forward the siege, with the utmost vigour; but Colonel Coote came up with his army, consisting of about 1700 Europeans, and about 3000 Blacks, just at the time when Lally was about to storm the breach he had made. A long French army entirely routed. and obstinate engagement ensued, in which the French suffered an entire defeat, with the loss of 1000 men, their cannon, and all the implements of the siege. Many prisoners of rank were taken, and Lally, despairing of farther success, retired with his broken troops to Pondicherry. The loss of the English in this engagement, amounted to 200 in killed and wounded; and, amongst the former, was the brave Major Brereton. This battle reflected great honour on the British troops, because it was obtained over Europeans, headed by a general of no small reputation for his conduct and courage. The English lost no time in pursuing their victory; for they marched directly against Chitiput, which they took; and then laid siege to Arcot, the capital of that vast province, on the 5th of February 1760, and it surrendered the 10th, by which 300 Europeans were made prisoners of war.

THE sea operations in the East-Indies, were prosecuted with equal spirit and success. The

1759.
ASIA.Defeat of
the French
fleet.

French had strained every nerve to render their naval force superior to that of the English ; and had augmented their fleet to eleven sail of the line, besides frigates and store-ships, an armament hitherto unknown in the Indian seas. Admiral Pocock, though infinitely inferior in number of men, guns, and size of ships, determined to pursue, and give them battle.—Early in the morning on the 2d of September, the French fleet were descried from the mast-head, and the signal was given for a general chase. The wind, however, abated ; and the utmost endeavours of the British admiral, to bring the French to an engagement, proved unsuccessful for several days. At length, they totally disappeared, and stood for Pondicherry, where they were soon followed by the British admiral. On the 10th, about two in the afternoon, a severe and bloody engagement took place between the two fleets, which was continued with great fury for two hours ; when the French admiral, finding his fleet in a very shattered condition, sheered off, and took shelter under the fort of Pondicherry. In this engagement, eight English ships stood the fire of the whole French fleet, which consisted of sixteen sail. The loss of the English was not inconsiderable ; 569 of our men being killed and wounded, and the ships greatly shattered. The French did not lose less than 1000 men ; and their ships were so disabled, as to render it difficult to keep them above water. Soon after this engagement, Admiral Cornish arrived from England, with four ships of the line ; and confirmed the dominion of the Bri-

tish over the Indian seas.—It is remarkable, that these two squadrons fought three pitched battles, in eighteen months, under the same commanders, without the loss of a ship on either side.

1759.

ASIA.

WHILE the British arms were thus successful against the French, a rupture seemed to be in preparation, from a quarter where it was least expected. Under a pretence of reinforcing their garrisons in Bengal, the Dutch equipped an armament of seven ships, which was ordered to sail up the Ganges ; and rendered their fort at Chincura so formidable, as to exclude all other nations from the salt-petre trade, which was carried on there, and so to monopolize that beneficial commodity. Colonel Clive, who then resided at Calcutta, thought proper to oppose their design. He sent a letter to the Dutch commodore, informing him, that he could not permit his landing and marching his forces to the fort intended, as he foresaw that it would be detrimental to the commerce of Europe. The Dutch commodore replied, that he had no such designs of a monopoly as were imputed to him ; and only requested the liberty of landing, to refresh his troops. A request, so seemingly reasonable, was easily granted. The Dutchman, however, continued submissive no longer, than he supposed himself unable to act with vigour ; for, as soon as he knew that the ships which were to second his operations were come up the river, he boldly began his march to Chincura, and took several small vessels belonging to the English, by way of retaliation for the affront he pretended to have received. The

Treachery
of the
Dutch.

1759.
ASIA.

Dutch
chastised.

Calcutta Indiaman, in pursuing her voyage down the river, was likewise stopped by the Dutch commander, and obliged to return to Calcutta, with the complaints of this treatment to Colonel Clive. That gallant officer was not slow in vindicating the honour of his country. He ordered three India ships, which happened to be at that time in the harbour, to proceed down the river, and attack the Dutch fleet. This command was obeyed with great alacrity; and, after a few broadsides on either side, the Dutch commodore struck, and the rest of the fleet followed his example. The victory thus obtained without any great damage, Captain Wilson, who commanded in the expedition, took possession of the fleet of the enemy, and sent their men prisoners to the English fort; while, about the same time, their land-forces were defeated by Colonel Ford, sent by Colonel Clive upon that duty.—This contest had like to have produced a new rupture in that part of the world; but a negotiation soon after ensuing, the Dutch wisely gave way to a power they were not able to withstand, and were content to fit down with the loss.

C H A P. XXIII.

Plan of the triple French invasion—M. de la Clue defeated by Boscawen—Admiral Hawke defeats Conflans—Detached naval transactions in 1759.

THOUGH the French were equally unsuccessful in Asia, Africa, and America, they were now meditating a blow, which, had it succeeded, would have amply revenged all their losses. A masterly and powerful invasion of Great Britain was projected, and their ports were filled with preparations for carrying it into execution. Three embarkations for that purpose were mentioned. M. Thurot, an intelligent enterprising adventurer, humane in his manners, and fortunate in his undertakings, was appointed to command a squadron of men of war, destined against Scotland. From being captain of a merchant vessel, he had successively become a commander of a privateer, and was now a commodore in the French service. His birth was obscure; but his notions, at a time when a total degeneracy of the French prevailed, rendered, in France, those abilities illustrious, which, in England, could not have entitled him to a lieutenancy on board a ship of war. The second embarkation was to have been performed at Havre de Grace, and the other sea-ports of Normandy, and was designed immediately against England. The third embarkation, destined against Ireland, was to be made at Vannes, in Lower Britanny. The

1759.

EUROPE.

Plan of the invasion.

1759.
EUROPE.

land-forces were commanded by the Duc d'Aiguillon, while a powerful squadron under M. Conflans was to cover and secure their landing.—These appearances were alarming; but they were greatly diminished, by the excellent measures taken by the British government. The Brest fleet, under Conflans, was blocked up by Hawke, who at the same time detached some ships to keep an eye upon Vannes; while Commodore Boys was stationed before Dunkirk, and Admiral Rodney bombarded Havre.

IN the mean time, Admiral Boscawen, who had succeeded Admiral Osborne in the Mediterranean, effectually maintained the honour of the British flag. The French had assembled a considerable armament at Toulon, under the command of M. de la Clue, which some imagined to be destined for America, while others conjectured that it was designed to reinforce the Brest fleet, and to co-operate with it in the intended descent on the English coast.

BOSCAWEN having in vain attempted to draw the enemy to an engagement, ordered three ships of the line to advance, and burn the French vessels lying close to the mouth of the harbour. In executing this order, the ships met with a warm reception from some batteries, which had not been before perceived; and, a calm ensuing, they sustained such considerable damage, as rendered it necessary for the English admiral to return to Toulon fleet puts to sea. Gibraltar, in order to refit. M. de la Clue seized this opportunity of sailing, and proceeded with great diligence to the Straights. Boscawen had

notice of his approach, before he reached Gibraltar; and though his ships were not perfectly ready to sail, he used such expedition, that, in two hours, the fleet was out at sea. At day-light, he descried seven large ships of de la Clue's squadron; the other five, and three frigates, having been separated in the night. The English ships being newly refitted, proved better sailers, and soon came up with the enemy, near Cape Lagos in Portugal. After a brisk engagement, in which the coolness and intrepidity of the British admiral were equally remarkable, the French fleet was totally defeated. The Ocean and Redoutable, two of the best ships in the French navy, were run ashore, and burnt: the Centaure and the Modeste, two other of their capital ships, were taken; and the others, with great difficulty, got into the harbour of Cadiz.

1759.
EUROPE.

Defeated
by
Boscawen.

THIS blow, however severe and discouraging, did not deter the French from their intended invasion of Great Britain. They seemed to derive courage from despair, and rested their hopes in the expectation, that the winter-storms would compel the English fleets to take refuge in their own harbours, and give them an opportunity of slipping to sea, and putting their design in execution. In this expectation, they were not disappointed. A most violent storm drove the English squadrons off the French coast. Thurot, availing himself of this circumstance, immediately put to sea, and was as immediately pursued by Commodore Boys. He had the good fortune, however, to escape to Gottenburg in Sweden, where he was laid up till

Thurot's
intentions
frustrated.

1759. after Christmas, by the severity of the weather, and
EUROPE. want of necessaries.

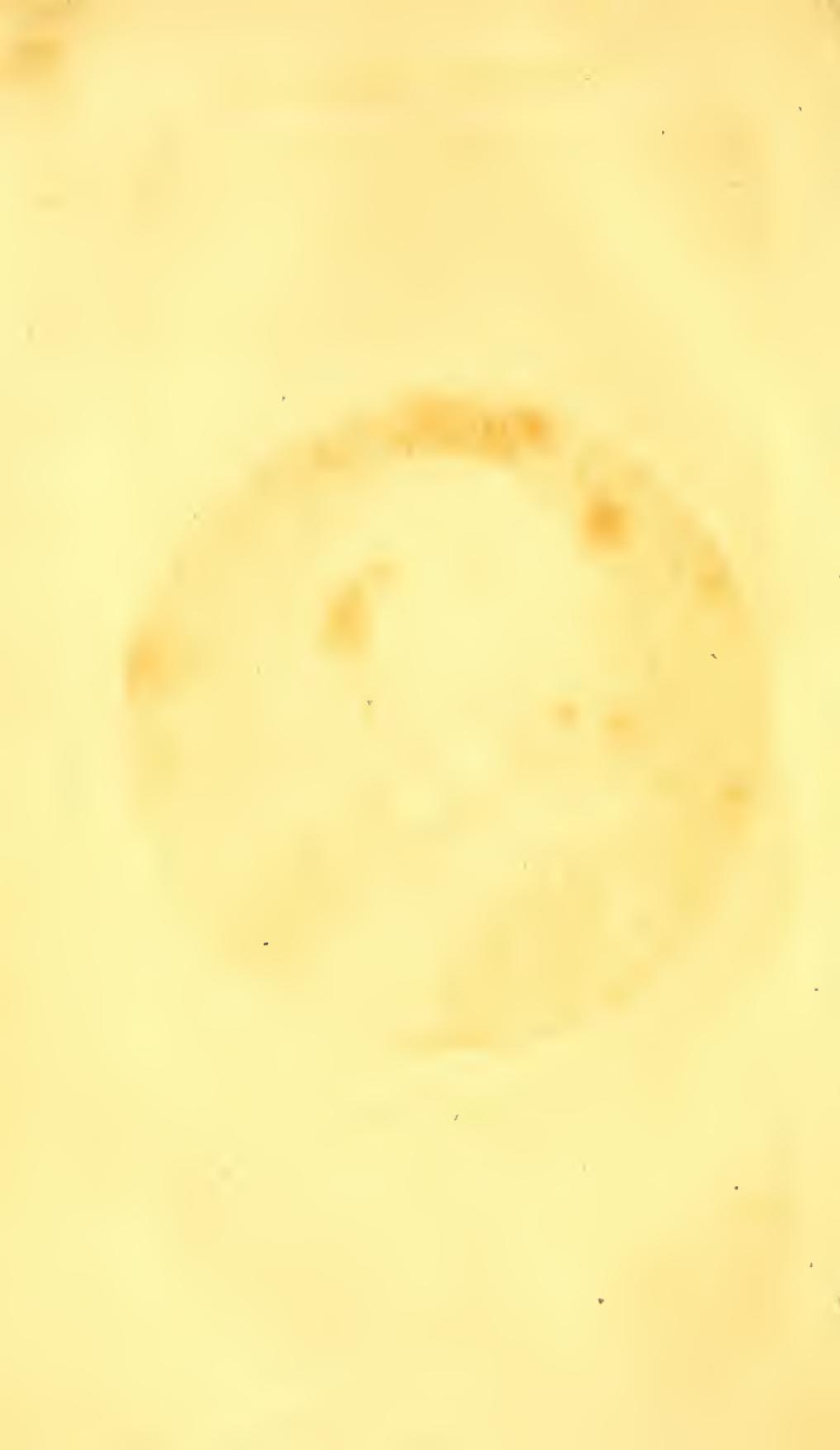
No sooner was the storm subsided, than the French admiral, perceiving no enemy upon the coast, immediately put to sea. Admiral Hawke, who had taken shelter in Torbay harbour, sailed on the very same day, being the 14th of November. He directed his course for Quiberon bay, where he expected the French fleet would rendezvous; and, after meeting with various disappointments, through contrary winds, on the 20th, he discovered the headmost ships of the enemy, bearing to the northward, between the main land of France and the island of Belleisle.—The fleets on both sides, were the most powerful of any employed in the course of the war. The British consisted of 23 sail of the line, and the French of 21; but, in number of men, and weight of metal, they were nearly equal.

THE ardent wishes of the British admiral, were now completed. The French fleet was within his reach, and a general engagement inevitable. He overlooked the difficulties he had to encounter, tho' sufficient to have checked the bravest commander. The coast, beyond any almost in the known world, was full of shoals, sands, shallows, and rocks, as unknown to the English, as they were familiar to the French pilots. The wind blew little less than a storm, and the waves ran mountains high; to which may be added, the dangers of a short day, dark night, and lee-shore. Animated with the love of his country, and sensible of the vast importance of the service he was

Difficulties
Hawke had
to encounter.



Admiral Hawke



engaged in, he disregarded every danger and obstacle, and was resolved to run any risk, than not encounter an enemy, on the destruction of whom perhaps the public safety depended.

1759.
EUROPE.

THE conduct of the French admiral, was timid and injudicious. It was in his power, either to fly or fight ; but he followed neither perfectly. Before he could resolve how to proceed, he allowed the British ships to come up with him, and then crowded his sail when it was too late to escape. The action began about half after two, and was maintained with great fury for two hours. Hawke's great aim was at the Soleil Royal, the most capital ship in the French navy, and commanded by Conflans in person. He ordered the master of his own ship to pass all the ships of the enemy, and to lay him along-side of the French admiral. The master remonstrated on the violence of the storm, and the danger of the coast. " You " have done your duty," says Hawke, " in pointing out the danger ; you are now to obey my " orders, and lay me along-side the Soleil Royal." His wish was gratified ; and the Royal George ranged up with the French admiral. Just as Hawke was about to discharge his reserved broadside, the Thefee, a French 70 gun ship, nobly interposed, received the whole fire, and was sunk to the bottom. The Superbe shared the same fate, and the Formidable struck her colours. In short, had not the French been favoured by the night, their whole fleet must have been destroyed or taken. Seven of their ships, after throwing overbroad all their guns, escaped into the river Villaine, and about as many more made for other ports.

French overtaken in a dilemma.

A battle ensues;

in which they are defeated.

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EUROPE.

A storm succeeds,

which
proves fatal
to their
scattered
remains.Loss of the
English
mostly oc-
casioned by
it.

THE night which succeeded this action, was dreadful. It blew a violent hurricane; and nothing was to be heard, but signals of distress on all hands, friends and enemies being blended in one common danger. Humanity would have prevailed on the English, to have assisted even an enemy amidst such discriminate distress; but they perceived, that all efforts of that kind were impracticable, and could only terminate in their own ruin, without affording the smallest relief to the French. They therefore waited for the return of day; and then they found, that the French admiral had run his own, and another capital ship, the Heros, on shore. His own ship was burnt by himself, and the Heros by the English.

THUS ended this memorable and decisive engagement, on the issue of which the fate of the two kingdoms seemed to depend. The English sustained little loss, but what was occasioned by the weather. The Effex and Resolution unfortunately ran on a sand-bank called Lefour, where they were irrecoverably lost, notwithstanding every assistance that could be given; but most of their men, and some part of their stores, were saved. In the whole fleet, no more than one lieutenant and 39 seamen and marines were killed, and 202 wounded. The loss of the French, in men, must have been great. Four of the best ships in their navy were destroyed, one taken, and the rest of their fleet disabled, shattered, and dispersed.—It was remarkable in this engagement, that no captain was accused, nor even in any degree suspected, of misbehaviour or cowardice.

1759:
EUROPE.

A circumstance occurred at this period, which certainly deserves to be commemorated, as it characterises the spirit of the British navy. Admiral Saunders happened to arrive from the expedition against Quebec, a little after Hawke had failed. A long voyage, and the severe duty which he had so long undergone, could not deter him from immediately setting sail, to partake in the glory and danger of the ensuing engagement. His good fortune was not equal to the generosity of his intentions. He arrived too late to give assistance; but his resolution was equally deserving of praise, as if he had shared in the victory.

IT was thought, that this action would have been decisive of all future marine operations between the English and French. The public resounded with exultations on that account; and nothing but songs of triumph was to be read in our news-papers.* — The French ministry, however, thought proper to palliate their last misfortune. They published an account, in which they exaggerated the strength of the English; repre-

French policy.

* An event which happened about the same time, redoubled the exultations. The French government authentically acknowledged itself to be bankrupt, and stopt the payment of no less than eleven funds, for which their public faith was engaged. As if that had not been enough, a kind of begging ordinance was published, for all persons to bring in their plate to the mint. His most Christian Majesty began with his own, and affected to retrench his table, furniture, and plate, to those necessaries which a man of 200l. a-year allows to his family in England. His example was followed by numbers of his most zealous subjects; nor were even the church plate and ornaments spared. It is true, the money raised by this expedient, fell short of what might have been expected; but it is certain it did infinite service to the French government. It awakened a spirit of what we may call compassionate loyalty, in the breast of its subjects, who now considered nothing but

1759. fended their own loss as quite inconsiderable; and EUROPE. concluded with asserting, that this trivial misfortune would soon be repaired. This partial misrepresentation was absolutely necessary, to support the spirit of the people, which was quite sunk by their successive defeats.

Detached
naval trans-
actions.

BESIDES the actions of great fleets, many gallant exploits were performed by the captains of single ships. The Vestal, Captain Wood, engaged the Bellona, a French frigate, greatly superior in men, and weight of metal; and, after an obstinate contest, which lasted above two hours, took her, and brought her safely into port.—The Southampton and Melampe, two English frigates, commanded by the captains Gilchrist and Hotham, gave chase to the Danae, a French ship of 40 guns, and 330 men. The Melampe came up with her before the Southampton, and, with admirable gallantry, maintained a combat against a ship of double her own force. As they fought in the dark, Captain Gilchrist was obliged to lie by, until he could distinguish the one from the other. At day-break, he bore down on the Danae; and, after

the undeserved distress to which their Sovereign was reduced. Cities, corporations, and companies, poured in their voluntary contributions, for repairing their marine; and their armies in Germany, were recruited with greater facility, and less expence, than ever: so that their force, at the opening of next campaign, was far more formidable than was expected.—But this was not all. The British, and their allies, were imposed upon, and thrown off their guard, by this pretended show of poverty. The operations of the war languished, on a presumption that the French could not continue it, and that they must of course agree to such terms as Great Britain should impose. In these presumptions, however, we were deceived; for the French, at the very time when they declared themselves bankrupt, had eleven millions sterling in their treasury.

a brisk engagement, in which she had 40 men killed, and many wounded, compelled her to surrender. This victory, however, proved fatal to the gallant Gilchrist. He received a wound in the shoulder, which, though it did not deprive him of life, rendered him incapable of future service.—On the 14th of April, the Achilles of 60 guns, commanded by Captain Barrington, encountered, to the westward of Cape Finisterre, a French ship of equal force, called the Count de St. Florentine, under the command of the Sieur de Montay. After an engagement of two hours, in which the French captain was slain, and 116 of his men killed or wounded, the Count de St. Florentine struck her colours. She was so much damaged, that it was very difficult to bring her into Falmouth. The Achilles had only 25 men killed or wounded.—On the 27th of March, Capt. Faulkner of the Windsor, of 60 guns, discovered four large ships off the rock of Lisbon, to which he gave chase. On his approach, they formed the line of battle a-head, at the distance of a cable's length asunder. He engaged the stern-most for upwards of an hour, which, after having given a signal to the other three vessels to edge off, struck her colours. She proved to be the Duke de Chartres, pierced for 60 guns, tho' carrying only 24; and belonged, as well as the other three that escaped, to the East-India Company.—Many other gallant actions were performed by the English cruisers, in different parts of the globe, in which the French were for the most part unsuccessful.

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EUROPE.

C H A P. XXIV.

Slowness of the allies and French—Battle of Corbach—General Glaubitz surprised and defeated—Battle of Warbourg—Hereditary Prince surprises a body of French at Zierenberg—Marburg taken by Gen. Bulow, who is defeated by Mons. Stainville—Expedition of the Hereditary Prince to the Rhine—Wesel besieged—Battle of Campen—Siege of Wesel raised—Death and character of George II.

1760.
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EUROPE.

WE have already remarked the implacability of the contending powers in Germany: their accumulated distresses, and disappointments, seemed only to increase their mutual rancour. Whatever might be the real sentiments of the people of Great Britain, respecting the German war, they were unwilling to distress their venerable monarch, in the evening of his days, by abandoning his electoral dominions, which were always uppermost in his heart. The successes of Prince Ferdinand, though rather splendid than solid, had likewise impressed the public with a high opinion of his martial abilities; and they flattered themselves, that every campaign would prove decisive in his favour. The ministry continued to enforce and improve the same way of reasoning; but it could not, however, be disguised, that the weight of the war in Europe, lay upon Britain, though she had immediately very little interest in the event. This consideration, too glaring to be con-

cealed, induced the British ministry to offer to open a negotiation ; but, however sincere they might be, it is certain that his Prussian Majesty was by no means so when he complied with it. The two Empresses, and France, not to mention Sweden and Poland, though they could not flatly reject so plausible a proposition, were very little disposed to accept of it, and threw such a damp upon all the expedients proposed by the neutral powers, particularly King Stanilaus and the Dutch, that the proposal came to nothing.

THE winter of the year 1759, was remarkably severe ; and Germany suffered greatly from cold, and scarcity of provisions,* a circumstance which forced the poorer sort of the inhabitants into the armies of their several masters ; so that those of the Empress Queen, were now more numerous than ever. The British army in Germany, having suffered greatly in the preceding campaign, six regiments of foot, commanded by Major-General Griffin, were sent to reinforce it, and were followed by Elliot's light-horse ; so that, in the beginning of the campaign, the British troops in Germany amounted to 25,000 men ; a greater army of Britons, than had ever served before in one place, and at one time, under King William,

* Though Great Britain was not afflicted with the like calamities, yet her people, in their private capacities, shewed a regard for, and sent a relief to their troops in Germany and America, that can be matched in no other country. Some private gentlemen formed themselves into a society for that purpose ; and, in the beginning of January, besides other generous provisions for the widows and orphans of our soldiers, they sent abroad 6000 flannel waistcoats, 6000 woollen caps, 6000 half-garters, and 5000 pair of woollen gloves ; and the donations of government were equally liberal.

1760. the great Duke of Marlborough, or indeed under EUROPE. any British general, for two centuries before.

THE French were equally alert, in their endeavours to make the campaign decisive. M. Broglie continued to command, and his army was reinforced to the amount of 100,000 men, the finest troops in France ; while Count de St. Germaine, with whom he was but upon indifferent terms, was at the head of a separate body of 30,000 on the Rhine, that no ill consequences might arise from any misunderstanding between the two generals.

THE death of the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel, which happened in the beginning of the year, excited some apprehensions with regard to the future conduct of his son and successor. These fears were soon dissipated. That prince, notwithstanding the strong prepossessions that lay against him, exceeded even his father in his zeal for the Protestant cause, by adding considerably to his troops that were in the service of Great Britain.

THE operations of the two armies, were by no means answerable to the great preparations, and reinforcements, which both sides had made and received. The campaign did not open, with any effect, till late in the season. Indeed, at the beginning, the chief business of both armies, was to procure provisions, rather than to fight ; and all the motions of their detached parties, were towards getting a meal, rather than a victory. A severe winter, an exhausted country, and a late spring, were calamities equally distressing to both ; and each had a kind of fellow-feeling for the other.

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WHEN the rigour of the season abated, the superior providence of the French over the allies appeared. The former, while they lay in their cantonments, were supplied with provisions from the Rhine, the Maine, and the Moselle ; while the latter were totally disabled, by indigence, to undertake any enterprise of consequence. The only action worth mentioning, was performed by the Hereditary Prince, who laid Fulda under contribution, and expelled the French from it at the head of some British troops. The whole of this campaign, indeed, between the French and the allies, consisted almost entirely of little detached expeditions, planned and executed by this gallant young hero. These actions, however unimportant in their consequences, demand a particular relation, as striking of intrepidity and military knowledge.—The misunderstanding between the two French generals, Broglie and St. Germaine, was productive of consequences highly advantageous to the allies. Instead of the one advancing by Munster, and the other by the landgraviate of Hesse, and leaving strong posts to the eastward of the Weser, operations that might have proved fatal to the allies, the whole of their grand army united into one body. This measure, so discordant with the original plan of their operations, disgusted St. Germaine, an officer of true military genius, who retired from the service. Notwithstanding this, the French took Marburg and Dillenburg, and made the garrisons of both prisoners of war.

1760.

EUROPE.

THE inactivity of the German general, in this perilous situation, has never been clearly accounted for. The Hereditary Prince, at the head of some British regiments, endeavoured to retrieve it. The French army had hitherto moved in two bodies, and the corps under St. Germaine was known to have advanced to Corbach; so that the prince resolved to attack him, and to drive him from that post. By this time, however, the junction of the French army was formed; and the prince, instead of encountering 10,000 foot, and 17 squadrons of horse, which were the number St. Germaine commanded, fell in with the whole French army, and that too with such resolution, as rendered his retreat, after he had discovered his mistake, almost impracticable. The French were fresh, numerous, and well formed. The British forces behaved with the utmost intrepidity; but the Germans, both horse and foot, gave themselves up to a despondency (to call it no worse) which threatened a total rout; while the French were every moment pouring in reinforcements, chiefly of cavalry, to complete their destruction. In this desperate situation, the prince put himself at the head of Bland's and Howard's dragoons, who perfectly seconded the ardour of this young hero. They soon checked the career of the French cavalry, covered the retreat of the Germans, and thus saved the army, at the expence of 900 men, killed, wounded, or taken prisoners, and 15 pieces of cannon, which were left on the field of battle. The prince received a wound, which, however, gave him less uneasiness, than

Battle of
Corbach.

he felt from the mortification produced by this defeat.

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THE allied army, during this action, retreated towards the Dymel, and were now encamped at Saxenhausen. It was matter of astonishment to military men, that Broglio did not pursue his advantage; nor can the reasons of his inactivity, be to this day accounted for. The Hereditary Prince unjustly charged himself with being the author of a defeat, which did him and the English so much dishonour, and formed a daring resolution to make reparation. He knew that Glaubitz, a French general, was at the head of a considerable detachment, which were marched towards Ziegenhagen, a place of considerable importance in the landgraviate of Hesse. In order to relieve this place, the prince put himself at the head of six German battalions, two brigades of hunters, a regiment of hussars, and Elliot's light horse. This last regiment had been raised only in the preceding spring and winter. Not a man amongst them had ever been before in the service; but they liked it so well, that they were soon disciplined, and made an excellent appearance: so that the Hereditary Prince chose them, to form part of his detachment; and the event justified his choice. He was at this time about 60 English miles from Glaubitz, who imagined himself in the most perfect security. The prince, however, led his detachment, unperceived, within sight of the enemy's camp; and, after reconnoitring it, he formed the plan of the attack, which was of a very singular nature. The situation of the enemy was such,

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as to be inaccessible on their left, but by making a detour of two leagues, through woody uneven grounds; and the right was secured by mountains. The prince undertook, in person, the attack of the left. He committed that of the right to his infantry, who were obliged to climb up mountains, to come at their enemy. Both charges were vigorous, and both succeeded. The enemy was in a manner routed, before Glaubitz had time to form them; but they were routed with very little loss: and the advantage of their situation was such, that their main body retired from one wood to another, while the prince was unable to bring up his fatigued and harrassed infantry to the pursuit. It was on this occasion, that Elliot's light horse performed services, that would have done honour to the best veterans in Europe. The prince, in person, led them on; and they alone entered the wood, where their address and discipline were equal to their intrepidity.

French de-
tachment
surprised,
and defeat-
ed.

THE enemy, unable to resist them, were charged, and penetrated, five times; by which a party of 500, being separated from the rest, threw down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners. A great deal, however, remained still to be done, before the victory could be complete. A regiment of the enemy's hussars was entirely cut in pieces; and the main body, which had taken post in the wood, being in like manner surrounded, found themselves also obliged to give up their arms, but not till after a great slaughter. The prisoners made on this occasion, besides Glaubitz himself, and the prince of Anhalt, were 177 officers,

and 2482 private men ; nine pair of colours, and six pieces of cannon, were taken. Upon the whole, this engagement was, with regard to the captures, one of the most extraordinary actions ever known. The Hereditary Prince lost no more than 79 men ; but of those, 71 were Elliot's light horse.

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EUROPE.

PRINCE FERDINAND remained all this time in his camp at Saxenhausen ; but, after this action, he moved to Kalle, near Cassel. Upon this, the French, who were very numerous, divided themselves into three armies. One of them, which had formed their reserve, consisting of 35,000 men, passed the Dymel at Stalbergen, under the Chevalier de Muy, who had succeeded St. Germaine in his command ; another body, which was their main army, advanced under Broglio himself, to Kalle ; and the third, under Prince Xavier of Saxony, took the route of Cassel. From those motions, it was plain the French generals meditated some important blow ; and Prince Ferdinand, at all events, thought it his best course to pass the Dymel, and fight de Muy.

ON the 31st of July, the allies, having passed the river, and formed upon the heights of Corbach, came in sight of the French, who were posted to great advantage at Warbourg. The Hereditary Prince turned the left of the enemy, in two columns, so as to attack them in flank and rear with his usual briskness ; but the French were so well reinforced, that he could do nothing effectual. In the mean while, Prince Ferdinand ordered some detachments to attack the French bridges over the Dymel to the right, and he him-

Motions of
the French
army.

1760.

EUROPE.

Battle of
Warbourg.

self advanced to charge the enemy in front. It must be acknowledged, that these dispositions, had they been properly supported, must have been decisive in favour of the allies ; but the flower of their army, which consisted of the British, were five miles behind : so that, though the French, by the efforts of the Hereditary Prince, began to give way on that side, yet their main body was at liberty to retire, without putting it into the power of the infantry of the allies to engage them ; nor indeed did their commander in chief seem to have been very forward to risk his German troops. By his own account, sent to his late Majesty, it is certain, that his attack upon the enemy's front was very feeble, and, as he himself acknowledges, was unsupported by the infantry : so that the heat of the day fell upon the British, whose cavalry came all the five miles upon a full trot, under the Marquis of Granby and General Mostyn ; and while General Waldegrave did all he could to hasten the march of the infantry, Captain Philips brought up the British artillery on a gallop. But though our national troops were thus beyond all precedent expeditious, yet they could not prevent the enemy from making their retreat good over the Dymel. The charge that was made upon them by the British cavalry, was so gallant, as to evince their ardour for retrieving that glory which they had been deprived of at Minden ; though their foot, many of whom dropt down in the morasses, thro' which their long fatiguing march lay, could not second them. The French, in their account, pretend, that the brigade of Bourbon checked the

British cavalry; that the allies were greatly superior in number; that the Hereditary Prince, in turning their left, was favoured by a fog; and that the battle continued, without advantage to either side, four hours. But it is evident, even from their own narrative, that they employed most of that time in making preparations for a retreat, which, with great difficulty, they effected over the Dymel; and that, upon the whole, they thought themselves victorious, because they were not completely defeated. In this battle, the great loss fell upon the English, of whom about 600 were killed, wounded, and missing. But the total loss of the allied army was not published, probably because it would have discovered the great disproportion between the sufferings of the English and those of the Germans. The French, in their account, pretended, that the loss of the allies were superior to theirs. But that could not be the fact. Besides great numbers of French that were drowned in passing the Dymel, 1500 were left dead on the field of battle, and as many were taken, together with ten pieces of cannon.

THE battle of Warbourg was more glorious, than it was advantageous to the allies. The Chevalier de Muy commanded but one of the three French armies; but the other two, without resistance, became masters of Munden, Cassel, Gottingen, Eimbach, and Ziegenhagen, where they made a great number of prisoners, and got considerable magazines. Thus, though the allies gained a battle, they lost a province, the whole landgraviate of Hesse being now in the French posse-

1760.
EUROPE.

Battle of
Warbourg.

1760.
EUROPE.

sion ; nor was it clear, that, before the end of the campaign, they might not become masters of Hanover itself : while all that Prince Ferdinand gained, was to secure his posts upon the Dymel, and preserve his communication with Westphalia ; the loss of which must have been of the worst consequence to him, considering the situation of the two armies.

THE French, however, had many reasons for declining to penetrate farther into Hanover. The country was so miserably exhausted, as to be incapable of maintaining an army ; and such an attempt, if successful, was inconsistent with their real plan. The two armies were, for a considerable time, inactive in their encampments, on each side of the Dymel. This inaction was disagreeable to the genius of the Hereditary Prince, who appears to have made war in earnest, without any lucrative views of continuing his appointments, or the mean ones of sparing his Germans. It is true, the great opinion he experimentally entertained of the British valour, cost our countrymen dear, and was favourable to the Germans ; but he always ventured his own person equally with that of the meanest English soldier, and they followed him with pride and alacrity. While the armies lay in this state of inaction, he understood that 2000 French occupied the town of Zierenberg ; and he resolved to surprize them. He accordingly posted a body of troops between that place and Dierenberg, to cut off all communication between the two camps of the enemy. He next made the proper dispositions for securing his re-

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EUROPE.

treat, in case of a repulse ; and, at the head of his remaining foot, most of which were British, on the 5th of September, they set out in three divisions for Warbourg, and by two next morning, they were before Zierenberg. But, notwithstanding all the precautions that had been taken for the silence of their march, they were discovered by a party of dragoons, who fired upon them, and spread an alarm. On this occasion, the intrepidity and good discipline of the British foot did them great honour. Contrary to the usual character of their nation, of being too ready to fire, they made use of their bayonets only. With them they drove the enemy's picquets, who were on their guard, before them : some entered the town, at the same time with the fugitives ; some were employed in putting the guard to the sword, and others in forcing open the gates ; till, at last, they all entered the place, and, without firing, proceeded in firm order to the church-yard, which the main body of the enemy possessed. The noise they made was so little, and the night so dark, that the French took them to be their own picquets, and suffered them to draw up near them ; when they were attacked, and totally dispersed by the English, with their bayonets on their musquets. In vain the French attempted to fly from the gate. They were every where opposed, pursued, slain, or taken prisoners. Every quarter of the town was filled with blood, confusion, and tumult ; but the British were victorious through all. They neither killed, nor took prisoners, any of the inhabitants who had not weapons in their hands ; and, far from

French sur-
prised at
Zierenberg.

1760. being intent on plunder, they even refused to accept of the gratuities, which the townsmen offered them, to spare their persons and properties. The whole action of this noble and well-conducted expedition, lasted but about an hour ; at the end of which, the prince found himself in complete possession of the place, having taken two pieces of cannon, and made 36 officers, and near 500 private men, prisoners. He then considered the danger of remaining, with so small a force, so near the enemy's main body ; and regained his former camp, without loss or molestation.

WE cannot help observing, that the intrepidity which the British uniformly displayed, and the success which attended all their operations during the course of this war, compared with the little effect produced by such amazing exertions of courage, sufficiently prove, that there was somewhat amiss, and too dilatory in the original plan of every campaign, which no valour or partial success could remedy. The advantage gained at Zierenberg was glorious and cheap, for it cost them no more than 10 men ; and yet, if we except the reputation the British gained by it, it was dear when we consider its consequences. The gallant prince found, as he might easily have foreseen, that he could not keep the place ; and, by quitting it, he lost all he had obtained, excepting a few prisoners, who were burdensome to maintain.

AT last, however, Prince Ferdinand put his army in motion, in order to attempt to interrupt the communication between the French and the

Rhine, and the Maine, especially with Franckfort. As to Hanover, it lay quite neglected by both parties. The French had their reasons, as we have already seen, for not penetrating further into it, than Gottingen ; and the allies pretended, that they could not, without hazarding the entire loss of their army, attempt to dispossess them, either of that city, or of Cassel.

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EUROPE.

BULOW, a Hanoverian General, was dispatched with a strong detachment, to make inroads into Watteravia, and the southern parts of Hesse ; which he did with so great success, that he pushed on towards Marburg ; which town he surprized, and destroyed in it, the French ovens, with considerable magazines of provisions, besides carrying off their cloathing and military stores. He at last proceeded towards Frankenau. The French, all this while, beheld his progress with an air of security, as thinking it was always in their power to check him. The matter became now to be serious, as they began to feel some inconveniences in their communication with Franckfort.

Stainville, one of their best generals, on the 13th of September, attacked the rear of Bulow's detachment, as it was passing the river Orck ; and not only defeated it, but, in all probability, would have cut off the whole body, had not the active Hereditary Prince, hearing of his danger, made a forced march of five German miles, and arrived to his relief. This obliged Stainville to retire to a strong camp, where he could not be attacked with any probability of success.

Marburg
surprised,
and taken.

Gen. Bulow
defeated by
M. Stain-
ville.

1760.
EUROPE.

IN the mean while, a feeble effort was made under General Wangenheim, another of the allied generals, to force the enemy to abandon Göttingen; but at last, on the 19th of September, after he had passed the Weser, he was obliged to repass it with very considerable loss, and not quite to the advantage of his military character. It must be acknowledged, that, in all those skirmishes and expeditions, the French shewed a vigilance, and an attention to their plan of operations, far superior to those of the allies; who either had concerted none that were regular, or were entirely directed by the motions of their enemy. The latter, on the 20th of September, in consequence of their defensive scheme, retired towards Cassel, where they fortified themselves; while Prince Ferdinand ventured to do nothing, but to advance so near them as to observe their operations.

MORE active, and indeed unexpected scenes of war presented themselves upon the Rhine, and almost on the frontiers of the dominions of the States General, where the Hereditary Prince appeared, to the surprize of all Europe, who thought he had been in the further part of Hesse. It would exceed our proposed bounds, should we describe the particulars, by which this emergency, as we may call it, was effected. It is sufficient to say, that he had under him 20 battalions and 10 squadrons, which he divided into two bodies. One of these passed the Rhine at Roerort, on the other side Dusseldorf. The other division, which marched by the way of Munster, passed a great way below at Rees, which lies almost half-way between

Expedition
to the
Rhine.

Cleves and Wesel. These two detachments, notwithstanding the distance of the places, passed the Rhine about the same time; and their manœuvres were conducted so, as, in a manner, to close up the French. Every thing succeeded, as had been projected. As they advanced to their intended junction, all the French posts along the Rhine, with all their boats, fell into the prince's hands; by which he was enabled to carry over his artillery, and the whole of his troops: so that, meeting with no opposition, his detachment again separated; and, on the 3d of October, one division took possession of Cleves, and, three days after, of its castle, with 500 men; while another laid siege to Wesel, and attacked it with great fury.

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EUROPE.

Motions of
the army.

THE rapid success of this expedition, did not prevent its giving rise to many conjectures, and some censures, with regard to its utility to Great Britain. Most people thought, that it had been formed to favour, in conjunction with a strong armament which was fitted out at Portsmouth, a powerful diversion on the side of the Austrian Netherlands, which might have obliged the French to desist from forming an army on the Lower Rhine, by which Broglie must have become master of Hanover. But this supposition was chimerical. Hanover had, at this time, in fact, nothing to fear; for, as we have often hinted, Broglie might have become master of it when he pleased. We are therefore to look elsewhere, for the motives of this famous expedition.

Animad-
versions on
this expedi-
tion.

IT is certain, that it was not difficult to foresee there would be great clashings in the court of

1760. EUROPE. Great Britain, concerning the vast expence of blood and treasure in which she was involved by the German war. Of all the losses his Prussian Majesty had met with, that of his countries on the Lower Rhine gave him the greatest concern, on several accounts. He had many reasons to suspect, that a strong party in the British ministry were for a separate peace with France ; and that the last convention, concluded between him and his Britannic Majesty on the 9th of November 1759, began to be greatly condemned, chiefly on account of its fourth article, by which his Britannic Majesty tied himself up from concluding any kind of peace, without the full consent of his Prussian ally. He was sensible, as afterwards proved to be the case, that if a separate peace between Great Britain and France was set on foot, it would not be in the power of the former, to put him, by any treaty, in possession of those countries, which were held by the French, only in trust for the Empress Queen. At the same time, we are to observe, that the subjects of the States General had not behaved towards Great Britain, with such gratitude and attention, as entitled them to extraordinary consideration from our crown. Upon the whole, therefore, it is most rational to think, that the irruption of the Hereditary Prince (as was before mentioned) into the territories of Cleves and Gueldres, was secretly concerted between his Prussian Majesty and the British court ; and happy had it been for this nation, if it had been as successful, as it was bold, spirited, and well conducted. As to the

preparations made at Portsmouth, they were dis-
avowed to be intended against the Austrian Nether-
lands; and their real destination has never
been publicly owned. But it is certain, that had
they proceeded to the recovery of Neuport and
Ostend, and even to overawe some of our allies,
a more popular service, at that time, could not
have been undertaken by a British ministry.

1760.
EUROPE.

UNFORESEEN accidents disappointed the full effect of the prince's irruption. One part of his troops was employed in the siege of Wesel, on the right of the Rhine; while another covered it on the left. The siege was carried on with great ^{Wesel} resolution; and sanguine expectations were formed of its success, by the strong reinforcements that were expected. The vast rains that fell, swelled the rivers, and not only put a stop to their progress, but rendered the prince's communication with the besiegers over the Rhine, extremely difficult. They also gave time to the Marquis de Castries, to draw together, from Hesse and the Low Countries, an army of 30 battalions and 38 squadrons; with which he advanced to Rhinberg, which lay in the very heart of the prince's late acquisitions, and drove the allies, with some loss on both sides, from their posts there. He then turned to the left, towards the convent of Campen, where he formed himself very advantageously.

THE prince had now apparently only two objects to pursue: he must either fight this superior army in a pitched battle, or abandon the siege of Wesel. His genius suggested to him a medium.

1760. Relying on the known valour of the British troops, which, as usual, formed the flower of his army, he resolved upon a surprize; and, for that purpose, on the 16th of October, at ten at night, he began his march. Fischer's famous body of irregulars, lay between him and the French camp. Some shots were exchanged; the French were alarmed, and instantly drew up in a wood. By this time it was five in the morning; but the sight of the advantageous position of the French, far from daunting the British troops, seemed to inspire them with fresh valour. The action, with incessant firings, and repeated attacks on the wood, continued from five in the morning to nine at night. This perseverance may be called obstinacy by some, and madness by others. The prince animated the troops, by his own example; but he was disabled, by his horse being shot under him, and he himself receiving a wound; so that he was obliged to order a retreat, which perhaps he might have done long before, without any imputation either upon his courage or conduct. The British troops were the chief, if not the sole sufferers in this desperate action; but the death of none of them was more lamented, both in Germany and England, than that of the Lord Downe. He seemed to be born for social and gay life; but the war no sooner broke out, than he applied himself, with a most surprising progress, to the most laborious duties of a military life. He formed, in the country, where he had interest, a handful of his friends and dependents, by his own pains and example, to the exercises

Battle of
Campen.

The prince
wounded,

orders a
retreat.

of war, in which they were as complete as the best regulars in Europe, and he had the glory to die as a voluntier at their head. The loss of the English, in killed and wounded, were 1190, and about 500 were made prisoners. After the slaughter of so many brave men, in a battle which ought to have been fought by others, it is but a poor comfort for a British reader, to be told, that the loss of the French was much greater; though it is some to reflect, that the British valour had impressed the enemy with such ideas, that they durst not follow their victory,—for such, indeed, it was they had obtained.

1760.

EUROPE.

Loss of the English.

THE siege of Wesel became now impracticable to be carried on; and the hourly increase of these inundations, had the prince delayed repassing the Rhine, must have rendered his retreat so likewise. He seized the first opportunity; and his manœuvres were so well concerted, that the French did not attempt even to disturb his rear, notwithstanding the vast superiority they had over him, in all respects, but that of courage.

Siege of Wesel raised.

BEFORE we leave the operations of the allied army this year, we must follow them into their winter-quarters, which proved more fatal to them than the campaign itself, severe as their hardships had been during it, and unequal as the share of service was, which they had undergone. Upon the return of the Hereditary Prince to the allied army, the blockade of Gottingen was attempted, and continued from the 22d of November to the 12th of December following. The operations that preceded this siege, were as languid,

Several other un-
successful attempts.

1760.
EUROPE.Armies re-
tire into
winter-
quarters.

as they were undecisive. A Hanoverian General attempted to take Heydemunden ; but failed of success, in a most unaccountable, if not a shameful manner ; and the French defended Gottingen so bravely, that the blockade was raised. Soon after, both armies rather slipped, than marched, into winter-quarters. Prince Ferdinand made his as comfortable as he could, by having behind him a country not quite exhausted, and by giving large premiums to the country-people for supplying his camp with provisions. The winter-quarters of the British troops, were in the city and bishopric of Paderborn, the most exhausted place of the most exhausted country in Europe ; for such Germany then was. Their miserable condition was increased by the extortions and villanies of their Jewish and other contractors, and the whole was crowned by the difficulties of the roads thro' the late rains. The consequences were, that distresses and diseases of all kinds broke in upon them, and carried off a prodigious number, both men and horses ; while their miseries were embittered, by seeing the French in a most advantageous position, where they received, by the Rhine and the Maine, all the comforts of life.

Death of
George II.

WHILE our army abroad remained in this uncomfortable situation, the unexpected event of the death of George II. happened on the 25th of October, between the hours of seven and eight in the morning. It was occasioned by a rupture of the substance of the right ventricle of his heart, which was uncommonly dilated, and which, by stopping the circulation, put an immediate end to

1760.

EUROPE.

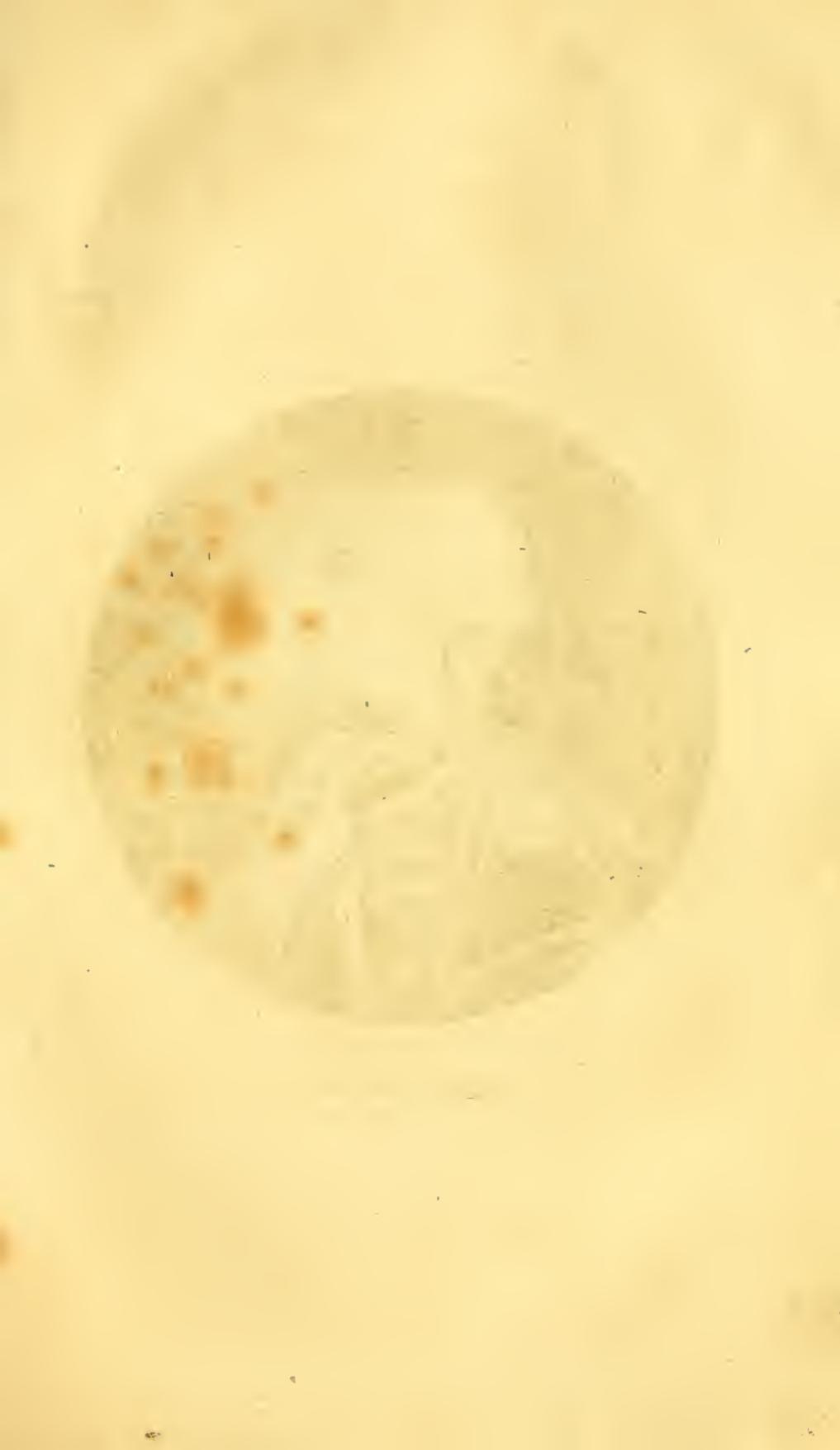
his life, without the smallest apparent pain. The cause of a monarch's death, is generally enquired into with minuteness; and it was said by the faculty, that the case was of a most extraordinary nature. But, considering his natural constitution, which was but a weak one, his extreme age is much more to be wondered at, than his sudden death. He died in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th of his reign.

GEORGE II. though scarcely of middling stature, was erect and well made. His complexion was fair, his nose high, and his eyes large. In his dress, he is said to have affected too much of the hero; but there was a natural dignity, even in his negligences, which bespoke him to be a king. In his temper, he was peevish and passionate, but by no means ill-natured; and little things affected him, much more than matters of importance. His understanding was quick and clear, but not extensive; and his stock of acquired knowledge, was but small. He was extremely sober and temperate, and his economy was greater, perhaps, than became a king; but though he seldom deviated into generosity, he never sunk into meanness. He had few favourites, and fewer friends; and, tho' he was fond of the sex, he rather sauntered away, than enjoyed his time with them. He was polite and well-bred, but in a stiff and formal manner.

Character
of Geo. II.

His conduct as a King, was highly praiseworthy. Though scrupulous of blood, his tenderness never led him to break through the great lines of public or private justice. The capital error of his reign, was too strong an attachment to

1760. the affairs of Germany ; and he seems to have re-
EUROPE. respected the title of Elector of Hanover, more than
that of King of Great Britain. But it is but
justice to observe, that his electoral dominions,
far from being benefited, were irreparably injured
by the accession of his family to the British throne.
The enemies of his government, during the first
twelve or thirteen years of his reign, accused it
of scandalous corruption at home, and inglorious
inactivity abroad. Though we cannot exculpate
his then minister (Sir Robert Walpole) from the
first charge, we must at same time repeat his
defence. He declared, that when he came into
power, such was the degeneracy of the English,
that he was obliged to bribe them, even to their
duty. The charge of inglorious inactivity abroad,
is far from being clear ; but it is certain, that,
during that inactivity, the commerce of Great Bri-
tain was silently rooting itself through all quarters
of the globe, and produced those glorious fruits
which we reaped when activity became necessary.
In a military history, it is necessary to mention,
that, in this reign, a standing army was ingrafted
on the British constitution. His Majesty encou-
raged a strict, but not a severe, far less a cruel
observance of military discipline ; and he discover-
ed a liking to those generals, whose years ap-
proached nearest to his own : but it cannot be
said, till he employed those that were much
younger, that his armies were in any excellent
condition. He was an enemy to no religion ; and
his mildness and toleration in that respect, will
endear his memory to the many sects which di-



Military Memoirs



GEORGE III.

vide and compose the people of Great Britain. The polite arts flourished during his reign, tho' they were little indebted to his encouragement.

1760.
EUROPE:

HAVING said thus much, we may venture to pronounce, that he died in the height of his happiness, as well as of his glory. Had he survived a few months, his satisfaction would have been embittered, by the growing discontents of his subjects, at the sufferings of their brave countrymen in Germany, as well as the prodigious expences and subsidies paid to maintain that war.

His grandson, George III. ascended the throne in the 23d year of his age, under the happiest auspices. His first speech exhibited the dignity of a king, with the true fire of a patriot. Sequestered from all share in the measures of government while Prince of Wales, his talents for ruling were little known; but the amiable qualities which distinguished him in private life, gave happy presages of his conduct as a king. The development of his character, however, and the enumeration of his virtues, are not the province of a contemporary writer, and therefore must be left to future historians.

C H A P. XXV.

Situation of the Austrian and Prussian armies—Battle of Landshut—Glatz taken by the Austrians—King of Prussia marches towards Silesia, and deceives Daun—Returns to Saxony, and lays siege to Dresden—Siege raised by Daun—Laudohn besieges Breslau—Siege raised by Prince Henry—Russians enter Silesia—Battle near Lignitz—General Hulsen defeats the Imperialists—Russians enter Berlin—Battle of Torgau—Conclusion of the campaign.

1760. **A**T the opening of the last campaign, the affairs ^{EUROPE.} of the Prussian monarch wore a bad aspect; in this they seemed altogether desperate. Independent of his capital enemies, (the Austrians and Russians) the Swedes began to be exceedingly troublesome to him. They had suffered but little upon the whole; and the people, being in general bent on recovering the countries that had been dismembered from the crown of Sweden, served with cheerfulness, though under the disadvantage of being very ill commanded. The King of Poland, Elector of Saxony, would willingly have appeared to decline any share in the war; but he was obliged, by the Queen of Hungary, and his own family, as well as by the Empress of Russia, to suffer a body of Saxons to serve in their armies. The Duke of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, though a protestant prince, entered into all the schemes of

France and Austria ; for which he was severely chastised by his Prussian Majesty.

1760.

EUROPE.

FREDERIC had, in the beginning of the war, boasted, and with great justice, that he had seven generals under him, who were not to be paralleled in all Europe : but, in a few years, all of them were cut off, without a possibility of their being replaced ; for, though one genius may succeed another, yet nothing but practice can supply experience. He, however, still kept up a creditable appearance, and from time to time published such accounts of his resources and troops, as gave the world very high ideas of his power. His successes were not answerable to those reports. The Swedes, the French, the Russians, and the Austrians, were still in the field, in the beginning of the year 1760 ; and though, singly, they were no match for his troops, yet, upon the whole, he sustained great losses by the continued repetition of their attacks. The Swedes invaded the open country of Pomerania ; the Russians had an eye upon Colberg, because it gave them a port in the Baltic, and the possession of it would have saved them the march of many hundred miles. He had all the extensive countries of Saxony and Silesia, which border upon the almost inaccessible mountains of Bohemia, to cover, while the eastern part of his dominions was next to defenceless. Silesia is a strong and fertile country ; but the manners and maxims of his Prussian Majesty, were far from being of a conciliating nature, to a people, who, for many centuries, had been taught to look upon the house of Austria as their lawful sovereigns : so that it

1760. ~~EUROPE.~~ may be said, with great truth, that nothing but force could keep them in awe.

SUCH was the situation of that prince, in the beginning of the year 1760; and a more uncomfortable one can scarcely be conceived. He had nothing but empty fame, and the applause of news-writers, to counterbalance millions of dangers and disappointments he was every hour exposed to, excepting the immense subsidy he had from England. It would not, perhaps, be too bold to say, that this subsidy, every thing considered, brought upon him all the misfortunes he afterwards met with; because he depended too much upon it, for the continuance of a war, to which his power was by no means equal. He himself seemed to be somewhat sensible of this; for he formed a plan of operations, that were entirely defensive. His brother, Prince Henry, commanded an army about Franckfort on the Oder, in order to protect Silesia, the New Marche of Brandenburg, and Berlin, which, considering its importance, is one of the most defenceless places in Europe. He himself, in the mean time, lay in a camp, most judiciously chosen, between the Elbe and the Mulda, in an almost impregnable situation, with 250 pieces of cannon in his front. The conveniency of this position was the greater, as he was, by it, enabled, both to receive and send succours to his brother.

His Prussian Majesty, however, was deceived in all his designs. The Austrians were superior to him in force, and almost equal in discipline and courage. Laudohn, a general who had hi-

therto made but an indifferent figure, was, by the policy of the court of Vienna, set up as the rival of Count Daun, whom the Empress Queen considered as a great general, but too inactive, too cautious, and too unenterprising. The character of Laudohn was the reverse. His Prussian Majesty had placed one of his generals, Fouquet, in whom he had great confidence, near Glatz, so as to serve as an intermediate assistance, either to himself, or to his brother Prince Henry, according as circumstances should present themselves. Laudohn's manœuvres imposed upon his Prussian Majesty, and all his generals; and were so mysterious, that Fouquet, believing his intention was to besiege Schweidnitz, left Glatz uncovered; upon which Laudohn made himself master of Landshut. Fouquet, immediately abandoning the protection of Schweidnitz, marched towards Landshut, from whence he drove the Austrians.

THIS was what Laudohn had foreseen, and expected; and, in the mean time, he secretly made such dispositions, that Fouquet was in effect surrounded, without a possibility of being relieved, while he was obliged to detach 2000 men, out of the 15,000 he commanded, to preserve his communication with Schweidnitz. It happened at this time, that the Austrians were animated with a more than ordinary resentment against the Prussians; nor could all the precautions which Fouquet had taken to fortify his camp, withstand it. The Austrians knew of the masterly dispositions their general had made, and that they must depend upon their own courage for success. Their be-

1760.
EUROPE.

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EUROPE.

Battle of
Landshut.

haviour was equal to their high expectations; and it is hard to say, whether the attack, or the resistance, was the most glorious; but the Austrians were superior, not only in their numbers, but in their condition. The Prussians had lain long on the defensive, and had been but poorly supplied with provisions, and consequently low in spirits. The Austrians, on the other hand, had lived in free quarters, and were in want of nothing that could give them either strength or courage. Notwithstanding all those disadvantages, the Prussians behaved with admirable resolution, and maintained, to the last, every post they possessed, till they were driven by main force from one entrenchment to another; and at last, 4000 of them being killed, the remainder, who amounted to almost 8000, were obliged to surrender prisoners of war, with 58 pieces of artillery, besides colours, tho' it was said the Austrians lost 12,000 men.

It is remarkable, in this war, that his Prussian Majesty, who, we have some reason to believe, supervised the accounts of all his campaigns, found means to exaggerate the losses of his enemies, and, in a surprising degree, to extenuate his own; so that, candidly speaking, the true state of his affairs were known only by the consequences. But the defeat of Fouquet could neither be concealed nor palliated, and its effects appeared in every department of the war. Laudohn took one part of Glatz by storm, and the other by capitulation; though it was defended by 2000 men, and above 100 brass cannon. This, perhaps, was not the greatest loss. The important situation of the

place, and the prodigious magazines it contained, were irretrievable ; and Silesia was now open to the Austrians.

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THUS the city of Glatz, was, to the Austrians, ^{Glatz taken by the Austrians.} the first fruits of this complete victory. His Prussian Majesty knew nothing of the prodigious loss he had suffered, till he had heard that Laudohn was preparing to besiege Breslau, the capital of Silesia, and by far too capacious, either for its fortifications, or garrison. But his genius, alone, could enter the lists with his ill fortune. He determined to pursue a plan similar to that of Laudohn, but still more mysterious, which was suggested by his own genius, ever fertile in expedients. All Europe gave him up as lost ; and the discontented in England began, notwithstanding the public prepossessions in his favour, to complain, that we had gone too far in supporting him, as his system, either of offence or defence, was equally impracticable ; and that our perseverance in his cause, would hurt us, without being of any benefit to him.

THEY were soon undeceived. As it was natural to expect that he would endeavour to retrieve his affairs in Silesia, the defence of which was his main point, he made preparations for that purpose. Daun, who commanded not only his own army, but in fact that of the empire, had not the least doubt of his intentions ; and, leaving General Lacy in Saxony, followed his Prussian Majesty through Lusatia. In this march, the great foresight and penetration of the Prussian monarch, eminently appeared. Daun's great object was, to

K. of Prussia
marches towards Silesia.

Daun follows him.

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EUROPE.Daun de-
ceived.

outmarch him. He had taken the south road ; and the King, after passing the Elbe, and marching through a woody country, was on the northward ; so that he had the disadvantage of Daun, in what we may call their race to Silesia. Daun knew this, and availed himself of his success, by accelerating his motions ; so that he gained two full days march of his Prussian Majesty, reached Gorlitz, and proceeded with great rapidity to Lauban. This was what his Prussian Majesty expected and wanted ; and he had the admirable address, to appropriate to himself, the advantage of Daun's two days march ; for he instantly fell into the route by which Daun had advanced, and, passing the Spree at Bautzen, he appeared before the gates of Dresden ; so that the war now assumed another aspect.

FREDERIC, though he could not cope with Daun's, the Imperial, and Lacy's army, yet was superior to the two latter ; so that the first was obliged to retreat, and the other to change its situa-

K. of Prussia
lays siege to
Dresden.

tion : and the King of Prussia, being joined, according to previous, but eventual orders, by his Generals Hulsen and Ziethen, left Prince Henry, who was at Glogau, at liberty to act as occasion should require, while he himself formed the siege of Dresden.

We are here to observe, that every plan concerted by the court of Vienna, is, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, unalterable ; and the deviating from it, if not attended with success, be the motives ever so rational, has often proved fatal to their generals. The Empress Queen, to

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

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

1760. ~~Europe.~~ nœuvre usual in such cases. The approach of Count Daun, served to redouble the fury of the Prussians, but at the same time it confirmed and increased the resolute intrepidity of the besieged ; especially when Daun found means to throw into the place, no fewer than 16 battalions, during the night of the 21st. After such a reinforcement, and while three armies were in the neighbourhood, (for the army of the empire, and that under Lacy, had returned by this time), it would have been worse than madness, for his Prussian Majesty, to continue the siege ; and therefore he raised it, but without molestation from his enemies.

THE siege raised. **T**HUS ended this mighty trial of skill between great genius and great sagacity, and each supported by a proportionable degree of courage and experience. The conduct of the Prussians was the most brilliant, and that of the Austrians the most solid ; but, in the main, if any advantage was gained, it lay on the King's side, tho' in fact the great game that was played between them, remained still precarious.

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

Siege of
Breslau
raised.

1760.

EUROPE.

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

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

Motions of
his Prussian
Majesty.

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EUROPE.

Junction of
the Austria-
nian and Rus-
sian armies.

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

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

Battle near
Lignitz.

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

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EUROPE.

A great loss
on both
sides.

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

Count Daun
blockades
Schweid-
nitz;

1760. and to retreat precipitately towards the heights of Landshut.

EUROPE.

Gen. Hulsen defeats the Imperialists;

but is obliged to retreat, not being able to pursue his victory.

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

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

Russians
and Austri-
ans invest
Berlin.

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

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

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EUROPE.

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

The garrison tamely surrenders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

Berlin laid
under a
heavy con-
tribution.

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

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EUROPE.

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

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

Berlin evacuated, after being greatly plundered.

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

Colberg. The Swedes, all this while, were advancing in the western Pomerania, and in Silesia. 1760.
EUROPE.

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

Desperate
situation of
his Prussian
Majesty.

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

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

Austrians
defeat ac-
counted
for.

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

1760.
EUROPE.

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

Conclusion
of the cam-
paign.

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

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

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

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

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

1760.
EUROPE.

C H A P. XXVI.

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

1760. **NOTWITHSTANDING** the boasted skill of
AMERICA. the French, in defending fortifications, and their
 still more boasted bravery, the loss of Quebec had
 brought an indelible stigma, both on their conduct
 and courage. The retaking of it was therefore a
 favourite object with their generals commanding
 in Canada, as nothing less would serve to wipe
 off the reproach occasioned by their pusillanimous
 surrender of that place.—Mons. de Levi, therefore,
 early in the spring, having mustered an army of
 about 12,000 men, and being well provided with
 every necessary, took the field, with the resolu-
 tion of besieging that town. He began his march
 on the 17th of April, and, in ten days after, ap-
 peared on the heights of Abraham, within three
 miles of Quebec.

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

French ar-
my takes
the field,

with a de-
sign to re-
take Que-
bec.

Situation
of the Bri-
tish army.

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

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AMERICA.

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

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

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

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

Gen. Murray obliged to retreat.

Quebec besieged.

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

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

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

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

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British fleet arrives,

which obliges the French to raise the siege.

Gen. Amherst's plan for besieging Montreal.

1760.

AMERICA.

British army put in motion for that purpose.

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

Montreal besieged.

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

French make but a faint resistance.

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

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

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

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Montreal taken.

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

1760. AMERICA. THE French were equally unsuccessful in every other part of America. Having, by means of their missionaries, a much greater influence than the English, over the minds of the savages, they had debauched the Cherokee Indians into their interest; and there was reason for believing, that the Creeks, another very powerful nation, would follow their example. Philosophers, and philosophical historians, have indulged themselves in exhibiting flattering pictures of human nature in its most savage state: but there is the greatest reason to believe, from repeated experience, that the American Indians, in general, have no sentiments, but those of cruelty, revenge, and rapine, which they never fail to gratify; and that they are to be awed only by force.

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

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

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

1760.

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C H A P. XXVII.

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

1760.
ASIA.

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

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

Pondicherry besieged.

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

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

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ASIA.

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

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

British fleet
dispersed by
a storm.

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ASIA.

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

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

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

Loss on
land occa-
sioned by
the storm.

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

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

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

‘ Mr Raymond,

Pondicherry, Jan. 2. 1761.

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

(Signed)

L A L L Y.

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1761.
ASIA.

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

Pondicher-
xy taken.

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

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

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

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

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ASIA.

A ^{internal revolution in India, at this time,} _{in India.} revolution threatened to deprive the British of all their amazing successes.—The famous Timur Beg, or Tamarlane, at the head of his savage Moguls, a hideous race, conquered India, and its vast peninsula, which he left to a branch of his family.

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

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

1761.
ASIA.

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

Transactions of Comte D'Estaing.

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

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

U U 2

C H A P.

C H A P. XXVIII.

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

1760.

EUROPE.

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

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

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

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

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Thurot at-
tacks Car-
rickfergus,

which fur-
renders to
him.

Thurot re-
imbarks.

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EUROPE.

Three English frigates sent in quest of him.

He is attacked,

defeated,

and slain.

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

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

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

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

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Operations
of the Bri-
tish squa-
drons.

EUROPE.

1760. and Hawke alternately commanded the grand fleet, which still remained in Quiberon bay, to watch and detain the French vessels, which had run into the mouth of the river Villaine, after the defeat of Conflans.*

EUROPE.

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

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

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

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

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

1760.
EUROPE.

Detached
naval trans-
actions.

1760. THO' the British navy suffered little from the French, it sustained great damage from the weather. The most considerable of these losses, was that of the Ramilies, a 90 gun ship, belonging to the squadron stationed on the French coast. A series of stormy weather had obliged the fleet to return from Quiberon bay to Plymouth. The Ramilies, having overshot the entrance to the Sound, was embayed near a point called the Bolt-head ; and, her cables and anchors giving way, she was dashed to pieces among the rocks. Her whole crew (one midshipman and 25 seamen excepted) amounting to 700 men, perished.

C H A P,

C H A P. XXIX.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1761. down by the continual battering of the cannone.
EUROPE. With their height, however, the walls were extremely strong ; and, with the addition of some works done in the modern manner, the place, even with an ordinary garrison, was capable of making a considerable defence.

Cassel besieged.

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

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

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

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

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

1761. be spared. But Marshal Broglie did not lose the advantage he had gained. He attacked and defeated the troops under the Hereditary Prince, near the village of Stangerode, took two thousand prisoners, and several standards, &c. The attack was made by the dragoons, which broke the foot in an instant; so that very few were killed on either side.

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

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



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Cowen Sculp.

Marquis of Granby.

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

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

Battle of
Kirch-
Denkern.French ar-
my twice
repulsed.

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

1761. EUROPE. retreat, soon advanced again.—It happened, during the course of this war, by a seeming fatality, that the defeats the French received, served, upon the whole, to advance their affairs. It is true, Broglie and Soubise endeavoured to throw upon one another, the blame of the late disgrace they had received at Kirch-Denkern. The former accused the latter, of being too late; and the latter, the former, of being too precipitate in the attack.* Their loss of men, however, was soon repaired; but that of the allies, was irreparable. Their army divided into two bodies. One part, under the Prince de Soubise, passed the Lippe, and made dispositions for the siege of Munster. The other, under Marshal Broglie, passed the Weser, and threatened to invade Hanover. Thus Prince Ferdinand was obliged to follow their example. The Hereditary Prince, with part of the army, covered Munster, whilst Prince Ferdinand observed the motions of M. Broglie. The latter carefully avoided a battle; but several smart skirmishes en-

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

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

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

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

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Wolfenbutte taken by the French;

but recovered by the Hereditary Prince.

Osnabourg and Embden oppressed by the French.

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

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

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

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

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

Spirited
conduct of
the allies,
in defence
of Bremen.Armies go
into winter
quarters.

C H A P. XXX.

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

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

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

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

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Situation
of his Prus-
sian Majes-
sty.

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THE Russians under Tottleben, in the mean time, advanced without opposition into Pomerania. That general, however, being suspected, and, as it was said, convicted of carrying on a secret correspondence with the King of Prussia, was removed, and Romanzow appointed in his room. The Russians now proved much more formidable enemies to the Prussian monarch, than before.

Colberg invested by the Russians. Romanzow formed the siege of Colberg by land, while a fleet of 40 sail blocked it up by sea. On the other hand, this city was now in a better state of defence, than it had ever been since the beginning of the war. The former unsuccessful attempts of the Russians, had shewn where any weakness lay; and the Prussians, sensible of its importance, had not failed to take advantage of their instructions, by adding to the strength of its fortifications. As the Prince of Wurtemburg also was entrenched under its walls with a body of six or seven thousand men, the place seemed capable of eluding all attempts of the enemy, or at least of making a very vigorous defence.

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

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

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

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

1761. distressed for want of provisions. General Platen,
EUROPE. who had joined the troops commanded by the Prince of Wirtemburg, therefore quitted the entrenchments, in order to cover the convoys, which the Russian detachments had long kept at a distance. He had the misfortune, however, to meet with a body of forces, much superior in number to his own ; by whom he was entirely defeated, part of his convoy taken, and he himself escaped with great difficulty to Stetin, with the remainder.—Knoblock had established himself at Treptow ; but, after the defeat of Platen, he was quickly invested by Romanzow. His situation was quite desperate ; the town having scarce any walls, and his enemies prodigiously superior in number. For five days, however, he made a gallant defence ; but, being at length overpowered by numbers, he was obliged to surrender himself prisoner of war, with all his men, about 2000 in number.

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

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

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Colberg surrenders.

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

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

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

Schweid-
nitz taken
by surprise.

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

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

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Conspiracy
against his
Prussian
Majesty.

Detected.

C H A P. XXXI.

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

1761. **T**HE French having lost all footing on the continent of America, the operations there were confined to an expedition against the Cherokee Indians, under the direction of Colonel Grant. By carrying on the war entirely in their own manner, that is, ravaging the country with fire and sword, those barbarians were at last compelled to sue for peace, and a new treaty was concluded with them.

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

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

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

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

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EUROPE.

Expedition
against
Belleisle.

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

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

1761. conquest of Belleisle. It was urged, that though the harbours were bad, yet small privateers might issue from thence, which would greatly molest the French trade; and that the fleet might ride between it and the continent, in a well protected road. They imagined, that the loss of this island, though not of very essential detriment to France, would nevertheless be a grievous wound to her pride; and that the same reasons which had induced that court to expend a good deal of money on the fortifications of this place, would also cause a proportional value to be set upon it in the treaty.

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.

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

Troops
landed.

1761.
EUROPE.

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

Siege pro-
secuted
with vi-
gour.Citadel ca-
pitulates.

mong the former, Sir W. Peere Williams was 1761.
EUROPA. most regretted. He was a young gentleman of great talents and expectations, who had made a distinguished figure in parliament. He had but newly entered into the service ; and was shot in the night, by approaching too near one of the enemy's centinels.

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

C H A P. XXXII.

Detached naval transactions in the year 1761.

1761.
EUROPE.

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

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

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Richmond
and Felicite

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

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.

Action be-
tween the
Minerva
and *War-*
wick.

1761. pierced for 44, but mounted only with 26 guns, having 200 men on board, and a rich cargo, bound to St. Domingo. The action was supported on both sides with uncommon fury, until, the Vengeance being set on fire by the enemy's wadding, the French took the advantage of the confusion produced by this accident, and attempted to board her. In this attempt, however, they miscarried, through the courage and activity of the English captain, who cleared his vessel, and stood aloof, in order to repair his rigging. No sooner was that in some degree effected, than the engagement was renewed, and lasted a full hour, when the Entreprenant bore away. The Vengeance, again disabled in her rigging, was speedily repaired, and began a third attack, more furious than any of the preceding, which lasted an hour and a half, when the enemy called for quarter. The Entreprenant lost 15 men killed, and 24 wounded. The English lost about half that number.

Action between the Vengeance and Entreprenant.

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

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.

Success of
the British
cruisers in
the Medi-
terranean.

1761. These vessels no sooner perceived the British ships, than they bore down upon them, till within the distance of seven miles. A hazy atmosphere made the English vessels appear much larger than they really were ; and the three French ships (as they proved to be) dreading the issue of an encounter, suddenly wore round, filled all their sails, and crowded away. The English captains immediately gave chase, until sun-set, when, one of the French frigates hauling out in the offing, Captain Faulkner displayed a signal to the Brilliant to pursue in that direction. The chase was continued all night, and, at five in the morning, they approached so near as to discern the strength and size of the French ships. They proved to be the Courageux of 74 guns, and the Malicieuse and Hermione of 36 guns each. The French commodore was at such a distance, that he might still have avoided an engagement ; but he no longer declined it. The mist was now dispelled, the air perfectly serene and clear, and he perceived that one of the English ships was a frigate ; and the Bellona, from her peculiar construction, appeared at a distance considerably less than she really was. He accordingly made a signal for his two frigates to close with and attack the Brilliant, hauled down his studding sails, wore round, and stood for the Bellona under his topsails. Captain Faulkner, having manned his quarters, and made every necessary disposition for engaging, advanced towards the Frenchman with an easy sail. The sea was undulated by a gentle breeze ; and the ships, fully prepared for action, approached each other with

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Bellona and
Courageux.

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

1761.
EUROPE.

Engage-
ment be-
tween the
Bellona and
Courageux.

1761. EUROPE. heavy artillery, and the execution it did on the Courageux was dreadful. The engagement continued, in this furious manner, for twenty minutes, when the French ensign was hauled down.

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

Dexterity
of Captain
Logie.

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

To what cause must we ascribe this continued superiority of the English, in naval engagements? "Is it not," says a celebrated French writer,* "that the sea is the essential element of the English, whereas the French can do without it; and that every nation always succeeds best in those things of which it stands in absolute need? May it not arise from London's being a sea-port, whereas Paris sees only a few boats passing upon the Seine? Or, may not the English climate and soil produce men of a more robust and vigorous habit of body, and minds more fitted to labour and fatigue, than that of France, in the same manner as it produces dogs and horses more proper for the chace?" Allowing this to be case; how shall we account for the inferiority of the French sailors, in managing their guns? They are regularly taught the practical part of gunnery, an advantage which the English have seldom the opportunity of acquiring. To what then must it be owing, but to that bravery and resolution, which no education or discipline can bestow, and which never forsakes them in the moment of danger. By these they remain in full possession of their faculties, at a time when the French are frequently rendered incapable of any vigorous exertion either of mind or body.

* Voltaire.

C H A P. XXXIII.

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

1761.
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EUROPE.

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

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

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

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

1761.

EUROPE.

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

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

1761. and polite arts. Peace was the only means of attaining those blessings in view ; and therefore an immediate negotiation for that purpose was necessary, lest the present state of affairs might be changed for the worse.

Principles
of Mr. Pitt
and his
party.

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

1761.

EUROPE.

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

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

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

Spain inter-
feres in
the negoti-
ation.

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.Conference
broke off.

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

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.

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

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

1761.
EUROPE.

to support the crown of France with all his power. The interspersed faint compliments of regard to Great Britain, he looked upon as so many thin blinds, and weak devices, to put this kingdom off its guard, till he should be sufficiently enabled, by receiving his treasure from the West-Indies, to commence war with a greater certainty of success. To disappoint the effects of this plan, to precipitate this proud and unprovoked enemy into his own snare, to cut off from him his nerves and sinews of war, and hurl the calamities of his own duplicity and finesse upon the heads of himself and his people, Mr. Pitt was for the most vigorous measures being instantly taken and executed. He moved, that the treasures of the Spanish monarch should be intercepted, and the terrors and mischiefs of hostile enmity carried into his wide-extended dominions, under the sanction of an open and declared war, unless, without further negotiation, he instantly gave the fullest security of his friendship and neutrality, to the re- quisition to be made thereof, not by the tardy and cautious steps of an ambassador, but by our commanders in chief at the head of the British power, tendering the acceptance of sincere friendship, or inveterate enmity, and armed in the might of the nation to save or to destroy.

Mr. Pitt
moves for
war against
Spain.

Opposed.

IN this grand and leading motion, he was opposed by his colleagues in administration. They urged, that a tedious, bloody, and expensive war, with so powerful an enemy as France, might well induce their attention and caution how they involved their young sovereign in a new war with

1761.
EUROPE.

a powerful king, rich in his resources of treasure, and formidable by a numerous fleet of capital ships. Spain had not only shewed no enmity towards us, but had at times so persevered in professions of friendship, that even our ambassador was led to think she desired to be upon the best terms with us. It was not the interest of the crown of Spain, to embarrass itself with the broken fortunes of France. The friendship of nature and consanguinity, might be strong between these two crowns; but it was not reasonable to think it would so far mislead the Spanish monarch, as that he should involve his subjects, and his own interests, in those calamities and ruins of war, which might be supposed to be unavoidable, in taking part against a victorious, powerful, and triumphant nation, flushed with success, and skilled in the arts of conquest. In these circumstances, it appeared neither just nor politic, to be the aggressors, in hurrying on hostilities, and making an enemy; when, by delay, and further negotiation, we might preserve a friend, and obtain the blessings of a good peace with the whole world. At the same time, they thought it necessary, not to relax in vigour, or be unprepared for the worst, which, should it happen in this way, would clear us from the aspersion thrown out upon us at the commencement of the war with France. Our moderation and equity would then obtain us the esteem and approbation of all Europe, when they beheld with how much reluctance we entered upon a new war.

Reasons against a war with Spain.

1761. EUROPE. MR. PITT, finding himself over-ruled, and unsupported by any but Lord Temple, his fellow-compatriot, and coadjutor in the measures proposed, saw his influence in the state at an end. He knew himself able to answer and account for his course of administration hitherto ; and this appeared to him the properest time to resign his trust, when he could no longer be useful in the execution of it. He must either obstruct and embarrass the measures carried on by others, if he opposed them ; or sacrifice his own fame and honour, if he concurred in them, contrary to his own conviction, and what he apprehended to be the interest of his country.

FROM these, or such like fair and honest motives, Mr. Pitt, to the universal astonishment and dejection of the whole nation, resigned the seals into his Majesty's own hands, on the 9th October.

—He condescended to justify himself, on this occasion, from the aspersions thrown out against him, by declaring his motives for resignation, which were, that he would no longer be answerable for measures of which he had not the sole direction.

His character attempted.

No minister of Great Britain, has been more fortunate than Mr. Pitt ; and none were better entitled to grandeur and prosperity, from the abilities and vigour of mind conspicuous in every part of his conduct. To the most extensive knowledge, and an eloquence irresistible, he added that nobleness, that disinterestedness of soul, which render those qualifications venerated, as well as admired. Bold, active, and enterprising, there was a

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PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM.



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greatness in his designs, not easily comprehended by little minds; and nothing, but success, could have saved them from the imputation of rashness. Without the adventitious advantages of birth and fortune, he raised himself, singly by his own abilities, to the highest degree of power in this kingdom. His knowledge of the human character, enabled him to appoint particular men, to those particular employments and enterprises, to which their genius and capacities were adapted; and the most powerful interest, could never obtrude unqualified persons upon him—merit, only, was a sufficient recommendation.

HE possessed, in the highest degree, the confidence and affection of the people; without which, a minister of Great Britain can have little hopes of success. Advancement to power, which is generally attended with the loss of public esteem, in him seemed only to confirm it; and, for the first time, administration and popularity were united. In conducting the war, his views were extended to the remotest parts of the world; and there was not a place, however distant, but felt the power of his favour or resentment. He never permitted the enemy to breathe; but overwhelmed them with reiterated blows, kept up the alarm in every quarter, so that, dazzled, as it were, by the multitude and celerity of his enterprises, they seemed to have lost all power of resistance.—He revived the military genius of the people; restored discipline to the army; established a national militia; supported our allies; extended our trade; raised our reputation; and augmented our dominions.

1761. EUROPE. Dispatch, activity, regularity, and vigour, were the leading characteristics of his administration ; and he opposed, to the utmost, that tide of parliamentary corruption, which must one day overwhelm the liberties of Britain.

HAPPY had it been for this country, if those great and shining qualifications had been accompanied with a disposition more pliable, and a temper less austere. Conscious of his own superior talents, he was haughty, imperious, impatient of contradiction, and overbearing. These qualities disabled him from acting any otherwise than alone ; and deprived his country of his services, at a critical and most dangerous period.

IN social life, he was a most agreeable and lively companion ; and had such a versatility of wit, that he could adapt it to all sorts of conversation. He is said to have had a most happy turn to poetry ; but this he seldom indulged, and seldom avowed.

IN short, to sum up the character of this splendid luminary of the senate and the cabinet, in the words of Lord Chesterfield, “ it must be acknowledged, that he had those qualities which none but a great man can have ; with a mixture of some of those failings, which are the common lot of wretched and imperfect human nature.”

THE King, to shew the favourable sense he entertained of his services, bestowed on him an annual pension of 3000l. for three lives ; with the title of Baroness of Chatham to his lady, and that of Baron to her heirs-male—a circumstance which gave a severe shock to his popularity.

His resignation excited an universal murmur throughout the nation; but the spirits of the people had been raised by great and continued successes, to such a height, that nothing could at once depress them. There might have been a time, however, when the loss of such a man would have been attended with the most fatal consequences.

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At the time of his resignation, Mr. Pitt conceived a war with Spain to be unavoidable; but the same degree of conviction, had not then appeared to Lord Bute. No sooner, however, had Spain received the expected treasure from the West Indies, than the court of Madrid discovered to our ambassadors, her open contempt and enmity towards Great Britain. Mr. Wall, in his answers to the questions which were put to him, replied in the most insulting and haughty manner. He openly avowed the existence of the famous treaty called the *Family Compact*, by replying to the English requisition respecting it, in these memorable words: “ That the spirit of haughtiness and discord, which dictated this inconsiderate demand of the British ministry, and which, for the misfortune of mankind, still predominated in that government, amounted to a declaration of war: that when the King’s dignity was attacked, that moment the war was declared; and that the British minister might return how and when he thought proper.”

Insolence
of the Spa-
nish mini-
ster.

ON the 17th of December, the Earl of Bristol quitted Madrid; and, soon after, the Spanish ambassador left London. Before he departed, he published a paper or manifesto, in which the cause

1761. of rupture between the two nations, is ascribed solely to the haughty temper, and overbearing disposition of Mr. Pitt. He declared, that the treaty so much talked of, had not the least connection with the present war; and though the members of the house of Bourbon had agreed to guaranty their respective dominions, it was to be understood only of those dominions which should remain to France after the war was concluded.* — To this memorial, the Earl of Egremont, who had succeeded Mr. Pitt as secretary of state, replied in clear and dispassionate terms; and, without stooping to personal invectives, perspicuously pointed out the evasive duplicity of the Spanish court.— Thus an attempt to restore tranquillity to Europe, was the means of plunging her more deeply into the horrors of war.

* This answer was not at all conformable to the demand. It sets forth, indeed, the general purport of a treaty dated the 15th of August; but carefully avoids an explanation of Spain's intention towards Great Britain, or her future connections with France. The particular terms of this famous *pactum familie*, at length transpired; when it appeared not only inimical to Great Britain, but to all the powers of Europe. By the 23d and 24th articles, the subjects of the several branches of the house of Bourbon, are admitted to a mutual naturalization, and to a general participation of reciprocal privileges and immunities. By the 26th article, they contract to disclose to each other, their alliances and negotiations. By the 17th and 18th articles, they formally engage, not to listen to, nor make any proposals of peace to their common enemies, but by mutual content; and, in time of peace, as well as war, to act as if the two monarchies formed only one and the same power. The direct trade to America, however, forms an exception to the absolute community of interests. And, in the 8th article, it is stipulated, that France shall not be entitled to the assistance of Spain, when involved in a war in consequence of her engagements by the treaty of Westphalia, unless some maritime power should take part in those wars. A plain proof, that Britain was the object against which the whole treaty was directed.

FRANCE, sunk in despondency, revived with the prospect of this new alliance. Her navy, shattered and inconsiderable as it was, assumed a respectable appearance, when united with that of Spain. Every expedient was put in practice, to increase their fleet; and almost the whole property of the kingdom, was employed in equipping privateers.

BRITAIN, now at war with the principal powers of Europe, seemed to derive additional strength and vigour from the number of her enemies.—The spirit of the nation was raised to a kind of enthusiasm, by a succession of important victories; and a Spanish war added the prospect of plunder, to the desire of conquest. The supplies granted by parliament, were liberal beyond precedent; and the land-forces and seamen were considerably increased.

WAR was formally declared against Spain on the 4th of January 1762; and, by Spain, against Britain, on the 18th of the same month. The Spanish navy, at this period, consisted of about 100 ships of war, of which 52 were of the line,

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EUROPE.

War de-
clared a-
gainst
Spain.

C H A P. XXXIV.

Situation of the French and allied armies—Battle of Græbenstein—Prince Xavier defeated—Hereditary Prince defeated—Severe action at Bucker Muhl—Cassel surrenders to the allies—Conclusion of the war in Westphalia.

1762.
EUROPE.

THOUGH, at the beginning of the year 1762, the French had the advantage of the allied army, both in numbers and situation, the event of the campaign promised to be favourable to the latter. Neither the superiority of number, nor the advantages they had gained in the field, had at all availed the French. They had to contend for the very places which they had fought for the two preceding years. A great dissension had, likewise, for some time, prevailed between Soubise and Broglio, who had sent reciprocal complaints of each other to court. The contention ended in the disgrace of Broglio, who was suspected of having neglected (thro' his excessive pride, which could not bear an equal in command) to improve those favourable opportunities which the fortune of war had thrown in his way. The command of the army was therefore given to the Prince de Soubise, who was greatly beloved by the troops; and with him Marshal D'Etrees was soon after associated in the command.

Broglio superseded by Soubise.

THE event, however, soon evinced how little those generals were able to contend with Prince Ferdinand. The French army was very advan-

stageously posted near a place called Græbenstein, on the frontiers of Hesse. Their centre occupied an eminence; their left wing was rendered almost inaccessible, by several deep ravines; and their right was covered by the village of Græbenstein, by several rivulets, and a strong detachment under Monsieur de Castries, one of their best officers.—The allied army was inferior in number to the French, and was also separated into bodies, so distant from each other, that the French never imagined it would be in their power to join in any sudden attack upon them; and therefore thought they had nothing to fear.

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EUROPE.

THEIR security proved to be but ill-grounded. General Luckner, with a considerable body of the allied army, was posted near Eimbeck on the Leine, to the eastward of the Weser. Here he watched the motions of Prince Xavier of Saxony, and was reciprocally watched by him. At last, Prince Ferdinand sent orders to General Luckner, to quit this post, in order to assist him in the design he had of attacking the French army. To accomplish this, Luckner left a small party in his camp, which deceived Prince Xavier. He then marched off with all the rest, in the night-time; crossed the Weser with the utmost speed; and posted himself behind the French army, without being perceived. At the same time, General Sporken placed himself in such a manner, as to attack the right wing in flank. Prince Ferdinand crossed the Dymel, in order to fall upon their centre. The attack on the enemy's left was commanded by Lord Granby.

1762.
EUROPE.

Battle of
Gräben-
stein.

THESE preparations of the allies were made with so much secrecy, celerity, and judgment, that the French had not the least notice of their approach. They found themselves unexpectedly attacked, on the 24th of June, in front, flank, and rear; and the moment the attack was made, the French were put to flight. An entire defeat would have ensued, had not Monsieur Stainville, who commanded on the left, thrown himself, with the flower of the French infantry, into a wood, which enabled him, with the loss of the greatest part of it, to cover the retreat of the army. All this body, except two battalions, were cut to pieces, or made prisoners. The other bodies, however, were covered by this resolute effort, and found means to shelter themselves under the cannon of Cassel, or precipitately retire to the other side of the Fulda.

BUT, though Mr. Stainville thus prevented the French from receiving a total defeat, the consequences of the action were not recovered during the whole campaign.—The prisoners taken by the allies on this occasion, amounted to 2750 private men, and 162 officers. On their side, were lost, only a few private men, and Lieutenant Colonel Townshend.—The death of the latter was much regretted. He was second son to the Honourable Thomas Townshend, Esq; and had distinguished himself on many occasions. At Guadalupe, he was pushed overboard in the landing of the troops; but a black servant of his, jumped after him, and saved his life. In the campaign of 1761, he was shot through the arm in Germany, and now lost his life in the same country.

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THE consequences of the victory at Græbenstein, were very considerable. Prince Ferdinand derived every advantage from it, which might be expected from a man of his consummate experience in military affairs. A body of English under Lord Granby, and Lord Frederic Cavendish, were pushed forward into the country, so far, that the French soon found themselves braved by Prince Ferdinand in front, while a strong detachment from his army was upwards of 30 miles behind them. To oppose this detachment, and prevent the communication of the grand army with Francfort from being cut off, Mons. de Rochambeau hastily collected some brigades of infantry and cavalry at Hombourg. With these he attacked the English on the 6th of July. A sharp engagement ensued ; but, at last, the French were defeated with considerable loss. The consequence of this was, that they were obliged to evacuate all that country ; while Fritzlar, Feltzberg, and Lohr, with almost all the important posts in the south parts of Hesse, were held by the allies. The communication with Francfort, also, from which place the French drew the whole of their subsistence, was totally intercepted.

Success of
the allies.

NOR were the allies less successful in the north. Prince Xavier was obliged to quit his advanced post on the Leine, and join the main army. His communication with Gottingen, also, was cut off ; and thus the garrison of that place was left destitute of support. Perceiving themselves in this situation, they blew up a part of the fortifications, and attempted to make a retreat. They

1762. were disappointed; no place was found open for their escape, and they returned in confusion and terror: but at last they found means to evacuate the place, without opposition, on the 16th of August.—Prince Xavier, in the mean time, had joined himself to the right of the grand army, which lay to the eastward of the Fulda, not far from the place where that river forms an angle in its junction with the Werra. Here he was under no apprehensions, because the French had a considerable garrison in the town of Munden, which stands in the neighbourhood. This situation, however, could not insure safety to Prince Xavier, when opposed by such able commanders. Generals Zastrow, Gilsac, and Waldhausen, passed the Fulda in sight of their enemies, and notwithstanding a heavy fire of their cannon. The corps commanded by the two former officers, possessed themselves of a wood on the enemy's right flank; while General Waldhausen seized a village called Bonavert, which lay between the enemy and Munden. Thus he was enabled, both to check the garrison of that place, and to fall on the enemy's rear when occasion required; and these wise dispositions ensured the allies of victory. The Saxon prince defended himself, for some time, with great resolution; but his men, being attacked in flank, began at last to give way; and, at the same time, General Waldhausen attacked them, with his cavalry, in the rear, which completed their defeat. General Stainville, who occupied a strong entrenched camp in the neighbourhood, seeing the danger Prince Xavier was in, hastened to his re-

Prince Xavier in imminent danger.

Jief, with his whole army of 10,000 men. His concern for his friends, it seems, had been so great, that he forgot his own interests: Nobody was left to guard the camp; and, therefore, the moment Stainville left it, Prince Frederic of Brunswick entered it, and totally destroyed their works. This action cost the enemy 1100 men taken prisoners, besides a great number killed on the field on battle.

1762.
EUROPE.

THE French now found themselves in a deplorable situation. They were surrounded by their enemies, though greatly inferior to themselves. Their communication with the country, was cut off: they were harrassed on every side, without intermission; and found themselves, neither able to advance with success, nor retreat with safety. In this distress, no other resource was left, but to recall their army from the Lower Rhine. Expresses were therefore dispatched to the Prince of Conde, entreating him to come to their assistance. He advanced accordingly by forced marches; but was closely followed by the Hereditary Prince, who watched all his motions, and held himself in readiness to attack his army, whenever an opportunity offered. This opportunity, as he thought, occurred on the 30th of August. He attacked a part of the French army, which was posted at a place called the heights of Johannisberg, near the banks of the Wetter; and drove them entirely from the high grounds, into the plain. But, whilst he pursued this advantage, the main body of the French army came to the assistance of those who were defeated. The fortune of the day was

Hereditary
Prince at-
tacks the
Prince of
Conde.

1762.

EUROPE.

Defeated,
and wound-
ed.

now changed. The allies were defeated, with the loss of 3000 men, killed, wounded, and prisoners. The Hereditary Prince himself was wounded by a musket-ball in his hip-bone, by which his life was long in danger, and his recovery tedious and lingering.

PRINCE FERDINAND, in the mean time, continued to distress the French army under Soubise and D'Etrees. Notwithstanding their advantageous situation, he offered them battle for a whole day; but, so much were they afraid of encountering him, that they decamped in the night, quitting those advantageous grounds called the heights of Mulsingen, where they could not be attacked but with the greatest disadvantage. The quitting of this strong post, with other advantages which he had already gained, gave Prince Ferdinand such a superiority over the French, that even their victory at Johannisberg availed them nothing. The allies were still masters of the communication with Cassel. The French had thrown a garrison of 10,000 men into that place; and the prince now made vigorous preparations for besieging it. When he had adjusted his army to cover the siege, the French took the opportunity of repassing the Lahne near Gieffen, and advancing towards Marburg. Upon this, Prince Ferdinand drew off his army; and, having attacked the French in flank and rear, drove them from all their posts at once, and obliged them to repass the Lahne with disgrace.

The siege of
Cassel form-
ed by the
allies.

THE siege of Cassel was now resumed with vigour. It was the grand object the allies had in

1762.

EUROPE.

view ; and, as its relief was an object of equal importance to the French, this siege produced a number of skirmishes, in consequence of the different movements of the two armies. The most remarkable of these, not for the consequences, but the great obstinacy shewn on both sides, happened at a place called Bucker Muhl. This post was nothing more than a bridge over the river Ohme, defended by a slight redoubt on one side, and a mill on the other. The possession of this post, however, was of some consequence to the French. It would have rendered the reduction of Amoneburg (a small, but important fortress in the neighbourhood) more easy to them. For this reason, the post of Bucker Muhl was obstinately defended by the allies. They were covered by the redoubt above mentioned, and the French by the mill. The engagement was begun between two small bodies, with a few pieces of cannon on both sides ; but the artillery was gradually augmented, till it amounted to 25 heavy cannon on a side. The allies began their attack with only 100 men ; but, before night, 17 complete battalions were engaged. These successfully relieved each other, and each made 50 discharges. The artillery fired at the distance of 300 paces, and the musquetry at 30 ; and the allied troops, as they passed to and from the redoubt, were, for a length of 400 paces, exposed to the fire of all the enemy's cannon, loaded with grape shot. The firing was continued from break of day, till dark night ; after which, the allies found themselves in possession of their redoubt, and the French of their mill, as they had been before. The allies left 600 men killed and

Action at
Bucker
Muhl.

1762. wounded ; but the loss of the French was thought to be more considerable. Towards the close of the day, the bodies of the slain had served the allies for a parapet to the redoubt, instead of that which the cannon had beaten to pieces.

THOUGH the French did not succeed in their attack upon Bucker Muhl, they battered the castle of Amoneburg with so much fury, that the garrison were obliged to surrender in a short time. But though, by the taking of this fortress, they gained a good deal of ground, and even got on the rear of the allied army, they were neither able to raise the siege of Cassel, nor even materially to disturb it. The place, therefore, despairing of relief, surrendered to the allies on the 1st of November, after the trenches had been opened 15 days.—No place of any strength in the principality of Hesse, now remained in the hands of the French, except the fortress of Ziegenhagen ; and this, notwithstanding the advanced season of the year, Prince Ferdinand prepared to reduce. It is not to be doubted, that he would have made himself master of it in a short time ; but a stop was put to his operations, by the signing of the preliminaries of peace.

Cassel surrenders.

The news of this were notified to both armies on the 15th of November ; and thus an happy period was put to a most bloody and destructive war.

NEVER was there a more sudden and pleasing transition from enmity to esteem, than succeeded the cessation of hostilities. Nothing was heard, but reciprocal praises of each other's valour : and several days were spent, in magnificent entertainments, given by the one army to the other, from the commander in chief, to the meanest subaltern.

C H A P. XXXV.

Death of the Empress of Russia—Peter III. her successor, makes peace with Prussia—Deposed by the Czarina—His imprisonment and death—Effect of this revolution on the King of Prussia's affairs—Schweidnitz again besieged—Surrenders—Austrians defeated at Freyberg—Peace of Hubertsburgh, between Austria and Prussia.

WE left the King of Prussia in such a deplorable situation, that he might justly be said to be past all human assistance. His dominions were entirely at the mercy of his enemies; and even a complete victory, had he obtained it, could not have retrieved his affairs. The possession of Colberg, had ensured the Russians of supplies by a safe and expeditious channel; and their wintering in Pomerania, enabled them to commence their operations, much sooner this year, than they had ever done. But, in the midst of these gloomy appearances, when his affairs seemed to be entirely desperate, his most inveterate and inflexible enemy, the Empress of Russia, died on the 2d of January, in the 52d year of her age, and 22d of her reign.*

1762.

EUROPE.

Death of
the Em-
press of
Russia.

* This princess was second daughter to Peter the Great, and was not altogether unworthy of so illustrious a father. She possessed moderate talents, and had governed Russia with an easy sway; maintaining, at the same time, its importance among the nations, by a numerous army, and well-regulated finances. In her private character, she was not cruel; and her reign was not disgraced by any of those brutal executions, which mark the barbarity of the Russian government. Parti-

Her charac-
ter.

1762.
EUROPE.She is suc-
ceeded by
Peter III.

She was succeeded by Charles Peter Ulric, of the house of Holstein. He had been declared heir-apparent of the empire by the late Empress, and now ascended the throne under the title of Peter the Third. The new Czar had sometimes discovered marks of esteem for the King of Prussia, and was knight of the black eagle, of which order the King of Prussia is grand-master. The Prussian monarch, however, could put but little confidence in this; and it is certain, that he expected very little advantage from the accession of Peter to the throne of Russia. But his spirits never entirely failed him, notwithstanding all his misfortunes. “ Is not this a very extraordinary knight ” (said he in a letter to Mr. Mitchel, the British minister at the Russian court) to feed 80,000 “ men at my expence ? He is the only one of “ my knights, who takes that liberty. If every “ knight of the garter did the same, your Eng- “ land (England though it is) would be devour- “ ed by them. I beg you would endeavour to “ make my knight more tractable ; and tell him, “ it is against the institutes of the order, for a “ knight to eat up his grand-master.”

His attach-
ment to the
King of
Prussia.

THE behaviour of the new Czar, however, proved an agreeable disappointment to the friends of the Prussian cause. In a memorial delivered

cular foibles of mind and constitution are said to have hurried her into excesses, which, towards the latter part of her life, exposed her to the contempt of her subjects. Her opposition to Prussia, though influenced by personal animosity, coincided also with the political interest of the empire. It was the only method by which she could ever hope to make such an establishment in Germany, as might give her a title to interfere in the affairs of the empire; an object which had ever engrossed the attention, and influenced the conduct of her father.

1762.

EUROPE.

on the 23d of February, to the ministers of the allied courts, he declared, that, " in order to the establishment of peace, he was ready to sacrifice all the conquests made by the arms of Russia in this war ; in hopes that the allied courts will, on their parts, equally prefer the restoration of peace and tranquillity, to the advantages which they might expect from the continuance of the war, but which they cannot obtain, but by a continuance of the effusion of human blood."—This declaration was not quite agreeable to the allies. They praised, indeed, the disinterestedness, spirit, and humanity of the declaration : but they recommended to him, to be attentive and faithful to his treaties ; a character no less essential to a great and good monarch, than humanity, and love of peace. They likewise professed an ardent desire for peace ; but were by no means inclined to purchase it, at the expence of all the conquests they had made, or hoped to make.—Their remonstrances had very little effect on the Czar. A suspension of hostilities with Prussia, took place on the 16th of March ; and, on the 5th of May, a treaty of peace and alliance was concluded between the courts of Berlin and Petersburg. In this treaty, nothing was stipulated in favour of the former allies of Russia : they were not only entirely abandoned, but the Czar also consented to let his troops act against them. This surprising good fortune of the Prussian monarch, did not stop here. Sweden, which, for a long time, had acted only as directed by Russia, followed the example of the court of Petersburg ;

The new
Czar makes
peace with
Prussia.

1762. and a treaty of peace was signed with Prussia, on
the 22d of May.

EUROPE.

THOUGH this extraordinary change of affairs, was undoubtedly owing, in a great measure, to the personal esteem which Peter III. entertained for the King of Prussia, he seems also to have been influenced by another motive. The Czar was Duke of Holstein ; and the Dukes of Holstein had pretensions also to the duchy of Sleswic. This duchy had been ceded to Denmark in 1732 ; but, as this cession was made merely through necessity, it was thought, that the house of Holstein would take the first opportunity of recovering their rights. Peter, therefore, finding himself possessed of the whole power of the Russian empire, resolved to make use of the present opportunity. But, as he could not carry on a war with Denmark and Prussia at the same time, he resolved to put an end to the war with Prussia, and therefore proceeded in the manner already mentioned.

THE King of Prussia took care to profit as much as he could, by this unexpected revolution in his favour. His situation was still dangerous ; for the Austrian armies were greatly superior to his.—The cities of Glogau and Breslau were threatened by the Austrian armies, and Schweidnitz by the King of Prussia's. The activity of this monarch, however, soon determined the operations of the campaign. On the 12th of May, Prince Henry attacked the Austrian posts towards the frontiers of Saxony. The enemy were obliged to evacuate Dippolfswalda, with the loss of some killed, and about 4000 taken prisoners, to-

The Aus-
trians driven
out of Sax-
ony.

gether with 365 waggons, &c. Thus, all that part of Saxony possessed by the Prussians, was secured; and any attempts which they might make for the recovery of Dresden, greatly facilitated. The Austrians were very sensible of the importance of those posts they had lost; and therefore they made several brisk efforts to recover them. But, tho' they were largely reinforced from the armies in Silesia, they were constantly repulsed with great slaughter. It became necessary, therefore, to keep a large army from the war in Silesia, to hinder Prince Henry from making incursions into the heart of Bohemia.

1762.
EUROPE.

THE King of Prussia was not joined by his Russian allies, till the latter end of June. Marshal Daun's army possessed several advantageous eminences, by which he was enabled to protect Schweidnitz; and, from these, his antagonist proposed to dislodge him. He was for some time unsuccessful; but, at last, the Austrian General, fearing lest the Prussians should fall upon his principal magazine, of his own accord, abandoned the posts he had hitherto defended with success, and fell back to the borders of Silesia. On his departure, the King immediately made preparations for the siege of Schweidnitz. Several detachments of Prussians penetrated far into Bohemia, and laid many parts of the country under severe contribution. A considerable body of Russians, likewise entered the same country, and were guilty of the greatest excesses.—But, while the King of Prussia's affairs seemed to be in the most prosperous state, his good fortune was suddenly clouded

M. Daun
abandons
the protec-
tion of
Schweid-
nitz.

Revolution
in Russia.

1762. by the deposition and death of his firm friend and ally, Czar Peter III.

EUROPE.

Causes of
this revolution.

THE causes of this revolution, were the many innovations made by the Czar, without regarding the opinions and prejudices of his subjects. Being himself a foreigner, he seemed, to them, to pay more regard to the interests of foreign countries, than to that of Russia. The politicians of the country were disgusted, with his preferring the hopes of an inconsiderable conquest in Holstein, to those solid advantages which might have arisen from a continuance of the war with Prussia. His extreme attachment to the King of Prussia, likewise gave offence. But the most imprudent part of his conduct, was his interfering with ecclesiastical matters. He had been educated a Lutheran ; and, though he, in appearance, conformed to the Greek church, in order to qualify himself for the succession, he never paid much respect to that sort of worship. On the contrary, he seized the revenues of the clergy, allowing them only some small pensions for their subsistence. He also commanded the clergy to shave their beards, which was deemed a crime of the first magnitude ; and some regulations were made concerning the images and pictures in the churches, which seemed to indicate a design of totally abolishing the established religion, and introducing Lutheranism into its place.—This imprudent prince also lived on bad terms with his consort, a princess of the house of Anhalt Zerbst, a woman of a bold and masculine spirit. He was so much attached to the Countess of Woronzoff, with whom he lived in a very

public manner, that it was apprehended he had a design of throwing his Empress into a monastery, and raising the Countess to the throne.

1762.

EUROPE.

THE consequence of these, and several other particulars of the Czar's conduct, was, that a most dangerous conspiracy was formed against him, in favour of the Empress; and so ill was the unhappy Prince served, that nobody gave him any notice of it, till the conspirators had become too strong to be subdued. The Empress had got herself declared Independent Sovereign of Russia, by the guards, the clergy, and the chief of the nobility. The Czar was amusing himself in a house of pleasure, called Oraniebaum, on the sea-shore; when a soldier informed him, that his kingdom was taken away from him, and that the Empress was hastening to Petersburg with a body of troops. For some time, he was quite astonished at the news, and knew not what course to take: but, being at last roused by a sense of danger, he resolved to defend the place with his Holstein guards. This resolution, however, he soon abandoned, thinking their number was too small; and resolved to attempt an escape to Holstein. For this purpose, he embarked in a small vessel with a few attendants, and rowed towards Cronstadt: but, being informed that this fortress was in the hands of his enemies, and that no possibility of escape remained, he returned in confusion to Oraniebaum. Here he resolved to throw himself into the power of the Empress, from whom he had very little reason to expect compassion. He sent messengers with letters to her, containing a renunciation of the em-

Conspiracy
formed
against
Peter III.

1762.
EUROPE.

Peter III.
deposed by
the Czari-
na.

His impris-
onment
and death.

Effects of
this revolu-
tion on the
King of
Prussia's af-
fairs.

pire, and asking no other favour for himself, but leave to take the Countess of Woronzoff, and one single friend, along with him. These terms were rejected. He was required to sign an unconditional resignation of his crown, according to a form that was prepared for him. The unfortunate Prince then signed a paper, in which he declared, that he was convinced of his inability to govern the empire, either as a sovereign, or any other way; and that he was sensible of the distress, in which his continuing at the head of affairs, would necessarily involve the empire. Having signed this abdication, he gave up his sword, and was conducted to prison; where, in a short time, he died of a disorder, which was called an hemorrhoidal colic.

THIS revolution seemed to threaten the interests of the King of Prussia with another fatal blow; but, happily for him, the Empress could not, for some time, look upon herself to be in such a state of security, as could enable her to enter into a war of so great consequence. It was necessary for her, to retain all the force of the empire within itself, in order to oppose the designs of malecontents, which the Russian empire never wants. She therefore declared to her ministers, " that she was resolved to observe, inviolably, in all points, the perpetual peace concluded under the preceding reign; but that, nevertheless, she had thought proper to bring back to Russia, by the nearest roads, all her troops in Silesia, Prussia, and Pomerania." — This favourable disposition towards the Prussian monarch, was also thought to have been

1762.

EUROPE,

occasioned, in a good measure, by his own prudent behaviour, while connected with the late Czar. The Empress, as well as the senate, had been of opinion, that the imprudent measures of Peter, had been occasioned by his correspondence and friendship with the King of Prussia. They, therefore, searched the papers of the unfortunate Prince, with the greatest eagerness, in hopes of finding some confirmation of their suspicions. In this they were totally disappointed. Many letters, indeed, were found, written by the King of Prussia to the Czar, but all of them giving him the most salutary advice. In these letters, he was advised to do nothing against the Empress his comfort; not to make war with Denmark; to attempt no changes in the religion and fundamental laws of his country, nor to think of coming into Germany. This last the Czar had very imprudently proposed, in order to serve under the King of Prussia, in whose army he had obtained a command.—On hearing these letters read, the Empress is said to have burst into tears of joy and gratitude, and made the strongest declarations in favour of the King of Prussia. The armies, however, were recalled, and separated from the Prussians; but all the important places, which the Russians had acquired with much difficulty and bloodshed, were faithfully and unconditionally restored.

BEFORE the separation from his allies, however, the King of Prussia resolved to profit by their appearance in his camp, seeing he was to have none of their service. On the 22d of July,

The Czarina orders a separation of her army from that of Prussia.

Previous to which, Prussia profits by their appearance.

1762.
EUROPE.

He attacks
and defeats
the Austrians,

therefore, the very day after the order for the return of the Russians had arrived at his camp, he attacked the Austrian army, drove their right wing from the heights of Buckersdorff, and some villages, where they were advantageously posted. The Austrians, fearing an attack from the united forces of the Muscovites and Prussians, made but a faint resistance. The Prussians had but 300 killed in this action. The loss of the Austrians, in killed and wounded, was not known; but 1000 of their men were taken, with 14 pieces of cannon.

By the loss of these posts, from which the Austrians were now driven, their communication with Schweidnitz was totally cut off; nor was it in their power to attempt any thing for its relief. Prince Henry also held them continually in alarm on the side of Bohemia, and obliged them to keep a great army employed in observing his motions.—The King of Prussia immediately laid siege to Schweidnitz, and formed his dispositions with the utmost care. His infantry were encamped on the heights behind Schweidnitz. His cavalry formed a chain in the plains of Keintzendorf, to be nearer the camp of the Prince of Wirtemberg. This prince was posted in such a manner, as might enable him to prevent any attempt of the enemy from the country of Glatz. The Prince of Bevern was advantageously posted near Cofel, with a strong body of troops; and General Werner, with another body, had his station at Neissa.

and then
lays siege to
Schweid-
nitz.

THE effects of this wise disposition of the Prussian forces, soon appeared. Marshal Daun, not thinking himself a match for the army commanded by the King of Prussia in person, detached General Laudohn, with a great force, to attack the Prince of Bevern. But the prince opposed him with great steadiness and resolution, till the King of Prussia had time to come to his relief. The Austrians, being then put between two fires, were defeated, and pursued with terrible slaughter: after which, the King met with no farther opposition in his preparations; and the trenches were opened before Schweidnitz, on the 28th of July. The place made a vigorous defence, and held out till the 9th of October. The garrison, to the number of 8000 men, were made prisoners of war; and a great part of them were afterwards drowned at the mouth of the Oder, in their passage to Konigsberg, where they were to be confined. Only nine of the whole body, embarked at that time, had the good fortune to escape. It is said, that the attack of Schweidnitz, at this time, had been conducted, and the defence made, by two engineers, who had written on the subject of the attack and defence of fortifications; and were then practically engaged to prove the truth of their systems.

1762.
EUROPE.

Schweidnitz surrenders.

By the taking of Schweidnitz, the King of Prussia once more became master of Silesia; after which, he turned his attention to Saxony, where he considerably reinforced his brother's army, and, by his motions, seemed to have a design of laying siege to Dresden. The Austrians, however, gained

1762. some considerable advantages over the army of
EUROPE. Prince Henry ; and even drove them back to
Freyberg. But that prince, taking advantage of
the absence of General Haddick, on the 29th of
October, attacked the united army of Imperialists
and Austrians, and totally defeated them. Great
numbers were killed ; and near 6000 prisoners
were taken, among whom were 240 officers.
Thirty pieces of cannon, and several standards,
also fell into the hands of the Prussians.—The
Austrians attributed this defeat, to the treachery
of one of their general officers, who was soon
after taken into custody.

Austrians
defeated at
Freyberg.

THE Prussians immediately pursued the advantages afforded them by this victory. The Austrians themselves, by a foolish piece of conduct, gave their enemies an additional advantage over them. They concluded a partial cessation of hostilities with the King of Prussia, for Silesia, and the electorate of Saxony only ; without considering, that thus the other parts of their empire were more exposed to the attempts of the enemy. The event fully shewed the imprudence of their conduct. One body of Prussians, breaking into Bohemia, penetrated almost to the gates of Prague, and destroyed a large magazine. By another, the town of Egra was bombarded and cannonaded with red hot bullets, till it was almost entirely laid in ashes. Other bodies spread themselves all over Saxony ; while some penetrated into the most distant parts of Franconia, and even as far as Suabia, ravaging the country, and exacting the most enormous contributions from all the

towns which fell under their power. Even the diet of the empire, sitting in the city of Ratisbon, did not think themselves safe from these bold invaders; but began to fly, and were preparing to remove their records. But, of all others, the free city of Nuremberg was the greatest sufferer on this occasion; having been obliged to pay a contribution, to the amount of L. 200,000 Sterling. Many states also were obliged to sign a neutrality, in order to save their territories from further ravages.—It has been thought, that, in these expeditions, the Prussians raised a sum equal to the annual subsidy which had been paid their King by the court of Great Britain.

THUS matters were at last left to be decided by the arms of Austria and Prussia alone. A great part of the empire was already included in the peace between Great Britain and France. The rest was either included in the neutrality which the Prussians had forced, or so exhausted that they could no longer furnish an army; and the great superiority of the King of Prussia, at the close of the campaign, at last disposed the Empress Queen to peace. Conferences, for this purpose, were accordingly opened at Hubertsburgh, and a treaty was quickly concluded.—The substance of this treaty, which at last put an end to such a furious and destructive war, was no more than that a mutual restitution and oblivion should take place, and each party be in the same state at the end of the war, in which they had been at the beginning of it.

1762.

EUROPE.

Nuremberg
laid under
contribution.

Peace con-
cluded be-
tween Au-
stria and
Prussia.

C H A P. XXXVI.

*Conduct of the Bourbon family towards Portugal—
Rise, progress, and conclusion of the war in that
country.*

1762.
—
EUROPE.

THE formidable alliance concluded among the different members of the house of Bourbon, gave just cause of apprehension to many of the neutral powers. From her close connections with Great Britain, Portugal seemed to be most in danger. The situation of this country, inclosed on every side (except to the sea) by Spain, pointed it out as an obvious and an easy conquest.—It is unnecessary to investigate the remote causes which have sunk Portugal into such a contemptible rank, as she now holds, amongst the powers of Europe. Certain it is, that, for upwards of a century, she has been gradually diminishing in power and consideration. A long peace, without adding to her commerce, had almost annihilated her military. Her army, inconsiderable in number, was without arms, without officers, and without discipline. The earthquake, which had overturned Lisbon in 1756, added misery to weakness; and the nation, scarcely relieved from this calamity, was plunged into new misfortunes. A conspiracy was formed against the Sovereign, by one of the most noble and wealthy families in Portugal. The detection of this conspiracy, was followed by a most bloody and dreadful exertion of justice. Many persons, from

bare suspicion, suffered death, or exile, or imprisonment.

1762.

EUROPE.

IN this distracted and deplorable condition, the house of Bourbon imagined, that Portugal would be an easy conquest, notwithstanding every succour that could be given to it.—Accordingly, on the 6th of March, the French and Spanish ambassadors presented a memorial to his most Faithful Majesty, which amounted to a demand, that he would immediately declare war against Britain, which reaped great advantages from the situation of Portugal ; and that he would admit Spanish garrisons into his chief fortresses. This insolent demand was followed by the arrival of a Spanish army upon the frontiers of Portugal : the commerce of corn, between the two kingdoms, was prohibited ; and every thing threatened a hostile invasion.

France and
Spain com-
bine against
Portugal.

HIS Portuguese Majesty, without appearing to be intimidated, answered in a moderate strain, but with becoming firmness. He was resolved, he said, at all events, to preserve, inviolate, his engagements with Britain ; but, as those engagements were merely defensive, they ought not to give the smallest offence to France or Spain.—To this answer he received a reply, that the defensive alliance was converted into an offensive one, by the situation of the Portuguese dominions. The British squadrons, they said, could not, in all seasons, keep the sea, without the ports and assistance of Portugal : and that those islanders could not insult all maritime Europe, if the whole riches of Portugal did not pass into their hands ; which

K. of Por-
tugal's spi-
rited answr
to their
memorial.

1762. furnished them with the means to make war,
 EUROPE. and rendered the alliance between the two courts
 A declaration of war truly and properly offensive.—A spirited reply was
 ensues. made to this; and the consequence was, that war
 was declared by France and Spain against Portugal.

Conduct of
the British
on this oc-
casion.

THE British ministry acted, on this occasion, with the most irreproachable good faith. Tho' they were then plunged in the most expensive and extensive war, that perhaps any nation had ever carried on, they sent vast supplies of arms, artillery, ammunition, troops, and money, to his Portuguese Majesty. It has been alledged, however, and with some appearance of truth, that, had the French and Spaniards been in earnest, Portugal must have been conquered before the British troops could have taken the field, as a French army was at that very time on the frontiers of Portugal, upon another quarter.

The House
of Bour-
bon's triple
plan of in-
vading Por-
tugal.

THE French and Spaniards directed their efforts principally against the two cities of Oporto and Lisbon; and had they got possession of both, or even of any one of these cities, the war most probably must have ended in their favour. Their plan was, to invade the kingdom of Portugal, in three different places; one to the North; another to the South; and the third in the middle, in order to sustain and keep up a communication between the two other bodies of troops. But tho' this plan was conceived in theory, it was never perfectly executed in all its parts at the same time, which it ought to have been, in order to ensure success.

THE first body was commanded by the Marquis of Saria. It entered the north-east angle of Portugal, and soon advanced to Miranda. It was expected, that this town would have stopped the progress of the enemy for some time. A powder magazine, however, blew up by accident, which ruined the fortifications ; and the Spaniards thus became masters of the place, on the 9th of May, before they had raised a single battery. From Miranda, the enemy proceeded to Braganza ; a considerable city, from whence the royal family of Portugal had its ducal titles. This town surrendered on the 15th of May ; as did also the towns of Moncorvo and Chaves, a few days afterwards.

By these successes, the Spaniards became masters of almost all the province of Tralos Montes. Their progress spread a general alarm : Oporto was given up as lost ; and the English admiralty prepared transports, to carry off the effects of the British factory.

THE Spaniards next attempted to cross the Douro ; but the peasants, under the conduct of some English officers, seized a difficult pass, and drove the enemy back to Moncorvo.—They are said, on this occasion, to have been guilty of some cruelties to the Spanish prisoners, which were afterwards severely retaliated upon themselves.

THAT body of Spaniards, which was designed to form a communication between the two others, entered the province of Beira, at the villages called Val de Mula, and Val de Coelha. Being joined by strong detachments, which made their number almost equal to the Marquis of Saria's

1762.
EUROPE.

Success of
the first
body of the
combined
army.

1762. army, they laid seige to Almeida. This was a place of great importance, as the possession of it would greatly facilitate any attempt upon Lisbon, which was the grand object of the war. As no means could be found of relieving this town, it surrendered upon honourable terms, on the 25th of August. After this, the Spaniards over-ran the whole territory of Castel Branco, a district of the province of Beira, advancing southward, till they approached the banks of the Tagus.

The third
meets with
a check.

THE third body, designed for the invasion of Portugal, assembled on the frontiers of Estremadura, with a design to enter the province of Alentejo ; and had this design been accomplished, it is probable that the Spaniards must have become masters of Lisbon. But their success was now at an end ; and they had a general to contend with, for whom their officers were by no means a match. The Count de la Lippe had arrived in Portugal, and taken upon him the command of the forces ; and his arrival had occasioned the greatest joy thro' the whole nation. He immediately saw the necessity of preventing the enemy from entering the province of Alentejo. This is an open fertile country, where the enemy's cavalry, in which consisted their great superiority, could act to advantage. The province of Beira is rough and mountainous, where cavalry could be of little service. The Spanish army in Beira, therefore, also designed to penetrate into Alentejo ; and this it became a capital object, on the part of the Count de la Lippe, to prevent.

THE first step taken for this purpose, was to attack an advanced body of Spaniards, that lay in a frontier town called Valentia de Alcantara, where it was said the enemy had considerable magazines. The conduct of the enterprise, was committed to Brigadier-General Burgoyne. That brave officer executed his commission, with the greatest fidelity and judgment. Tho' the place was at the distance of five days march, he completely surprised it on the 27th of August; took the general, who was to command in the proposed invasion of Alentejo; one colonel, two captains, and 17 subaltern officers. One of the best regiments in the Spanish service, was, on this occasion, totally destroyed.

1762.
EUROPE.

Gen. Bur-
goyne de-
feats their
advanced
body,

By the capture of the above-mentioned general, the Spaniards, who had assembled on the frontiers of Estremadura, were prevented from entering the province of Alentejo. The other body, however, which acted in the Castel Branco, had nothing but the passage of the Tagus, to hinder them from taking up their quarters in the same province. The combined army feigned a retreat, in order to draw the Spaniards into the mountainous tracts. Their rear was attacked, as they passed the river Alveito. The Spaniards were repulsed with loss; but this was of little consequence, and it was still necessary to prevent their passing the Tagus. General Burgoyne lay within view of a detached camp of the enemy's cavalry, near a village called Villa Velha. He observed, that they kept no proper guard, and were uncovered both in flank and rear, and therefore

and pre-
vents their
making far-
ther incur-
sions.

1762.

EUROPE.

Col. Lee
falls upon
their rear,and totally
disperses
them.Conclusion
of this cam-
paign.

might be easily surprised. He immediately formed a scheme of putting this in execution, and committed it to Colonel Lee. The design was executed in the most effectual manner. Colonel Lee fell upon their rear, made a considerable slaughter, and dispersed the whole party, with the loss of their magazines. The loss on the part of the British, was very inconsiderable; Burgoyne having supported the troops by a faint attack on another quarter, which prevented the enemy from being relieved from any of their adjacent posts.

THIS action proved decisive. The season was now far advanced, and immense quantities of rain fell. The roads were totally destroyed; the country became impassable; and the Spaniards, having seized no advanced posts in which they could maintain themselves during the winter, were obliged to retreat to their own frontiers.—In this manner, was Portugal saved, by the wise conduct of the Count de la Lippe; and the campaign, which, at the beginning, had born such a louring aspect, closed with a most glorious view of success to Britain and her allies: and thus the valour of a few British subjects, disconcerted the ambitious and unjust projects of two of the greatest powers in Europe.

C H A P. XXXVII.

*Expedition against Martinico—Port Royal surrenders
—The whole island capitulates.*

1762.

AMERICA.

NOTHING had been attempted in the West Indies, by the British, since the year 1759. Their attempt on Martinico, had at that time failed. The French trade to their West India islands, however distressed, had still been a considerable resource to that nation. Every thing was now acquired, that could be acquired, in North America. The West India islands, therefore, naturally became the next object. It was now easy to draw together such a force, as could by no means be resisted by the French in these parts. This was also the more proper, as a war with Spain was now looked for with great probability. An armament, therefore, was sent into the West Indies, such as never appeared there before. Eleven battalions were drawn from New-York, and a draught was made from the garrison of Belleisle. Some troops also were added, which had been dispersed thro' the Leeward islands: so that the whole land force amounted to near 12,000 men. —The land-forces were commanded by General Monckton, who had been grievously wounded at Quebec; and the naval force was under the direction of Rear-Admiral Rodney.

THE fleet rendezvoused at Barbadoes, and arrived at Martinico*, January 7. 1762. The soldiers were landed at a creek called Cas Navire,

British ex-
pedition a-
gainst Mar-
tinico.

* See a description of this island, p. 240.

1762.
AMERICA.Difficulties
attending
this expedi-
tion.

without the loss of a man. The enemy had, indeed, attempted to oppose their landing ; but the fleet directed their fire so properly, that they were obliged to abandon the batteries they had erected. — The conquest of the island, however, was not effected without some difficulty. The enemy had but few regular troops ; but the militia was numerous, and well qualified for that irregular way of fighting, which only could be carried on in the country. The whole island, also, was a natural fortification, by means of the great number of ravines, with rivulets between them, which lay at small distances from one another. On these the French had erected batteries, wherever that was practicable ; and the difficulties arising from these, were no-where greater, than in the neighbourhood of the place, which it was proposed first to attack.

Situation of
Port Royal. THE town and citadel of Port Royal, which the British troops first attempted, was defended by two very considerable eminences, called Morne Tortenson and Morne Garnier. If the enemy kept these, it was impossible to take the town : if they were lost, it was impossible to defend it. Both these eminences were defended by very deep ravines, and their natural strength had been improved by art.—Morne Tortenson was first to be attacked. A body of marines and regular troops advanced on the right, along the sea-side, towards the town, in order to take the redoubts which were built on the sea-coast ; and they were assisted by a thousand sailors, who rowed close to the shore, in flat-bottomed boats. A corps of light-armed infantry, properly supported, was ordered

Successful
attacks of
the British.

to get round the enemy's left ; whilst the centre was attacked by the British grenadiers, and the body of the army. They were covered by the fire of batteries, which had been erected with great labour ; the cannon having been dragged by the seamen, upwards of three miles. The attack succeeded in every quarter. The enemy were driven from post to post, till the British troops remained masters of the whole eminence. Some fled with precipitation into the town, to the very gates of which they were pursued ; whilst others took refuge on Morne Garnier, which was as strong as Morne Tortenson, and much higher.

1762.
AMERICA.

The British
take posse-
sion of two
important
eminences.

No decisive advantage could be expected, till this eminence also was gained ; and it was three days, before the proper dispositions for this purpose could be made. The enemy, however, did not wait to be attacked. They descended from the hill, while others fellied out from the town, and attacked the British troops in their advanced posts. The French were immediately repulsed ; and the British soldiers, hurried forward by their natural ardour, passed the ravines, and, entering with the enemy, possessed themselves of the whole eminence. The regular troops escaped into the town, and the militia dispersed themselves through the country.

THE gaining of these two important eminences, rendered the town quite indefensible. The enemy, therefore, waited no longer, than to see the batteries completed, which were designed to annoy them. They surrendered the place on the 4th of February.—St. Pierre, however, the capital of the island, still remained to be reduced. As it

Port Royal
surrenders.

1762. was strongly fortified, both by nature and art, a considerable resistance was expected: but the reduction of Port Royal had thrown the enemy into despair. Disheartened, therefore, by this bad success, and that which had attended the French in all other parts, they resolved to submit. General Monckton was just ready to embark for St. Pierre, when he was prevented (on February 12th) by the arrival of deputies, who came to capitulate, not only for the surrender of that place, but of the whole island. — The surrender of Martinico was followed by that of all the inferior islands. Grenada was given up, without opposition. St. Lucia, and St. Vincents, followed its example. And thus Great Britain became sole possessor of all the Carribbee islands, extending from the eastern point of Hispaniola, almost to the continent of South America.

The British
get posses-
sion of the
island of
Martinico,
&c.

THE facility with which this important conquest was made, must, in a great measure, be attributed to the favourable capitulation which the island of Guadalupe had obtained, and the good faith with which the articles of that capitulation had been observed by the conquerors. The inhabitants of Martinico, indeed, found themselves considerable gainers by their change of sovereign. Together with the enjoyment of their religion, laws, and property, they had now an opportunity of exporting their produce to advantage, and of being supplied with all necessaries from Great Britain:— whereas, before, their commerce was interrupted; and they were obliged to depend, even for subsistence, upon the most precarious and hazardous methods of supply.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

*Expedition against the Havanna—Troops land—
Siege of the Fort Moro—Taken by storm—The
Havanna surrenders.*

THE war with Spain, presented to Britain, the fairest prospect of advantage and honour. The resources of that kingdom, lie at a great distance; and whatever power commands the ocean, may command the wealth and commerce of Spain.

1762.

AMERICA.

IT had been determined in the British cabinet, to transfer the war into the Spanish West Indies. —The reduction of Cuba, the key to their settlements in that quarter, was an object which reflected equal honour, on the wisdom that planned, and the bravery that conducted this heroic enterprise. Sensible of the importance of this island, in which the whole Spanish West India trade centers, administration were at pains to select commanders, who had given proofs of their bravery, and whose experience and knowledge in their profession could be depended on. Admiral Pocock, who had already greatly signalised himself in the East Indies, was appointed to command the fleet; and Lord Albemarle, whose bravery was no way problematical, was at the head of the land-service. The point to be accomplished, was of the utmost consequence; and, without the imputation of temerity, the boldest that had been attempted during the course of the war.

Reduction
of Cuba re-
solved on.

1762.
AMERICA.

British fleet
on this ex-
pedition.

ON the 5th of March, the fleet sailed from Portsmouth for Cape Nichola, in the island of Hispaniola; where they were happily joined, on the 27th of May, by a squadron from Martinico, under the command of Sir James Douglas. The armament now amounted to 19 sail of the line, 18 frigates, and about 150 transports, having on board about 10,000 land-forces. Besides this force, a detachment of 4000 men had been ordered from New-York, which, it was supposed, would arrive before the commencement of operations.

Their ha-
zardous
course.

ADMIRAL POCOCK, considering that the least delay would be of the most dangerous consequence, as the hurricane season might come on before he could be master of a harbour to secure the shipping, took the shortest, though the most hazardous course. The old streights of Bahama, through which he had to conduct a fleet of 200 sail, was a narrow passage, of not less than 700 miles in extent, and bounded on the right and left with the most dangerous rocks and shoals. Provided with a good chart of Lord Anson's, and trusting to his own skill and sagacity, he had the good fortune to conduct the whole fleet thro' this dangerous streight, without the loss of a single ship. His running this hazard, could only be excused by the circumstances of the case, and the necessity of avoiding any delay. Had he pursued the other course, by the south of Cuba, and come into the track of the galleons, which was by far the safest, tho' a much longer voyage, so much time would be lost, that the stormy season

would set in, and every operation, both by sea and land, infallibly be put a stop to. However, to remove every imputation of temerity, a light vessel was sent before, to make soundings: the frigates followed; and the fleet, in seven divisions, being favoured with good weather, got clear of this hazardous streight on the 5th of June, without the least unfortunate accident.

BEFORE they had got clear of the streights, the Echo and Alarm frigates, being a-head of the fleet, descrid four vessels, which proved to be two Spanish frigates, and two brigs; which they came up with, and took without any resistance, after a chace of three quarters of an hour.

BEING arrived off the Havanna,* the place of their destination, the commanders prepared every thing for landing; and, on the 7th of June, the admiral, with the greatest part of the fleet, in

Fleet arrives off the Havanna.

* The Havanna, though not denominated the capital of Cuba, is by far the most important and wealthy place in the island. The harbour upon which it stands, is, in every respect, one of the best in the world. It is entered by a narrow paßage, upwards of half a mile in length; which afterwards expands into a large basin, sufficient to contain 1000 sail of the largest ships, having almost throughout six fathoms water, and perfectly secured from every wind. The rich fleets from the several parts of the Spanish West Indies, assemble in this bay, in order to proceed together on their voyage to Europe. The greatest care had been taken to fortify a place, which, besides its own importance, was the centre of the richest commerce of the world. The entrance into the harbour, is secured, on one side, by the Moro fort, built upon a projecting point of land, all of solid mason-work, having a ditch 70 feet deep from the edge of the counterscarp, and more than 40 feet of that depth sunk in the rock: on the other, it is defended by a fort called the Puntal, which joins the town. The Havanna itself, which is situated to the west of the harbour, and opposite to the Moro fort, is surrounded by a good rampart, flanked with bastions, and strengthened by a ditch.

1762. order to divert the attention of the enemy, bore away to the westward; while the whole army was safely landed, under the direction of Commodore Keppel, brother to the General, about six miles to the eastward of the Moro fort.

THE Spaniards had erected a small redoubt, on the top of a hill which overlooked the Moro. This it became necessary to reduce, before any thing was attempted against the town. It was accordingly taken, after a very feeble resistance, without any loss; and, on the 10th, the bomb-ketches began to bombard the town, under cover of the men of war.

and begin to bombard the town.

IN order to secure this important place, the Spaniards had, ever since the commencement of the war, maintained a powerful fleet in this quarter; and a squadron of twelve ships of the line, was actually, at this time, in the harbour of the Havana. It would have been thought but prudent, if this squadron, inferior as it was to the British, had come out, and given them battle; as, altho' that measure might have been attended with the loss of their fleet, yet ours must have suffered so considerably, as to have rendered any attempt upon the island impracticable. They did not, however, think proper to risk a battle; and the only use they put their ships to, was to sink three of them at the mouth of the harbour, which was likewise secured by a strong boom thrown across it.

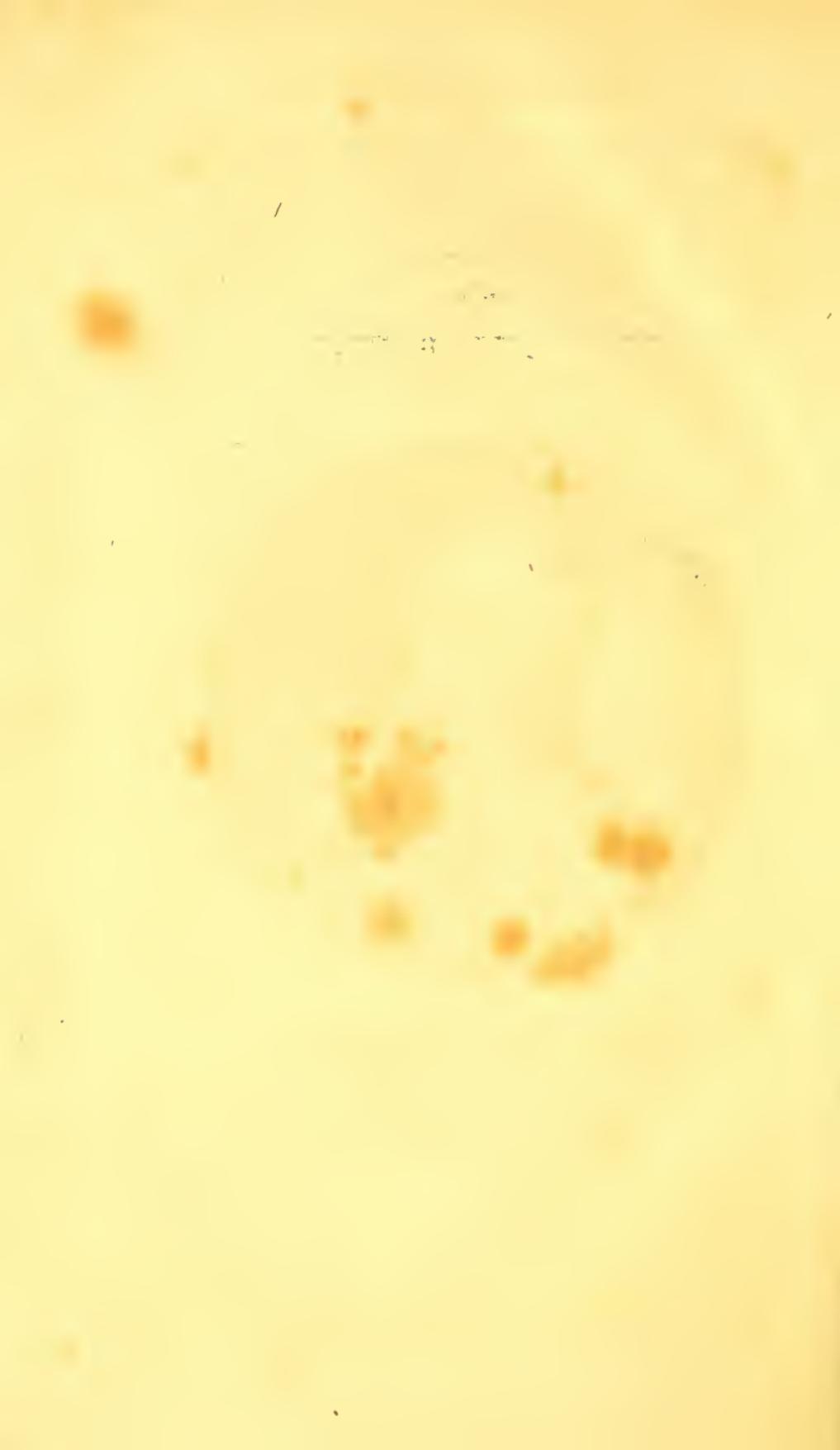
THE governor, Don Juan de Prado, trusting to the strength of the place, and the effect the unhealthiness of the climate might have upon the

Military Memoirs



Cowper Scovell.

Admiral Keppell.



British army, determined upon a vigorous defence. He was encouraged to this, by the counsels and experience of the viceroy of Peru, and the governor of Cartagena, who both happened to be at the Havanna at this time, in their way, to their respective governments.

THE main object of the British army, was to reduce the Moro, which, from the strength of the place, was likely to be a work of time, and a service of danger. But, as it commanded both the town and harbour, it was necessary that our army should be in possession of it, before there could be any probability of taking the town. In order to accomplish this point, the principal part of the army, under the command of General Keppel, was employed in the attack of this fort ; while another corps, under the command of General Elliot, advanced a considerable way into the country, to the south-east of the harbour, in order to secure those employed in watering and procuring provisions.—With a view to divide the enemy's attention, and cut off the communication between the town and the country, a third body, under the command of Colonel Howe, was ordered to encamp to the westward of the town.

THERE never was an instance, in which the British resolution and perseverance were put to so severe and memorable a trial, as in the siege of this place. The difficulties and hardships the army suffered, were innumerable. Roads were to be cut through very thick woods, to preserve a communication betwixt the respective corps of the army. The artillery was obliged to be dragged a

1762.
AMERICA.

Siege of
Fort Moro.

Difficulties
attending
it.

AMERICA.

Undaunted
resolution
of the Bri-
tish troops.

1762. great way, over an uneven rocky coast. Water was so hard to be got, (none to be had but from a great distance), that the army were obliged to be supplied from the ships. Add to all this, that the soil was every-where so thin, that it required incredible labour to collect so much earth as to cover them in their approaches. In fine, such were the difficulties the British had to encounter, that numbers daily dropped down, dead, with heat, thirst, and fatigue.—Notwithstanding which, the most perfect cordiality subsisted between the sea and land service; and, in spite of every harraffing expedient used by the enemy, and a climate no way favourable to the British constitutions, the works were carried on with unremitting assiduity, and unparalleled perseverance.

Vigorous
exertions of
the enemy.

AT length, on the 1st of July, the batteries were opened against the Moro; and an incessant fire kept up, from twelve heavy battering pieces, six large mortars, three small ones, and twenty-six royals. The enemy's fire was no way inferior, and did considerable execution. Not depending upon this alone, they made a vigorous sally, with an intention to destroy the works; but were repulsed with great loss. This seemed rather to rouse, than depress their spirit; and the defence of the fort, was continued with an obstinate bravery. The British forces had now an enemy to cope with, worthy of their valour; and every private soldier seemed actuated with the spirit of a hero.

THE admiral of the fleet, not satisfied with giving every assistance in his power to the operations on land, was resolved to employ some of

his ships, to batter the fort on the sea-side. For 1762.
AMERICA. this purpose, three of the largest men of war, *viz.* the Dragon, Cambridge, and Marlborough, under the direction of Commodore Harvey, were ordered to advance as near the Moro as possible, in order, by this attack, to divert, in some measure, the enemy's attention from the land-side. But here, though every thing was done that could be expected from the most intrepid bravery, it was all of very little consequence. The fire from the The British
repulsed. Moro, on account of its high situation, made great havock in the ships; while that from the fort of Puntal, on the opposite shore, galled them exceedingly. After an excessive warm cannonade of seven hours, the men of war were obliged to retire in a most shattered condition, having above 150 men killed and wounded.—Among the killed, was Captain Goostrey of the Marlborough, a brave and experienced officer.

ON the third day, after opening the grand battery, it, by some unfortunate accident, took fire; and, being constructed principally of wood, and no water to be had, was in a very short time entirely consumed. This was a most mortifying stroke, considering, at this time, the situation of the army. By the severity of the service, sickness arising from scarcity of water, and unwholesomeness of provisions, together with the loss of killed and wounded, the army was reduced to half its number. It required, therefore, no ordinary share of resolution, to support this calamity. But the spirit of the commanders conquered

Their grand
battery
destroyed
by acciden-
tal fire.

1762.
AMERICA.

every difficulty ; and, in spite of disease and famine, inspired the troops with fresh courage.

A seasonable reinforcement arrives.

IT luckily happened, that Sir James Douglas, who had been dispatched by the admiral to Jamaica soon after the troops were landed, arrived at this time with the fleet from that island, bringing with him many necessaries for the siege. A few days afterwards, a considerable reinforcement, from New-York, likewise arrived. This assistance, coming so critically, had an amazing effect upon the spirit of the troops. They immediately went to work, with redoubled ardour. New batteries were erected, in place of the old, with surprising expedition ; the fire of which soon became superior to that of the enemy.—At length, having silenced the guns of the fort, and demolished the upper works, they made a lodgement in the covered way.

IN this forward state of the siege, and when every thing seemed to yield before them, a new difficulty occurred, which appeared almost unsurmountable. This was an immense ditch, cut in the solid rock, 80 feet deep, and 40 feet wide, which it seemed impossible to fill up. Fortunately, however, a narrow ridge of rock had been left to cover it towards the sea. It was thought practicable for the miners, to pass over this ridge, and make a lodgement at the bottom of the wall. This accordingly was happily effected, with very little loss ; and immediately the miners went to work, in two different directions. While they carried on a mine along the glacis, another was formed for throwing the counterscarp into the ditch.

DON LEWIS DE VELASCO, the governor of the fort, perceiving that nothing but some bold stroke could secure the place for much longer time, ordered a sally to be made, with 1500 men, separated into three divisions, who attacked the besiegers in as many different places. The attack was begun early in the morning ; but the British troops, though surprised, repulsed the enemy with considerable loss.—Finding this measure prove abortive, the governor resolved upon another, tho' with no better success. He ordered a floating battery to be towed into the harbour, which fired with grape shot and small arms into the ditch. But this did not in the least interrupt the miners ; and the fire of the party who covered them, soon obliged the enemy to retire.

At length, on the 30th of July, a part of the wall was blown up, which, falling into the ditch, left a breach which the engineer thought practicable. Orders were accordingly given for the assault. The British troops, who had hitherto supported this fatiguing and unwholesome service with the most steady patience and heroic bravery, now entered upon this dangerous employment with a more than ordinary alacrity, hoping it would be the end of their labours. Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart was appointed to command the attack. The troops, having mounted the breach, formed themselves with so much celerity, and appeared before the Spaniards, who were drawn up to receive them, with so undaunted an air, and coolness of resolution, that, terrified at the determined valour that appeared in their countenances,

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AMERICA.

The governor of Fort Moro sallies out upon the British ;

but is repulsed.

Fort Moro taken by storm.

1762. AMERICA. the enemy fled on every side. Don Lewis de Velasco, the governor, whose bravery and good conduct during this siege will always be admired, disdaining to survive the loss of a place committed to his charge, like another Leonidas, bravely fell, in defending the colours of Spain. The Marquis de Gonfales, second in command, likewise fell, in endeavouring, unsuccessfully, to rally the fugitives. About 400 were killed on the spot ; and about 400 more threw down their arms, and surrendered prisoners at discretion.

THE British troops being thus in possession of the Moro, it was resolved to lose as little time as possible with the town, the sickness still raging both in the army and navy, and the men dying daily. For this purpose, a line of batteries was immediately erected on the hill of the Cavannos, which commanded the whole eastern side of the city, from one end to the other. The guns of the Moro, were likewise turned against the city ; and batteries were erected on the west side of the town, which hitherto had been only watched.

EVERY thing being thus in readiness, the general, in order to save the unnecessary effusion of blood, sent a message to the governor, on the 10th of August, representing the force of the attack he was ready to make on the place ; and giving him time, if he chose to avoid it, to capitulate. To this message, the governor returned a resolute answer, that he would defend the place to the last extremity.

NEXT morning, the 11th of August, Lord Albemarle ordered a general fire from all the

Havanna besieged.

batteries, against the town ; which was carried on for six hours, with so irresistible a fury, as entirely silenced all the enemy's guns. About two o'clock in the afternoon, a flag of truce arrived at headquarters, with proposals for a capitulation ; which, after removing some difficulties that occurred, was finally concluded on the 14th, when the British army took possession of the town.

1762.

AMERICA.

Havanna surrenders.

THUS the city of Havanna fell to Great Britain, after a siege of two months and eight days. In the course of the siege, about 500 of the British troops, including 15 officers, were killed outright, or died of their wounds ; and about 700 were cut off by distemper, which raged with redoubled violence, after the reduction of the place. In no action during the war, was the valour of the British troops, or the conduct of their leaders, more conspicuous. It united in itself, every advantage that can be acquired in war. The principal port of the enemy, in that part of the world, was reduced ; a fleet of capital ships, was either destroyed, or fell into our hands ; and the plunder is said to have been little short of three millions sterling.—The reduction of this place, while it distressed the Spaniards in the most essential manner, by stopping the sources of their wealth, opened to the conquerors, an easy avenue to the center of their American treasures.

Loss of the British.

C H A P. XXXIX.

Expedition against Manilla—Troops landed—A violent storm—Two attempts of the enemy upon the British camp—Repulsed—The town stormed—Capitulation with the inhabitants—The Manilla galleon taken.

1762.

ASIA.

THE loss of the Havanna, gave a most dreadful blow to the interests of Spain. Since the defeat of her celebrated armada, she had not suffered so humiliating a stroke.—But that was not the only disastrous consequence of the war, she had so imprudently declared against Great Britain. She received another severe wound, in a part of the world, which, from its remote situation, was deemed altogether safe from the attacks of any European power.

SOON after the unsuccessful attempt of the French against Madras, in 1759, Col. Draper, who had eminently distinguished himself in the defence of that important place, was obliged to leave that country, on account of his bad state of health. In company with the Honourable Captain Howe, then commander of the Winchelsea, he embarked for Canton in China. During his residence there, he employed himself in acquiring a minute knowledge of the present state of the Philippine islands* : and, as the inhabitants carried

* The Philippines, or Manillas, form a principal division of that immense Indian Archipelago, which consists of above 1200 islands; extending from the nineteenth degree of north latitude, almost in a

1762.

ASIA.

on a considerable trade with Canton, he had an ample opportunity of procuring intelligence. He observed, that the Spaniards in these islands, confiding in their remote distance from Europe, had totally neglected the keeping up a regular military force ; thoroughly persuaded, that an attack upon them, would never be deemed practicable.

As a war with Spain was at this time thought inevitable, Colonel Draper transmitted the observations he had made, respecting the Philippines, to the British ministry ; who received them with that attention, to which, from their importance, they were justly entitled.—Indeed, it is difficult to determine which were greatest ; the importance

continued chain, to the shores of New Guinea, and the great southern continent. The Philippines, which form the northernmost cluster of these islands, are, some of them, among the largest, and all of them, naturally, among the richest islands in the world. They were added to the Spanish monarchy, in its meridian glory, under Philip II. and, being happily situated for commerce, they were used as the center of communication for the Asiatic and American trade. They may receive European goods, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope ; and, connecting the traffic of China, Japan, and the Spice islands, with that of Europe and America, unite all the extensive dominions of Spain, in one commercial chain, with the richest countries upon earth.

The principal island of the Philippines, is called Manilla or Luconia, extending 300 miles in length, and 90, at a medium, in breadth. The soil is cultivated by the natives, with uncommon industry for this part of the world : the Chinese, who, after the Tartar conquest in the last century, fled here in great numbers, are the artisans ; and the Spaniards enjoy the government, and best part of the commerce. The rest of the Philippine islands, as far as the Spanish power prevails in them, are under the government of Luconia, the capital of which is Manilla, situated on the south-east of the island, and lying upon a very fair and spacious harbour. Here the large vessels or galleons annually arrive ; and, from this place, they sail for Acapulco in America, loaded with money or goods, to the value of near a million Sterling. In the war of 1739, the taking one of these galleons, was considered as the most brilliant success which attended the British squadrons.

1762. of such a conquest, or the obstacles which attended the atchievement of it. The possession of ASIA. Manilla, would enable us to destroy all intercourse of any other European power with the empires of China and Japan; while it procured a proper respect for the British flag, all over those wealthy and extensive regions.—On the other hand, our affairs at home, required the utmost exertions of our power; and it was impossible to spare, either ships or money, from Britain, for the conquest. The immense distance of the object, and the uncertainty of the time in which the expedition could be undertaken, were, besides, no inconsiderable objections to the enterprise.

Expedition
against Ma-
nilla.

THESE difficulties, however, were soon obviated. The British commanders, at this period, seem to have depended more upon the spirit than the number of their troops; nor was a superiority of numbers in the enemy, deemed a sufficient excuse for declining the attack.—All that was demanded, was a light frigate, to carry Col. Draper to Madras, where alone suitable preparations could be made for this important enterprise. He arrived there the latter end of June, and was appointed brigadier-general and commander in chief of the expedition. His subordinates in command, were the Lieutenant-colonels Monson and Scott, and Majors Barker and More. Admiral Cornish commanded the fleet; a brave and able officer, in every respect qualified for such an important service: and under him, was Commodore Tiddyman.—The troops allotted for this expedition, consisted of the 79th regiment, with a company of

the royal artillery, reinforced with 600 seapoys, one company of Caffres, one of Topazes, one of pioneers, and a body of seamen and marines were appointed to act with them ; the whole land-force amounting to 2300 men. The 79th regiment had been long inured to the climate, and accustomed to victory ; and were the first who checked the progress of the French in India. The naval force consisted of nine men of war, and frigates, besides some store-ships.

1762.

ASIA.

Land and
naval force
on this ex-
pedition.

THE success of the enterprise, depended much on the celerity of the preparations. The enemy might be roused from their security ; and if the north-west monsoon should set in with any degree of violence, before they were advanced on their voyage, the whole design would be defeated. The celerity of the preparations, however, was equal to the judgment with which every arrangement was made. A ship of force was detached to the entrance of the Chinese sea, in order to intercept all vessels bound for Manilla, that the enemy might receive no intelligence of the design formed against them.

THE fleet, with the troops, stores, and artillery on board, sailed, in two divisions, about the beginning of August ; and, after a prosperous voyage, anchored in the bay of Manilla on the 23d of September. That the Spaniards, who were ignorant of the declaration of war, and consequently unprepared, might have as little time as possible to recover from the confusion which this attack must necessarily throw them into, it was resolved, that the troops should be landed, and the operations commenced immediately.

British fleet
arrives in
the bay of
Manilla.

1762.
ASIA.The troops
land.

THE dispositions for landing, were made about two miles to the southward of Manilla. On the 24th of September, three divisions of the troops were put on board the boats of the fleet, and made towards the shore, under the protection of the men of war. The enemy were assembled in great numbers, both horse and infantry, to oppose the descent ; but they were soon dispersed by the fire of the squadron. The troops gained the land, without the loss of a man ; though many of the boats were dashed to pieces, by the violence of the surf.

UPON reconnoitring the town, it was found to be regularly fortified ; though, in many places, the works had never been completed. The garrison amounted to about 800 regular troops, and ^{Strength of} _{the enemy.} the bastions were mounted with a great number of fine brass cannon. The British army was too small to invest the place ; which was therefore in a condition of being constantly supplied from the country, and reinforced by the natives—a fierce, cruel, and daring people,—who, in a short time, came to the assistance of the place, with a body of 10,000 men, armed in their barbarous fashion. The archbishop of the Manillas was their governor, and commander in chief of their forces ; a mixture of authority not altogether uncommon in the Spanish colonies.

No time was to be lost. The governor was twice summoned to surrender ; but it was evident from his answer, that we had to expect nothing, but what we were able to command. The country, from the incessant rains, was now almost wholly flooded ; and the troops were obliged to

shelter themselves in the houses of the suburbs, which were under the fire of the bastions. The works were raised nearer to the walls, than the ordinary rules of war prescribed ; but even this circumstance, so apparently disadvantageous, had a good effect. The precipitation with which every thing was done, hastened the decision of the siege in our favour, much better than could have been expected from a more regular proceeding.

ON the 26th, before the batteries were completed, the enemy attempted a sally, with about 400 men, under the command of the Chevalier Fayette ; but were soon driven back into the town, with such precipitation, that they left one of their field-pieces on the glacis.

THE operations against the place were now commenced, and kept up with unremitting diligence and vigour. The town was bombarded day and night ; and the ships, approaching as near the town as the depth of water would permit, enfiladed the enemy's front, in order to second the operations of the land-forces.

WHILE the siege advanced in so successful a manner, the operations were suddenly retarded, by an event which threatened to destroy, at once, all the effects of the British industry and courage. On the 1st and 2^d days of October, a deluge of rain poured down, accompanied by a most violent storm of wind. The fleet was in the most imminent danger, and all communication with it was entirely cut off. The South-sea Castle store-ship was driven ashore. The Spanish governor, on this occasion, called in the aid of his ecclesiastical

Manilla
besieged.

A violent
storm.

1762.
ASIA.

character. He publicly declared to his people, that the angel of the Lord was gone forth, to destroy the English, as he had done the host of Sennacherib.

THE effects of this storm, however, by a most singular good fortune, proved favourable to the English ; and facilitated, rather than retarded, the operations of the siege. The store-ship, by being driven ashore without any considerable damage, gave an easy access to all the military stores and provisions she contained ; and, by her then situation, her cannon became a protection to the rear of the English camp. — The enemy, trusting to the natural helps arising from the storm, and relying on the supernatural assistance which their archbishop had assured them of, were now more remiss and languid in their defence ; and gave less obstruction to the progress of our troops, than in any other period of the siege. The roaring of the surge, likewise, prevented them from hearing the noise of the English workmen, who were busy in the night, in completing the several batteries, and making good their parallels and communications. These were all accomplished on the 3d ; and a continued fire was kept up, from the cannon and mortars, upon all the parts whence the Spaniards could annoy our troops. Twelve pieces of cannon, mounted on the face of the bastion, were totally silenced in a few hours ; and, in less than two days, all their defences were destroyed.

THE enemy, reduced to the last extremity, resolved to make one desperate and conclusive effort. A sally upon the two most important posts of the English, was projected. The first was to be made

Effects of
this storm
prove fa-
vourable to
the English.

upon the cantonment of seamen, who had the most considerable part in the management of the artillery during the siege. The second was to be made on a church, which had been of great service in protecting the besiegers in their approaches, both against the enemy's fire, and the inundation.

ABOUT midnight, on the 3d of October, a body of 1000 Indians advanced to the first attack, encouraged by the incessant rains, which, they hoped, had rendered the fire-arms useless. A number of thick bushes, that grew upon the side of a rivulet, which they passed in the night, favoured their approach ; and having eluded the vigilance of the patroles, they fell, unexpectedly, and with infinite violence, upon the quarters of the seamen. The English, tho' surprised, maintained their ground with firmness, and repelled the enemy ; but did not attempt to pursue them. They remained in their posts till day-break, when a picquet of the 79th regiment came to their relief ; and the Indians fled with precipitation, having lost 300 men in their attack and retreat. *

Unsuccess-
ful sally of
1000 Indians.

THE second attack began, just after the first had been defeated. The enemy were composed of Indians, and a strong detachment from the

* It is remarkable, that the natives of these islands should differ so materially from the Chinese, and every other nation of the eastern continent. The former are as distinguished for their intrepidity, and singular contempt of death ; as the latter have always been, for their cowardice, and the softness and effeminacy of their manners. In this expedition, the Indians were equally to be dreaded with the Spaniards ; and, had their discipline been at all equal to their strength and ferocity, the issue of the event would have been very doubtful. Armed as they were, they boldly rushed on the very muzzles of our pieces ; and died, at last, like wild beasts, gnawing the bayonets of their enemies.—One instance of their cruelty, will be sufficient. The governor's ne-

1762.
ASIA.Spaniards
and Indians
defeated,
in another
sally.

Spanish garrison. The seapoys who defended the church, which was the object of this attack, were easily dislodged, and driven from their post. As soon as the enemy had got possession of the church, they climbed to the top ; and, from thence, poured down a violent fire upon our people, who were posted behind it. The English maintained their posts, however, without flinching ; and, after a warm contest, dislodged the enemy, by the assistance of some field-pieces. Seventy Spaniards were left dead upon the spot. The loss on our side amounted to 40, including two gallant officers.

THE spirit of the enemy was totally exhausted by this last effort. They were now confined within the walls. The Indians, discouraged by their frequent and bloody repulses, returned home. The fire from the garrison grew faint, while that of the batteries was kept up with greater effect than ever ; and, at last, the enemy's cannon were silenced, and the breach appeared practicable.— The Spaniards, however, still continued obstinate, though not brave ; and, while they neglected all means of procuring an honourable capitulation, discovered little resolution to defend the breach. The British commander, therefore, prepared to storm the town.

Spaniard
pride and
delinacy.

phew had been taken in the bay, by the English ; and his Excellency sent a flag of truce, requesting the favour that he might be returned. The request was granted ; and Lieut. Fryer, the general's own secretary, was appointed to conduct him to the city. In their way thither, they met with a large party of the garrison, intermingled with Indians, who most inhumanly murdered Lieut. Fryer, and mangled his body in a shocking manner ; and, at the same time, mortally wounded the Spanish gentleman, while he was endeavouring to save the life of his conductor.

EARLY in the morning of the 6th of October, the troops destined for this attack, were gradually and privately assembled in proper posts, so as to give the enemy no alarm or notice of the design. A continual fire was kept up from the batteries, in order to clear every part of the works where the enemy might be lodged or intrenched. A body of Spaniards had begun to assemble on the bastion, where the attack was intended; but a few shells falling amongst them, they retired in confusion.

THE British troops seized this opportunity; and, directed by the signal of a general discharge from the artillery and mortars, and under cover of a thick smoke, which blew directly upon the town, they rushed on to the assault. Sixty volunteers, of different corps, led the way, supported by the grenadiers of the 79th regiment. A body of pioneers, to clear the breach, followed. A battalion of seamen advanced next, supported by two grand divisions of the 79th regiment; and the troops of the East India company, closed the rear.

THE troops, disposed in this excellent order, and led on by officers in whom they had the utmost confidence, amounted to about 2000 men; composing a motley group of seamen, soldiers, seapoys, Caffres, Lascars, Topazes, French and German deserters.—Animated by the prospect of a speedy conclusion to their labours, they mounted the breach with the greatest courage and rapidity. The Spaniards retreated with precipitation, and were closely followed by the English, who met with little resistance, except from a body of 100 Spaniards and Indians, who, refusing quarter,

1762.

ASIA.

Prepara-tions for storming the town.

Disposition of the forces.

Success of the British in mount-ing the breach.

1762.
ASIA.

Manilla surrenders.

The inhabitants admitted to a capitulation.

were put to the sword : 300 more, in attempting to escape over a deep and rapid river, were drowned. The governor, and the principal magistrates, retired into the citadel ; but, that not being tenible, they were obliged to surrender at discretion. The commanders, willing to preserve so noble a city from destruction, admitted the inhabitants to a capitulation ; by which they enjoyed their lives, liberties, properties, and the administration of their domestic government, upon condition of paying a ransom of one million Sterling *. Several large ships fell into our hands, and a vast quantity of military and naval stores ; and our troops found every refreshment, and every necessary to refit the squadron.—The surrender of Manilla, comprehended, not only that of the whole country of which it is the capital, but of all those numerous and valuable islands which are its dependencies.—The British troops did not lose above 100 men during the siege. Commodore Tiddyman was drowned, and Major More was transfixed with an arrow.

THE success of the British armament, was not confined to Manilla. Admiral Cornish, having got intelligence, by the capture of an advice ship, that the galleon from Acapulco was arrived at the Straights, which form the entrance into the Archipelago of the Philippines, immediately sent two ships of war, the Panther and Argo ; the first, of the line ; the other, a frigate.—On the 30th of October, the Argo descried a sail ; but, just as

Capture of the Manilla galleon.

* The Spaniards have infamously evaded the payment of this ransom ; and no British minister, since the days of Pitt, has had spirit or resolution enough, peremptorily to demand it.

she approached it, the rapidity of a current drove her among shallows, and she was obliged to cast anchor. By strenuous exertion, however, she again got under sail, overtook the galleon, and began a hot engagement with her, which continued for two hours ; during which, the Argo was so roughly handled, as to be obliged to desist, in order to repair the damage she had sustained. Fortunately, the current slackened ; and the Panther was enabled to come up, and engage the enemy. After a severe cannonade for two hours, at a very small distance, the Spaniard struck ; when the English captain was not a little surprised, to find, that she was not the American galleon, but that from Manilla, bound for Acapulco. She had proceeded a good way to the eastward on her voyage ; but, meeting with a hard gale of wind, in the great South Sea, she was dismasted, and obliged to put back to refit. Her sides were so thick, that the shot of the Panther did not penetrate any part of her, except the upper works. She had 800 men on board ; and was pierced for 60 cannon, but no more than 13 were mounted. The cargo was computed to be, in rich merchandise, worth more than half a million ; which formed a valuable addition to the conquest of Manilla.

IT is unnecessary, however, to dwell longer on the importance of this conquest. Suffice it to say, that it excluded the Spaniards entirely from Asia, and the very plunder was more than sufficient to indemnify the expences of the expedition.

C H A P. XL.

Detached naval transactions—Newfoundland taken, and retaken—Unfortunate expedition against Buenos Ayres—Preliminaries signed—Conclusion.

1762.
EUROPE.

THE naval exploits of the year 1762, were so numerous, that it would be altogether tedious to enter into a minute relation of the different engagements. Nothing very material occurred in those encounters. The good fortune which had hitherto attended the British arms, was still uniform and uninterrupted. We shall, therefore, only briefly recapitulate the principal captures made by the British cruisers.

Detached
naval trans-
actions.

THE Hermione, a Spanish register ship, bound from Lima to Cadiz, was taken by two English frigates, off Cape St. Vincent. Her cargo amounted to about one million Sterling, a greater sum than had ever before been taken in one bottom. The loss of so much treasure, at the beginning of an expensive war, must have been a severe stroke to the court of Madrid.—A Dutch ship of war, with four merchantmen, laden with contraband merchandise from Havre to Brest, were taken and carried into the Downs.—Twenty-five sail of French merchantmen, under convoy of four frigates, sailed, in September, from Cape Francois, for Europe. Five of them were made prizes of, by some privateers of New-York and Jamaica; and the remainder, with their convoy,

1762.

EUROPE.

were taken by Commodore Keppel, and carried into Port-Royal in Jamaica.—In every other part of the world, the British cruisers were successful ; and at no period was the pre-eminence of Britain, at sea, less disputed.

WE must not omit an attempt made by the enemy, which, had the execution been equal to the design, would have given a severe blow to the British navy. In the month of December 1761, while a squadron of our ships of war were lying in Basque road, the French prepared three fire-ships ; which being chained together, were towed out of port, and set on fire, with a strong breeze, that blew directly on the British squadron. Whether owing to fear, or the effect of an accident, the vessels took fire about two miles distance from the fleet ; but the wind, shifting, drove them entirely clear of it. They continued burning some time, after having blown up with a terrible explosion ; and every soul on board perished.*

Fruitless attempt to destroy the British squadron.

IN the transactions of this war, the offensive operations of the French were so few and inconsiderable, and withal so unsuccessful, that any advantage on their side, however trifling, deserves commemoration. About the latter end of May,

* In the course of this war, the French lost 37 ships of the line, and 55 frigates : of these, 54 were taken by the English, 27 were destroyed, and 11 lost by accident.—The Spaniards lost 12 ships of the line, besides frigates.—The French took two, and destroyed three English frigates ; and 13 British ships of the line, and 14 frigates, were lost by accident. Of British merchantmen, 812 were taken by the enemy.

Ships lost and taken on both sides.

1762. M. de Ternay, with a squadron of four men of war, and a bomb-ketch ; and M. Haufouville, with a proportionable number of land-forces ; sailed from Brest, under cover of a fog ; eluded the vigilance of the British squadrons, and arrived, on the 24th of June, at the Bay of Bulls, in Newfoundland. The island was in no respect prepared to resist them : and they reduced, without difficulty, the forts of St. John, Trinity, and Carbonear ; destroyed the two last, and likewise the stages and implements of the fishery, to a considerable value.

Newfound-
land taken.

Retaken.

No sooner did the news of this loss arrive in England, than an armament was fitted out, in order to retake those places. These preparations, however, were anticipated by the vigilance and activity of General Amherst. He immediately detached his brother, Colonel Amherst, with a body of forces, and Lord Colville with a small squadron, to recover this valuable island. The troops were landed, after a considerable resistance, about seven miles to the northward of St. John's. They were preparing to attack that place, after having reduced several advantageous posts in its neighbourhood, when the governor thought proper to surrender himself and garrison prisoners of war. The French fleet effected their escape. They were descried at a considerable distance ; but, Lord Colville not apprehending that they were really the enemy's ships, a pursuit did not take place.

WE shall conclude the military transactions of this period, with an account of the unfortunate ex-

pedition against Buenos Ayres ; an expedition, which, while it strongly marks the vicissitude of human affairs, and shows what narrow bounds there are between victory and defeat, tends also to dispose the minds of men to humanity, gentleness, and benevolence.

At the beginning of the war with Spain, it was judged expedient to encourage private ^{Expedition against Buenos Ayres.} adventurers, to add to our other operations against the enemy. Buenos Ayres, on account of its vicinity to the Portuguese settlements, was judged to be an object of importance. The possession of it, while it relieved our Portuguese allies from an enemy in their neighbourhood, would afford a station extremely well adapted for enterprises against the Spanish settlements in the South Seas. — The force destined against this place, consisted of three stout frigates, and some small armed vessels and store-ships. They had 500 soldiers on board, partly English, and partly Portuguese ; and were commanded by Captain Macnamara, an adventurer of spirit and experience, who had been many years a captain in the East-India company's service, and had embarked his whole fortune in the present enterprise.

THE embarkation was made from the Tagus, and their voyage to the mouth of the river de la Plata, as favourable as could be wished. Upon entering that immense river, on the 2d of November, they were attacked by a violent gale of wind, accompanied with thunder and lightning. When the tempest ceased, they found the river was shoaly, and the navigation to Buenos Ayres

1762.
AMERICA.

1762. exceedingly difficult ; and that the Spaniards, so far from being unprepared for resistance, had already begun to act on the offensive, by taking the Portuguese settlements of Nova Colonia.

AMERICA.

AFFAIRS being in this situation, it was judged necessary to begin with the recovery of Nova Colonia, before any attack was made upon Buenos Ayres. They were encouraged to this attempt by an English pilot, who knew the place and river, and undertook to carry the commodore's ship within pistol-shot of the enemy's principal battery.

The attack
of Nova Co-
lonia.

EVERY thing seemed to presage success. The ships were in excellent order, and the men in high spirits. Colours of every kind were displayed : the men, in new red uniforms, made a gallant appearance ; and the whole armament, horns sounding, and drums beating, advanced to the attack, with all the pomp and parade of a naval triumph.—The attack commenced with vigour, and was continued with the utmost fury for four hours. The fire of the Spaniards, tho' well pointed, and supported with great resolution, began to abate ; and the success of the English seemed certain. At that critical moment, when the Spaniards were on the point of striking their colours, the commodore's ship, by some accident, which has never been accounted for, took fire. She was instantly in a blaze ; and the same moment discovered the flames, and the impossibility of extinguishing them. A more dreadful spectacle cannot well be conceived. The sides of the vessel were immediately covered with naked men,

A dreadful
disaster.

1762.
AMERICA.

who, a few minutes before, were assured of wealth and conquest. Some precipitated themselves into the sea: others clung to the sails and rigging, till the violence of the flames obliged them to let go their hold; and many perished by their own hands. The enemy's fire was now recommenced, and redoubled the distress of the unfortunate English. It is said, that, on this occasion, several of those who could not swim, went to the lower guns, and kept up a constant fire upon the enemy, till they were driven by the flames to perish in another element; a circumstance which strongly characterises the desperate courage of the British seamen. The commodore was drowned; and, of 340 men, only 78 escaped.

THE other vessels, far from affording any relief, were obliged to get off as expeditiously as they could, lest they should share the same fate. The next ship in force to the commodore, was little better than a wreck; and it was with the utmost difficulty, she made shift to get into the Portuguese settlement of Rio de Janeiro.—It was some alleviation of this dreadful disaster, that those who escaped from the commodore's ship, were received by the Spaniards with tenderness and humanity. Instead of regarding them as enemies, who came to plunder and destroy their settlements, they considered their misfortunes, not their enmity; treated them, rather as sons, than captives; and, in every respect, used them with the utmost tenderness and indulgence.—Thus ended this unfortunate expedition, the last which was made by our people during the war.

Humanity
of the Spa-
niards.

1762.

HOSTILITIES were closed with an event, which strongly impresses this truth, That tho' Prudence may plan, and Resolution perform, defeat will sometimes follow; and that victory and conquest depend on circumstances, far above the reach of human wisdom.

EUROPE.

FRANCE was now convinced, that the hopes of success, founded on her new alliance, were groundless. The pride of the Bourbon family was humbled: Portugal was yet unconquered: Martinico was taken; and the Havanna was known to be in imminent danger. Having, therefore, but little to hope for from a continuance of the war, the French court inclined, in good earnest, to peace. That court had already made proposals of peace, and was obliged to renew these proposals; and Spain was constrained to follow her example, and sit down contented with her losses. The British court, though from very different motives, was equally disposed to put a period to the war, and rest satisfied with the acquisitions it had made.

As a pledge of their mutual sincerity, it was agreed, that this treaty should not be negotiated by subordinate persons, as the former had been; but that the two courts should reciprocally send to London and Versailles, a person of the first consequence and distinction in either kingdom. The Duke of Bedford was sent to negotiate on the part of Britain, and the Duke de Nivernois on that of France. The great outlines of the treaty, were soon adjusted: the detail of some articles, took more time; but the whole were

France renews her proposals for peace.

concluded, and the definitive treaty signed, at Paris, on the 10th of February 1763.*

DURING this negotiation, the violence of party raged in Great Britain. The ministry was unpopular; and every measure it adopted, was disgusting to the bulk of the nation. Much was said for, and very much against, the peace. We will not enter into those disputes, as time has already overturned the best arguments offered on

* The following is an abstract of the principal articles of the definitive treaty of peace and friendship between his Britannic Majesty, the most Christian King, and the King of Spain, concluded at Paris the 10th day of February 1763; to which the King of Portugal acceded, on the same day.

“ BE it known to all those, to whom it shall or may in any manner belong. It has pleased the Most High, to diffuse the spirit of concord and union among the princes, whose divisions had spread troubles in the four quarters of the globe. For this purpose, the high contracting parties have named and appointed their respective ambassadors, his Sacred Majesty the King of Great Britain, John Duke of Bedford; his Sacred Majesty the most Christian King, Gabriel de Choiseul, duke of Praslin; his Sacred Majesty the Catholic King, Don Jerome, marquis of Grimaldi; his Sacred Majesty the most Faithful King, Martin de Mello and Castro; who having duly communicated to each other their full powers, have agreed upon the articles, the tenor of which is as follows.

Article I. There shall be a Christian, universal, and perpetual peace, as well by sea as by land, and a sincere and constant friendship shall be re-established between the before-mentioned sovereigns; and a general oblivion of every thing that may have been done or committed, before or since the commencement of the æra that is just ended.

II. The former treaties concluded between the respective kingdoms, are hereby renewed and confirmed in the best form, and serve as the basis of the present definitive treaty.

III. The prisoners made on all sides, and the hostages carried away or given during the war, shall be restored without ransom; each Crown respectively paying the advances made for the subsistence and maintenance of their prisoners, by the Sovereign of the country where they shall have been detained.

IV. His most Christian Majesty renounces all pretensions, which he has heretofore formed, or might form, to Nova Scotia, or Acadia, in all its parts; and guarantees the whole of it, with all its dependencies, to the King of Great Britain: moreover, his most Christian Majesty cedes and guarantees to his Britannic Majesty, in full right, Canada, with all its dependencies, as well as the island of Cape Breton, and all the other islands and coasts in the gulf and river of St. Laurence; and, in general, every thing that depends on the said countries, lands, islands, and coasts, with the sovereignty, property, and possession, and all rights acquired by treaty or otherwise, which the Crown of France had had, till now, over the said places. His Britannic Majesty, on his side, agrees to grant the liberty of the Catholic religion to the inhabitants of Canada.

1762. EUROPE. both sides. The terms, however, were evidently more advantageous to the American colonies, than Great Britain ; and it would not, perhaps, be too bold to affirm, that the French foresaw, that the cession of Canada would remove the only obstacle which prevented the British colonies from assuming independence. Great Britain had it in her option, to retain the West-India islands of Martinico, Guadalupe, Marigalante, and Desiderade,

V. The subjects of France shall have the liberty of fishing and drying on a part of the coasts of the island of Newfoundland, such as it is specified in the 13th article of the treaty of Utrecht ; and his Britannic Majesty consents to leave to the subjects of the most Christian King, the liberty of fishing in the gulf of St. Laurence, on condition that the subjects of France did not exercise the said fishery, but at the distance of three leagues from all the coasts belonging to Great Britain.

VI. The King of Great Britain cedes the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, in full right, to his most Christian Majesty, to serve as shelter to the French fishermen : and his most Christian Majesty engages, not to fortify the said islands ; to erect no buildings upon them, but merely for the convenience of the fishery ; and to keep upon them, a guard of fifty men only for the police.

VII. In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove for ever all subject of dispute, with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of America, it is agreed, that, for the future, the confines between the dominions of the respective Crowns in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville ; and, from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea : and for this purpose, the most Christian King cedes, in full right, the river and port of the Mobile, and every thing which he possessed on the left side of the river Mississippi ; except the town of New Orleans, and the island in which it is situated.

VIII. The King of Great Britain shall restore to France, the islands of Guadalupe, of Marigalante, of Desiderade, of Martinico, and Belleisle ; and the fortresses of these islands, shall be restored, in the same condition they were in, when they were conquered by the British arms.

IX. The most Christian King cedes and guarantees to his Britannic Majesty, the islands of Grenada and of the Grenadines ; and the partition of the islands called neutral, is agreed and fixed, so that those of St. Vincent, Dominica, and Tobago, shall remain in full right to Great Britain ; and that of St. Lucia shall be delivered to France, to enjoy the same likewise in full right.

X. His Britannic Majesty restores to France, the island of Goree ; and his most Christian Majesty cedes to Great Britain, the river Senegal, with the forts and factories of St. Lewis, Podor, and Galam.

XI. In the East Indies, Great Britain shall restore to France, the different factories which that Crown possessed on the coast of Coromandel and Malabar, as also in Bengal, at the beginning of the year 1749.

and to give up Canada ; but as the war had been undertaken in order to protect the British colonies, the security of these colonies was, with seeming propriety, made the principal object in the treaty of peace.

THE substance of the treaty between his Prussian Majesty and the Empress-Queen, was no more than that a mutual restitution and oblivion should take place, and each party sit down quietly with the loss it had sustained.

His most Christian Majesty shall restore, on his side, all that he may have conquered in the East Indies, during the present war.

XII. XIII. The island of Minorca shall be restored to his Britannic Majesty, as well as Fort St. Philip ; and the town and port of Dunkirk, shall be put into the state fixed by the last treaty of Aix la Chapelle.

XIV. XV. There is a reciprocal restoration, on all sides, of the conquests made in Germany and Portugal.

XVI. The decision of the prizes made in time of peace, by the subjects of Great Britain, on the Spaniards, shall be referred to the courts of justice of the admiralty of Great Britain, conformable to the rules established among all nations ; so that the validity of the said prizes between the British and Spanish nations, shall be decided and judged according to the law of nations, and according to treaties in the courts of justice of the nation who shall have made the capture.

XVII. His Britannic Majesty shall cause to be demolished, all the fortifications which his subjects shall have erected in the bay of Honduras ; and his Catholic Majesty shall not permit, on any pretence whatever, the British subjects to be disturbed in their occupation of cutting, loading, and carrying away logwood.

XVIII. His Catholic Majesty desists, as well for himself, as for his successors, from all pretension, which he may have formed, in favour of the Guipuscoans, and other his subjects, to the right of fishing in the neighbourhood of the island of Newfoundland.*

XIX. XX. The King of Great Britain restores to Spain, all the territory which he has conquered in the island of Cuba, with the fortress of the Havanna ; and, in consequence of this restitution, his Catholic Majesty cedes to Great Britain, Florida, with Fort St. Augustine, and the bay of Pensacola, as well as all that Spain possessed on the continent of North America, to the east and to the south-east of the river Mississippi.

XXI. XXII. and XXIII. A mutual restitution shall take place of every acquisition not included in the present treaty.

XXIV. The different periods for fulfilling the foregoing articles, are fixed.

* See page 389.

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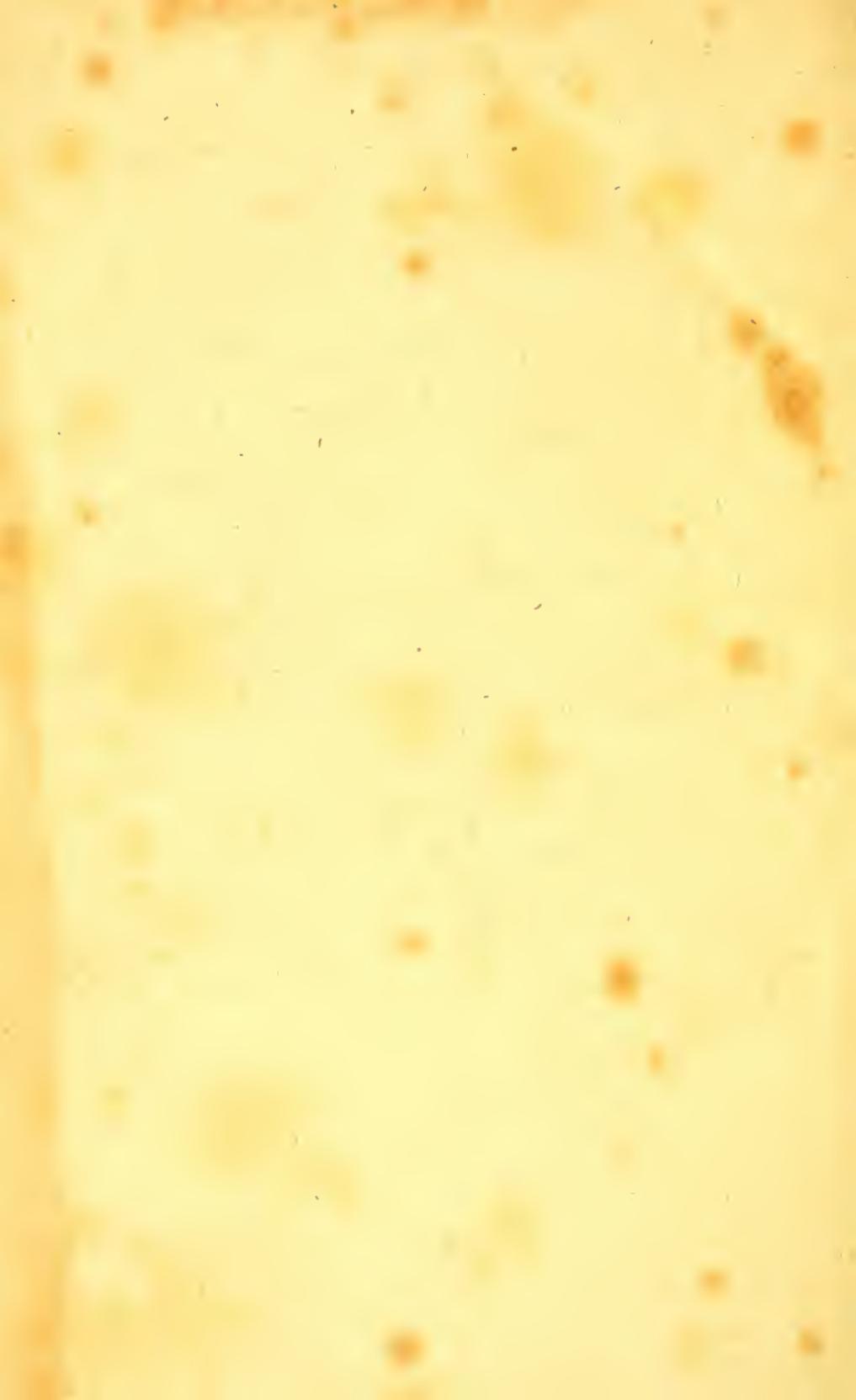
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13.	20.	<i>For disinterestedness, read disinterestedness,</i>
14.	6.	<i>After recover add from</i>
28.	29.	<i>After commerce insert of Europe</i>
50.	ult.	<i>After passed insert both houses, and received</i>
51.	8.	<i>Delete abroad.</i>
81.	7.	<i>Delete but</i>
152.	23.	<i>For miles, read leagues,</i>
157.	11.	<i>For twentys year read twenty years</i>
163.	18.	<i>After impracticable insert either</i>
172.	18.	<i>Delete all</i>
212.	note.	<i>For Ramilies, read Monmouth,</i>
225.	29.	<i>For then read after which</i>
285.	17.	<i>After striking insert instances</i>
287.	11.	<i>For dishonour, read credit,</i>
315.	17.	<i>For their read there</i>
319.	12.	<i>For 5000 read 500</i>
341.	17.	<i>For studded read scudded</i>
347.	6.	<i>For 6000 read 600</i>
357.	9.	<i>After into insert two</i>
365.	21.	<i>For draught read drought</i>
405.	9.	<i>For on read of</i>



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