

The Deplorable
HISTORY
OF THE
CATALANS,

From their first engaging in the WAR,
to the Time of their REDUCTION:

WITH THE

Motives, Declarations, and Engagements,
on which they first took Arms.

The Letters, Treaties, &c. relating thereto. The
Reasons of their continuing in Arms against
King *Philip*; and the Remonstrances used by
the Emperor and *Great-Britain* in their Favour.

With an Account of what passed in the late
Siege of *Barcelona*, and their private Engage-
ments to stand by one another.

INTERSPERS'D

With many original Papers and Matters never be-
fore Printed.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BAKER at the Black-boy in
Pater-noster-Row. 1714.

Price One Shilling.

The Deplorable
HISTORY
OF THE
CATALANS

The Deplorable
HISTORY
OF THE
CATALANS

*edició facsímil acompanyada
d'una traducció resumida al català
a cura de Jordi Castelló*



Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana

Títol original: *The Deplorable History of the Catalans*

Primera edició: setembre de 1991

Segona edició: maig de 1994

Primera reimpressió: febrer de 1995

Segona reimpressió: octubre de 2000

© De la traducció: 1991, Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana

Carrer de la Diputació, 250 - 08007 Barcelona

ISBN: 84-7739-753-8

Dipòsit legal: B.39254-2000

Fotocomposició: Bilineal

Carrer Santa Àgueda, 32 - 08012 Barcelona

Imprès a Romanyà/Valls, SA

Verdaguer, 1 - 08786 Capellades

(Barcelona)

Cap part d'aquesta publicació,
incloent-hi el disseny de la coberta, no pot
ésser reproduïda, emmagatzemada o transmesa de cap manera
ni per cap mitjà, tant si és elèctric com químic, mecànic,
òptic, de gravació o bé de fotocòpia, sense la prèvia
autorització de la marca editorial.

The Deplorable
HISTORY
OF THE
CATALANS,

From their first engaging in the WAR,
to the Time of their REDUCTION.

WITH THE
Motives, Declarations, and Engagements,
on which they first took Arms.

The Letters, Treaties, &c. relating thereto. The
Reasons of their continuing in Arms against
King *Philip*; and the Remonstrances used by
the Emperor and *Great-Britain* in their Favour.

With an Account of what passed in the late
Siege of *Barcelona*, and their private Engage-
ments to stand by one another.

INTERSPERS'D
With many original Papers and Matters never be-
fore Printed.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. BAKER at the *Black-boy* in
Pater-noster-Row. 1714.

Price One Shilling.

THE
P R E F A C E.

THere cannot be a more proper Treatise in Nature for the Genius of a Nation famed for LIBERTY; nor has a more memorable Instance ever happen'd of the glorious stand made in Defence of it; the Conquerors themselves may perhaps be the first that repent the dear Experience of it, and with greater Reason, than even those who were the Authors of their Ruin, who first drew them into a War, and after abandoned them to the Mercy of an enraged Prince, whose Person and Interest they had always opposed, and from whom not the least glimpse of Mercy could be hoped. Such an Example of asserting LIBERTY may be dangerous in Arbitrary Countries, by inspiring the Distressed to seek Redress by Arms, rather than live under the perpetual Slavery of Tyrannical Princes.

The very Resolution of the BARCELONIANS looked at first so Mad and Desperate, that People could not well believe they were in Earnest; and their Enemies flatter'd themselves, that the first Bomb thrown into the Town would frighten them into Submission, but have since been undeceived, and the World has a fresh Instance of the Influence of LIBERTY upon generous Minds.

Examples of this kind are necessary to preserve amongst Men the Love of that precious Jewel, and guard them against the wicked Designs of a numerous set of Men, who are perpetually busie to enslave Mankind,

The PREFACE.


kind, and are not ashamed to pervert the Sense of Holy Scriptures to serve their End, as if the Laws of every Country were not the Measure of the Obedience of the Subject, and that they were obliged to fetch them from the Antediluvian Times, or deduce them from the sense they have been pleased to put on some Passages in the Holy Writings.

The Clergy of Catalonia seem to understand the Scriptures much better than these pretended Divines, at least with respect to the Submission due to the Sovereign; and being convinced that King Philip resolved to suppress Liberties, Laws, and Privileges, of which his refusal to Confirm them was a sufficient Demonstration, they thought themselves obliged to join with the Laity for the Defence of their Rights, and die with them, rather than be made Slaves.

A worthy Resolution which ought to raise the Emulation of all other Nations in the World. The French King, in his Letter to the Cardinal de Noailles has this Expression, Seldom has there been seen an Example of Resistance so obstinate as that of the Inhabitants of Barcelona, and there was need of all the Valour of my Troops, added to those of Spain, to subdue them. But in all his Engagements with them, he never abandoned them when they assisted him against the King of Spain; nor did he ever give up his Power of treating, till he had made the most honourable Conditions for them; tho' they are now stiled Rebels by him.



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F T H E
Catalans , &c.


 After the Declaration of War against France and Spain, bearing Date the 4th of May, 1702. one of the first Actions of Importance, was the memorable Expedition made against *Cadiz*, for as the risquing that Kingdom out of the hands of a Prince of the House of *Bourbon*, was the chief end of taking up Arms ; so nothing seemed so much the means to effect it, as carrying the Scene into that Kingdom, where the Success would have answer'd the Views of all the several Branches of the War.

Our Disappointment in this first Design convinced us that the *Spaniards*, at least those of *Andalusia*, had not Vigour enough to think of shaking off the *French* Yoke, and that *Spain* was not to be

reduced by Declaration. However, there was hopes, that another Place might be more culpable. And considering likewise that the constant Difficulties which attend Descents in an Enemies Country, where the Hazard is ever great, and the Success, at least, but uncertain; an Expedient was therefore thought of, whereby we might gain an Inlet or Key into the Kingdom, and a conveniency to land our Troops to carry on the War with a prospect of Success, and this was by engaging *Portugal* in an Alliance with us; which was happily effected, tho' no means was left unessayed by *France* to overthrow it.

By this Treaty of Alliance, among other Things, it was stipulated, That the Arch-Duke *Charles*, being undeniably entitled to the *Spanish* Monarchy, by virtue of a Renunciation from the Emperor his Father, and from the King of the *Romans* his elder Brother, should come in Person to *Lisbon*, attended by a Royal Fleet, and an Army of 12000 Men, two thirds *English*, and one *Dutch*, to which the King of *Portugal* was to join 13000 *Portugueze*, at the Expence of the Allies, and 15000 more at his own.

In this manner a Scheme was laid by the Ministers at home, for a vigorous prosecution of the War in *Spain*- and their part of it performed, by sending his Catholick Majesty, (who had before been Proclaimed at *Vienna*) to *Portugal*, after his arrival in *England*, according to the Terms of the Treaty, without loss of time; for King *Charles* Landed at *Portsmouth* about the latter end of *December* 1703. and notwithstanding the several delays occasioned by the Winds, yet he was conveyed to *Lisbon* by the Confederate Fleet, by the end of *February*.

That

That part of the War which King *Charles* had a share of in *Portugal* is almost Foreign to this Design, and indeed very little was done to have any mention at all: In *June* 1712. the Earl of *Peterborough* arrived at *Lisbon* from *England*, with a Body of 7000 Men, besides Marines, on Board the Grand Fleet.

That the Reader may better understand the design of this Expedition, it will not be improper to observe, that the Kingdoms of *Arragon* and *Castile*, tho' united so long ago by the Marriage of *Ferdinand* and *Isabella*, still preserve their ancient Enmities; and the *Castilians*, since the Death of King *Charles* II. had espoused the *French* Interest with a warmth little expected from a Nation formerly of so different an Interest, which Motive alone was a sufficient Reason for the People of *Arragon* to wish well to the Title of the House of *Austria*.

Thus under the name of *Arragon* is contain'd, not only the antient Kingdom so called, but likewise that of *Valencia*, and the Principality of *Catalonia*: The *Valencians* were very well inclin'd, but the *Catalonians* gave such Indications of their Zeal for their Lawful Sovereign, that Queen *Anne*, by the Advice of Her Ministry, thought fit to dispatch Mr. *Crow*, who had great Interest and Credit with the States of the Principality, to Treat with them about a Revolution, in which that Gentleman used a great deal of Dexterity and good Conduct, and for his Assistance, and the Encouragement of the People, had the following Credential Letter.

“ ANNE, by the Grace of God, Queen of
 “ *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland,* Defender
 “ of the Faith, &c. To the most Illustrious,
 “ most Noble, and most Excellent Lords, Dukes,
 “ Marquises, Earls, Barons, Nobles, Gentlemen,
 “ Magistrates of Towns Governors of Places,
 “ and to all Officers Civil and Military whatso-
 “ ever, as well of the Principality of *Catalonia,*
 “ as of any other Province in *Spain,* to whom
 “ these Presents may come, Greeting. Having
 “ Arm’d Ourselves in Defence of the Liberties of
 “ *Europe,* in order to reduce the Exorbitant
 “ Power of *France,* and disappoint Our Neigh-
 “ bours Aims at Universal Monarchy, We have
 “ with great Satisfaction been inform’d, that as
 “ you were ever zealous in asserting your Liber-
 “ ties, so at this time you brook with just Indig-
 “ nation the *French Yoke* imposed upon you, and
 “ are determin’d, as becomes Men of Resolution,
 “ to shake it off. Wherefore, We have thought
 “ convenient to send you our Trusty and Well-
 “ beloved *Mitford Crow, Esq;* already known to
 “ some of you, who will inform Us of your pre-
 “ sent Dispositions, and confirm you in the pro-
 “ secution of so Glorious a Design; for which
 “ Purpose We have given him full Power and
 “ Authority to treat and act with you in all such
 “ Particulars as may be thought conducive to the
 “ perfection of this egregious Work; not doubt-
 “ ing therefore but his Arrival will be very grate-
 “ ful, We shall only desire you would give ear to
 “ those Proposals, and depend upon those Pro-
 “ mises he shall make you in Our Name.

Given at Our Palace at *St. James’s* this
 7th Day of March, in the Year of
 Our Lord 1705, and of Our Reign the
 Third. And

And that nothing might be left unattempted towards the Reduction of *Spain*, the Earl of *Peterborough* was sent with the 7500 Land Forces on Board the Grand Fleet already mentioned, to carry the War into another Part of that Monarchy, whilst my Lord *Galway* was acting on the Side of *Portugal*, to improve those Advantages that were reasonably hoped for from the good Inclinations of a Warlike People, who as they had been ever vigorous in the Defence of their Own just Liberties, so were now no less active in asserting the Rights of their Lawful Sovereign; and to their Honour it must be said, that they made a much better Figure in this War than any other part of *Spain*, so much Virtue does a Notion of Liberty inspire.

The Fleet and Forces proceeded directly toward *Barcelona* (having first set Major General *Ramos Basset* a Shore at *Denia* to begin the Conquest of *Valencia*) and arrived there the 12th of *August* 1705. with his Catholick Majesty on Board, who receiving daily fresh Assurances from the People of *Catalonia* of their entire Affection for his Service, was very pressing to have the Forces landed, and the Siege undertaken, whilst the zealous People flock'd to him, bringing all manner of Refreshments for the Army.

In the first Council of War (*August* 16) the Generals came to a Resolution that the Siege could not, with any manner of hopes of Success, be undertaken. In the second Council of War, on the 22d, the Earl of *Peterborough* dissented from the rest of the Generals in their Opinion, and gave the Reasons following.

“ Because I am sensible that the Queen, my
 “ Mistress, besides the Engagements of Treaties,
 “ and the Motives of publick Interest, has a most
 “ particular and tender Friendship for the King
 “ of *Spain*; therefore, as I think it Expedient
 “ to pay him the utmost Respect, in complying
 “ as far as possible with his Desires, in any At-
 “ tempt, wherein there is the least hopes of Suc-
 “ cess, after having, as in Duty bound, with all
 “ Sincerity and Plainness represented to him the
 “ Difficulties and Hazards, to which he exposes
 “ his Interest, and the Troops of the Queen and
 “ her Allies.

“ Because that his Majesty persisting with so
 “ much firmness in his Opinion about *Barcelona*,
 “ upon a belief the Town would surrender if a
 “ Breach was made: This may create some Dis-
 “ pute in the World, what might have been the
 “ Event, which nothing but Experience can de-
 “ monstrate, whatever Reasons some may have to
 “ judge the contrary, and it may be thought by
 “ some our Duty to have tried the Experiment,
 “ tho’ at the greatest hazard.

“ Lastly, because no other Reason, but plain
 “ disobedience to her Majesty’s Orders should
 “ have hindred me from complying with
 “ any Commands, that came from his Catholick
 “ Majesty. But the Queen has repeatedly com-
 “ manded me, in all my Instructions, to be gui-
 “ ded in Councils of War by a Majority, even
 “ in express Words, in those Cases, where the
 “ Kings of *Spain* and *Portugal*, or their Ministers,
 “ should offer any thing in Writing to me; which
 “ Orders I communicated to his Catholick Ma-
 “ jesty, as all my other Instructions, and I had
 “ often opportunity of repeating them before
 “ the

“ the Ministers of the King of *Spain*, the King of
 “ *Portugal*, and the *English* and *Dutch* Ambassa-
 “ dor and Envoy. Being thus fetter’d by such
 “ positive Orders, which I must comply with,
 “ this has again made me offer the King’s Pro-
 “ posals about *Barcelona*, and use my utmost Ef-
 “ forts to gain the consent of a Council of War ;
 “ declaring then, as I do now, that I would most
 “ willingly engage in any attempt, which could
 “ have been agreed to in a Council of War, ha-
 “ ving received his Majesty aboard the Fleet, with
 “ a Resolution to serve and obey him in all things
 “ in my Power.

In the Council of War of the 25th, the Ge-
 nerals remained firm in their Opinion of the ha-
 zard of the Siege, and the Earl of *Peterborough*
 in his Resolution for undertaking it ; but on the
 26th they all came to the following Resolution in
 Council.

‘ Since the King of *Spain* is resolved to lay the
 ‘ whole stress of his Affairs upon making an At-
 ‘ tempt on *Barcelona* for eighteen Days, (specify’d
 ‘ in his Letter to us) notwithstanding all our un-
 ‘ answerable Arguments to the contrary at three
 ‘ several Councils of War, and tho’ we have rea-
 ‘ son to fear the result will too much justify our
 ‘ Opinions, yet in regard that our General, the
 ‘ Earl of *Peterborough*, has comply’d with the
 ‘ King’s desire, as likewise the Brigadiers St.
 ‘ *Amant* and *Stanhope*, and that we are extremly
 ‘ pressed to do the same by the King and his
 ‘ Ministers, who still continue to give positive
 ‘ assurance of their Intelligence from the Place,
 ‘ being resolved that no blame be imputed to us.

‘ We are willing to comply with the King’s de-
 ‘ sire for the abovementioned Attempts ; tho’ at

‘ the same time we must express our Concern, that
 ‘ this Undertaking will debar us of all future Ser-
 ‘ vices for this Campaign.

‘ It is evident to this Council of War, by the
 ‘ Demands from the Engineers, and the Opinions
 ‘ of all the General Officers, that this Attempt
 ‘ cannot be made with less than five thousand Men
 ‘ on Duty every Day, to Work and Guard the
 ‘ Trenches; that of this Number our Army, not
 ‘ exceeding seven thousand Men, including
 ‘ the eleven hundred Marines, besides the
 ‘ Dragoons and Guards, cannot furnish above
 ‘ two thousand five hundred; That this Service
 ‘ absolutely requires two thousand five hundred
 ‘ Men daily out of the Fleet and Miquelets, and
 ‘ we desire the Admirals (having promis’d their
 ‘ utmost Assistance) to let us know whether they
 ‘ can furnish fifteen hundred Men *per Day*. And
 ‘ whereas they have promis’d to assist this Under-
 ‘ taking with fifty two Battering Guns, it is un-
 ‘ derstood, all things thereunto belonging must
 ‘ be furnished with the Gunners and Men.

The next Day the Earl of *Peterborough* wrote the following Letter to the Prince of *Hesse*.

THE Council of War having resolved to sacri-
 fice their Lives, their Judgment, and the Inte-
 rest of their Country, to the King’s Absolute Commands,
 upon Assurance that the Country People will concur with
 us in all the Offices of War, provided they be paid, and
 that the Fleet will likewise give us their utmost Assistance,
 the Engineers have demanded five thousand Men a Day,
 at least, for carrying on the Works and Guard of the
 Trenches. And we have sent our Council of War to
 the Flags to demand a very reasonable Assistance from
 them, which will not oblige the same Men to above two
 Days Work during the whole Enterprize; and we do
 not

not in the least doubt of their agreeing to our Proposition. Wherefore, since Monsieur Paquena assures us that the present Number of the Miquelets amounts to three thousand, we entreat your Highness to give Orders that a Thousand Men may come immediately to the Camp, to be in readiness to work with us in the Trenches; and that your Highness will think how they may be relieved; and we shall take Care to lodge them either in the Houses, or some other way under our Tents and Sails. I desire your Highness's Answer being very sincerely, &c.

At another Council of War the 28th of August, all these Resolutions was overthrown by the Opinion of the Generals, and it was agreed to embark the Troops for Savoy; but King Charles taking an unalterable Resolution to stay by his Catalans, from whom he had received all the Marks of Loyalty that were yet possible for them to shew, and to whom he had promis'd so much: This his Majesty's firmness, I say, produced a Change in the Measures; nothing was more grievous to him, than the Thoughts of abandoning a People who had shewn such a voluntary Attach to his Service, and from whom he alone expected to make his way to the Spanish Throne. His Majesty assayed every way upon the Temper of the Generals, and even the most earnest Intreaties were not wanting. The Prince of Hesse was likewise ordered to write to Sir Cloudsley Shovel, from whom his Majesty had yet some Hopes.

Honourable Sir,

HIS Catholick Majesty being in the greatest Trouble in the World to find my Lord Peterborough, again resolved to leave this Enterprize, hath his only recourse to you, bearing his Majesty declared
that

that if his Lordship persists in his Resolution to go away, that his Majesty finding that without reason his Crown and so good Subjects shall be sacrificed, is resolved to stay with them happen what will; thus I must acquaint you with it, in Hopes that you will never permit such a cruel Abandoning, and to take your Measures according: The King begs it of you as the last Favour, and intreats you in the most submissive Manner, to find out a way that his Majesty may not be the Sacrifice of Fools and Knaves. I am with all Truth,

S I R,

Your most Humble and Obedient Servant;

George P. of Hesse.

This was followed by another Letter the next Day.

From the Camp, Sept. 9. 1705. N. S.

Honourable Sir,

SINCE the Land-Officers are so dispos'd now to depart of their last Resolution, and the King finding himself oblig'd in Honour and in Conscience not to abandon so good Subjects, which have demonstrated to him all the Zeal imaginable, more than the two Thirds of the Country having put themselves under the Obedience of their Lawful King, so that he can by no means leave them to their utmost Ruin, as His Majesty has signified to Day to my Lord Peterborough, desiring of him some Expedient, and being very willing to follow his Advice, I believe the only way which is left is, That my Lord may be disposed to follow the Resolutions taken by a Council of War for a March, as you
are

are inform'd without doubt, such as have been taken to make ourselves Masters of Tarragona, to keep the Dutch with us, and then to extend our Winter Quarters to Tortosa, and even into Valencia, as Occasion would permit. This His Majesty desires of you to interpose with his Lordship to come to a Determination how far he can assist his Majesty in this ; which Favour His Majesty will esteem as the most particular, and the only Expedient left to conserve some Hopes of being put in the Possession of the Crown of Spain. I, in my Particular, wish nothing so much as to show, in all Occasions, how much I am,

Honourable Sir,

Your most Humble and Obedient Servant,

George P. of Hesse.

An Expedient was now propos'd, since they saw the King's passionate Resolution to stay by the Catalans, which was to March the Forces to Tarragona, and extend their Quarters to Tortosa, and even to Valencia: To this his Majesty readily agreed, any Project being acceptable to him, rather than desert a People who had, with the greatest hazard, so zealously expressed their Loyalty to him; and therefore sent his Agreement thereto in the following Transcript to the the Earl of Peterborough.

My Lord Earl of Peterborough,
I Accept the Offer you make me, seeing, by the Resolutions of the Councils of War, there remains nothing else to support me in Spain ; so that I assure you I shall remain positive in the Resolution of Marching
 into

into the Country, being what you may take upon your self, and justify it, because the Council of War had determin'd upon it. For the rest of the Dispositions, and Particularity of the March, and of further Designs to be form'd, they will be easily regulated by you, and those Persons that I will appoint to assist you of my Part, reposing an entire Trust in you, and the Zeal you express for my Service.

From the Camp before
Barcelona, Sept.
10. N. S. 1705.

Sign'd,
Charles,
George P. of Hesse.

There are many other Letters and Papers relative to the War ; but I only single out those which have the nearest relation to the People of the Country, so far as it may shew their general good Disposition to a Prince of the House of *Austria*, and upon what Considerations they were engaged to so inviolable a Resolution as they have since shown.

And as it may be thought a necessary part of this Work, to give some Account of the real Transactions on this important Occasion, as well as those Circumstances which relate to the People only, I shall take an Opportunity to do it, by Printing some Letters from Sir *Cloudsley* to the Prince and Council, that contain many Things material on both Heads, Dated Sept. 10. 1705. before *Barcelona*.

Gent.

SINCE our last of the 3d ultima, which we sent by the Swift Sloop to *Altea*, Copy of which, with the Result of two Councils of War sent with it, were of the 21st of July, the other of the 2d of August, comes inclosed.

inclosed. Pursuant to our Council of War on the 5th of August, we sail'd from Altea, the Prince of Hesse went on Board my Lord Dursley, being a clean Ship, who with two small Frigats was sent before us to the Coast of Catalonia, that we might be truly informed of the Disposition of the People of that Country, and to know how far they could be Serviceable to us in the Reduction of Barcelona, which we heard by the People of Valencia, was providing against our coming there. We likewise sent Captain Loads in the Orford, with three or four Ships, and Two Bomb-ketches, to Denia, a Wall'd Town, with a Castle upon an Hill of about 20 Guns, to summon it; and after he had threatned, and brought his Bomb-ketches and Ships to bear, in order to Fire upon the Town, the People obliged the Governour to forsake the Town, and admitted of a Governour, Major-General Ramos Basset, sent by the King of Spain, with Captain Loads, and the Magistrates and Chief of the Citizens took an Oath of Fidelity to King Charles the Second.

*WE continued our Course for Barcelona, using the greatest Diligence that was possible for such a Sort of miserable Sailors as we had amongst the Transports, but the Wind and Weather favouring us, we got to Anchor near that City the 11th ultimo in the Forenoon; the Prince of Hesse was not here, but the Place was pitch'd upon for Landing, and some Marines and others were by my Lord Peterborow's Direction embark'd in our small Frigats and Boats for that Purpose; but it was late before they could make a right Disposition, and therefore my Lord directed they should be kept in the small Frigats, in order to be Landed next Morning. Sunday the 12th the Army Landed, and the Prince of Hesse came Time enough to get ashore with them. There was no manner of Opposition, not so much as a Musquet fired to interrupt our Landing, and the People in the Neighbouring Towns and little Villages keep in
their*

their Habitations, and esteem us their Friends, and the Garrison their Enemies. We Landed from the Fleet of our Ships Complement about 1150, which were all Marines.

On the 19th his Lordship call'd a Council of War of Flag Officers, and acquainted Us the Land-Generals were Unanimous of Opinion not to attempt Barcelona, but were mighty desirous the Fleet should carry them to Italy. The Flags had our Instructions before them, and were of Opinion, that they were intended chiefly for attempting Barcelona and Cadiz, and that if we found not a suitable Return from the Catalans, that even then We are to endeavour the Reduction of other Places on the Coast of Spain, and that if any Troops could be spared from Services in Spain, it would be highly acceptable if they could be employed on any Service for the Good of the Duke of Savoy, and therefore they came to an unanimous Resolution, to attempt something, tho' with hazard, having Landed the Forces at Barcelona.

The rest of this Letter relates to the Councils of War, and other Points already mentioned.

In the mean time a sudden Resolution was taken to Attack Fort *Montjuick*, which was carried with very little loss, and by a favourable Accident: Which brings me to the latter part of Sir *Cloudsley's* Letter.

BUT the 3d in the Morning my Lord *Peterborow*, with part of the Army, attack'd *Montjuic*, and carried the Out-works; and on the 6th a Magazine in the Castle blowed up, and our People in the Out-works taking the Opportunity of the Confusion of the Enemy, forc'd into the Castle, and possess'd it, making all the Enemy that were in it Prisoners of War. In the Attack made on the Out-works of the Castle, among others, the Prince of *Hesse* was Slain, very much lamented

mented by us all, but more especially by the People of this Country.

AFTER we had possess'd the Out-works, his Lordship acquainted us the 4th Instant, by a Memorial, That if any thing made it possible to take the Town of Barcelona, it was to carry on the Attack of the Town, and therefore desired the Succours promis'd in the Council of War of the 27th ult. as also about Forty Guns from the Fleet, 24 and 18 Pounders, and the Assistance of the Fleet in a Bombardment and Cannonading; and we unanimously came to the Resolutions, to send Men ashore to Barcelona Town. And accordingly the Troops and Guns, with their Appurtenances, &c. and about 180 Rounds of Shot for each Gun; and they are now ashore, as also the 10 Brass 24 Pounders belonging to the Train; all which Guns are to be play'd on a Battery near the Town, and we hope to see the good Effect of them in a very little Time.

Britannia before Barcelona, Octob. 12. 1705.

Gent.

THIS brings his Royal Highness an Account of our Proceedings since my last of the 10th of Sept. whch was sent by Capt. Bedford in the Neptune Galley, homeward-bound from Leghorn.

THE 11th ult. we ordered Three of the Youngest Captains that had not taken Post, and Six Lieutenants, to Command by Turns the Gunners of the Fleet that were employ'd in the Batteries ashore, and to Night we began to Bombard the City of Barcelona from the Bomb-Vessels of the Fleet.

THE 12th one of our Batteries ashore began to Fire, and did considerable Damages to the Enemy, by dismounting their Cannon.

“ *THE 16th his Catholick Majesty acquainted me, That the Town and Castle of Tarragona still held out against him, but that it was block'd up by some of his good Subjects of the Country thereabouts, and desir'd they might be furnish'd with some Guns, Powder, Small-shot and Arms, to enable them to reduce it, and a Frigate or two to Countenance them. And I ordered Four Guns with Ammunition &c. on Board the Roe-Buck, and Phoenix Fireship, and sent them thither, the Earl of Peterborow having desir'd that some Nine Pounder Guns might be Landed, which were fitter and more manageable for dismounting the Enemies Guns; I accordingly ordered Six of that Nature to be Landed, with all Materials proper for them.*

THE 17th our great Battery of Thirty Guns was opened, and Fourteen of them began to Play with very great Execution upon that Part of the Wall where the Breach was design'd. The Earl of Peterborow came aboard, and represented to us the great Necessity he labour'd under for want of Money for Subsisting the Army, and carrying on the Siege of Barcelona, and Services in Catalonia, and in very pressing Circumstances desir'd the Assistance of the Fleet, upon which our Flag-Officers came to the following Resolution, To Lend the Earl of Peterborow Forty Thousand Dollars out of the Contingent and short Allowance Money of the Fleet.

THE 19th we came to the Resolution, To continue longer before Barcelona than had at first been resolv'd; to give what Assistance they could; and lay a Fireship ashore near the Arsenal with 209 Barrels of Gunpowder. And a further Demand being made for Guns for the Batteries, we Landed Fourteen more, which made up in all Seventy two Guns, whereof Thirty were Twenty four Pounders, that we Landed here with their Utensils and Ammunition. We continue to Bom-
bard

ward the Town from the Sea, as our small Store of Shells and the Weather will permit.

THE 20th a Demand was made for more Shot, and we call'd together the English Flag-Officers, and came to the Resolution, To Supply the Batteries with all the 24 and 18 Pound Shot in the Fleet, except 40 Pounds.

The 22d the Prince of Lechenstien and the Earl of Peterborow having desired, at the Request of his Catholick Majesty, that the Town of Lerida might for its Security be furnish'd with about Fifty Barrels of Powder, and a further Supply of Shot being demanded for the Batteries ashore, it was consider'd at a Council of War, and we came to the following Resolutions.

I. To furnish 50 Barrels of Powder for Lerida, and to send so many more 24 and 18 Pound Shot ashore as would reduce the English to 30 Rounds; as likewise to be farther Assistant upon timely Notice.

The 23d at Night our Breach being made, and all Things prepared for an Attack, the Town was again Summon'd, and they desired to Capitulate, and Hostages were exchange'd; on our Side Brigadier Stanhope, and on the Enemies the Marquis de Rivera; and all Hostages ceas'd.

The 26th his Catholick Majesty having secret Notice given him, that the Garrison of Tarragona would surrender upon Shew of a Design of Cannonading or Bombarding the Place, the Antelope, Garland, and one of the Bomb-Vessels, were sent thither, with Orders to take with them the Roebuck and Phoenix, and to Summon the Place, and require them to proclaim the King, and send their Magistrates to pay Obedience to his Majesty.

The 27th the Canterbury came to us from Lisbon. The First Instant, at a Council of War, we came to the Resolutions.

II. To Transport the Enemies Garrison by Sea, and leave a Winter Squadron in the Streights.

The 2d the Cruizer arrived here from England, and brought with her his Royal Highness's Orders of the 20th of August, for supplying the Ships of the States General with Provij.....s

To Day his Catholick Majesty signified to me by Letters, that his good Subjects had seized the Fortress and Pass of Girone upon the Frontiers of Catalonia towards Provence,

The 3d in the Afternoon the Citizens of Barcelona rose upon the Garrison, and had certainly murdered the Vice-roy, and the Adherents of the Duke of Anjou, had they not desired the Protection of my Lord, and the Army, who presently marched into the City; and his Lordship took the Vice-roy and several others into his Protection, and carried them to his Quarters without the City, but could not hinder the pillaging and rifling a great many Houses of those that were Enemies to King Charles the Third. In the Evening his Lordship came aboard, and brought with him the Vice-roy, and several other Persons of Quality.

The 5th Captain Cavendish in the Antelope, with the Frigats and Bomb-Vessels, return'd to us from Tarragona where he summon'd the Town, and upon their refusing to surrender, fired some Guns and Bombs into it, and they put out a Flag of Truce, and Two of their Frigates came aboard, and said they had secured the Governour and Place for King Charles the Third; and immediately a Captain of the King of Spain's, and Six Hundred Miquelets who were about it, entered the Town.

The Vice-roy fearing the incensed People, has desired the Garrison may be transported by Sea, and we are getting them aboard some of the Men of War that stay behind, and some of the Transports; they first of all desired

fired to be set ashore to the Eastward; but hearing that this Country is entirely in the Hands of King Charles the Third, (except Roses,) and not thinking themselves safe in any Part of Catalonia, they would now be landed near Malaga Almeria, or Parts thereabouts.

This News was very acceptable in *England*; and with it came the following Letters to the Queen.

King Charles's Letter to the Queen of *Great-Britain*.

Madam my Sister,

I Should not have been so long, e'er I did my self the Honour to repeat the Assurances of my sincere Respects to you, had not I waited for the good Occasion, which I now acquaint you with, That the City of Barcelona is surrendred to me by Capitulation. I doubt not, but you will receive this great News with intire Satisfaction; as well, because this happy Success is the Effect of your Arms always glorious, as from the pure Motives of that Bounty and Paternal Affection you have for me, and for every thing which may contribute to the Advancement of my Interest.

I must do this Justice to all the Officers and common Soldiers, and particularly to my Lord Peterborough, That he has shewn in this whole Expedition a Constancy, Bravery, and Conduct, worthy of the Choise that your Majesty has made of him; and that he could no way give me better Satisfaction, than he has, by the great Zeal and Application, which he has equally testified for my Interest, and for the Service of my Person. I owe the same Justice to Brigadier Stanhope for his great Zeal, Vigilance, and very wise Conduct, which he has given Proofs of upon all Occasions: As also to all your

Officers of the Fleet, particularly to your worthy Admiral Shovel, assuring your Majesty that he has assisted me in this Expedition with an inconceivable Readiness and Application, and that no Admiral will be ever better able to render me greater Satisfaction, than he has done. During the Siege of Barcelona, some of your Majesty's Ships, with the Assistance of the Troops of the Country, have reduced the Town of Tarragona, and the Officers are made Prisoners of War. The Town of Gironne has been taken at the same time by Surprise, by the Troops of the Country. The Town of Lerida has submitted, as also that of Tortosa upon the Ebro; so that we have taken all the Places of Catalonia, except Roses. Some Places in Arragon near Sarragosa have declar'd for me, and the Garrison of the Castle of Denia in Velencia have maintain'd their Post, and repuls'd the Enemy; 400 of the Enemies Cavalry have entred into our Service, and a great Number of their Infantry have deserted.

This, Madam, is the State that your Arms, and the Inclination of the People have put my Affairs in. It is unnecessary to tell you, what stops the Course of these Conquests; it is not the Season of the Year, nor the Enemy; these are no Obstacles to your Troops, who desire nothing more than to act under the Conduct that your Majesty has appointed them. The taking of Barcelona with so small a number of Troops is very remarkable; and what has been done in this Seige is almost without Example; That with 7 or 8000 Men of your Troops, and 200 Miquelers, we should surround and invest a Place, that 30000 French could not block up.

After a March of 13 Hours, the Troops climb'd up the Rocks and Precipices, to attack a Fortification stronger than the Place, which the Earl of Peterborow has sent you a Plan of: Two Generals with the Grenadiers attack'd it Sword in Hand. In which Action the
 Prince

Prince of Hesse died gloriously, after so many brave Actions: I hope his Brother and his Family will always have your Majesty's Protection. With 800 Men they forc'd the Cover'd Way, and all the Intrenchments and Works, one after another, till they came to the last Work which surrounded it, against 500 Men of regular Troops which defended the Place, and a Reinforcement they had receiv'd; and three Days afterwards we became Masters of the Place. We afterwards attack'd the Town on the side of the Castle. We landed again our Cannon and the other Artillery, with inconceivable Trouble, and formed two Camps distant from each other three Leagues, against a Garrison almost as numerous as our Army, whose Cavalry was double the Strength of ours. The first Camp was so well intrench'd, that it was defended by 2000 Men and the Dragoons, whilst we attack'd the Town with our rest of the Troops. The Breach being made, we prepar'd to make a general Assault with all the Army. These are Circumstances, Madam, which distinguish this Action perhaps from all others.

Here has happened an unforeseen Accident: The Cruelty of the pretended Vice-roy, and the Report spread abroad, that he would take away the Prisoners contrary to Capitulation, provoked the Burghers and some of the Country People, to take up Arms against the Garrison, whilst they were busie in packing up their Baggage, which was to be sent away the next day; so that every thing tended to Slaughter: But your Majesty's Troops, entering into the Town with the Earl of Peterborough, instead of seeking Pillage, a Practice common upon such Occasions, appeased the Tumult, and have saved the Town, and even the Lives of their Enemies, with a Discipline, and Generosity without Example.

What remains is, that I return you my most hearty Thanks for sending so great a Fleet, and such good and valiant Troops to my Assistance. After so happy a Be-

ginning, I have thought it proper, according to the Sentiments of your Generals and Admirals, to support by my Presence the Conquests that we have made, and to shew my Subjects, so Affectionate to my Person, that I cannot abandon them. I receive such Succours from your Majesty, and from your generous Nation, that I am loaded with your Bounties; and am not a little concern'd to think, that the Support of my Interest should cause so great an Expence. But, Madam, I sacrifice my Person, and my Subjects in Catalonia expose also their Lives and Fortunes, upon the Assurances they have of Your Majesty's generous Protection. Your Majesty and your Council knows better than we do, what is necessary for our Conservation. We shall then expect your Majesty's Succours, with an entire Confidence in your Bounty and Wisdom. A further Force is necessary; we give no small Diversion to France, and without doubt they will make their utmost Efforts against me, as soon as possible; but I am satisfied, that the same Efforts will be made by my Allies to defend me. Your Goodness, Madam, inclines you, and your Power enables you, to support those, that the Tyranny of France would oppress. All that I can insinuate to your Wisdom and that of your Allies, is, that the Forces employ'd in this Country, will not be unprofitable to the Publick Good, but will be under an Obligation and Necessity to act with the utmost Vigour against the Enemy. I am,

*With an Inviolable Affection, Respect, and most
Sincere Acknowledgment,*

*From the Camp at
Senia before Bar-
celona, the 22d
of Octobr. 1705.*

Madam, my Sister,
Your most Affectionate Brother,

CHARLES.

*A Letter to Her Majesty from Junta of the Military
Arm of Catalonia.*

Sacred Royal Majesty,

THE Principality of *Catalonia* being free from the heavy Yoke suffered by the violent Oppression of *France*, and restor'd to the Center of its Felicity, under the easy and desired Dominion of our adored Monarch *Charles III.* (who God protect) whereunto your Majesty has been pleas'd to contribute so powerfully by the Forces of your Crown, is indispensably obliged, prostrate at the Royal Feet of your Majesty, to an Eternal Acknowledgment of so sovereign a Favour, with repeated Thanks to your Majesty for the Quality, Number, and Goodness of the Troops which have acted with singular Regularity, punctual Obedience, and inimitable Valour; as also for the Choice of the General, my Lord the Earl of *Peterborough*, who commands them, since there is none that can exceed him in Valour, and few who can equal him in understanding the Art of War: His Discretion, Affability, and Gentleness, are the attractive Loadstone of the Hearts of the *Catalonians*, who love and respect him for his Person, and for his Character of your Majesty's General; and hope from your Majesty's Goodness, and the generous Strength of the *English* Nation, a Continuation, with the greatest Efficacy of effectual Succours, for maintaining the Principality under the gentle Dominion of our King and Lord, and for promoting the great Work of restoring him to the Throne of his Ancestors.

Thus all our Felicity, and the Quiet of *Europe*, will be owing to the glorious Conduct and sovereign Direction of your Majesty. God protect the Sacred Royal Person of your Majesty as we desire, and is necessary for us.

From the Camp of Sarria, near Barcelona, October the 23d. 1705.

at Your Majesty's Feet

*The Junta named by the King,
our Lord, of the Military Arm
of Catalonia.*

A Letter to her Majesty from the City of Vich.

Madam,

WE should be wanting to the Law of good Vassals to our King and Natural Lord *Don Carlos* the Third (who God protect) if we did not return your Royal Majesty the Thanks due to you, (as we do hereby give the same) for having favoured him in the Conquest of this Principality, with the powerful Fleet govern'd by the most Excellent the Earl of *Peterborough*, General by Sea and Land; who by his great Zeal, Direction, Constancy and Valour, Mastering all Difficulties, and overcoming Impossibilities, which presented themselves in the Enterprize; has obtained a glorious Triumph over the Castle and Fort of *Montjuich*, and over the City of *Barcelona*, and with it over the rest of the Principality; we do therefore repeat to your Majesty our just Acknowledgment, assuring your Majesty, That as this good Fortune fills us with Joy and Acclamation, so it does much afflict

afflict us, that the Distance between your Court, and this City, deprives us of the Accomplishment of our Desires, which is personally to throw our selves at the Feet of your Majesty, as we do by this Letter execute it with cordial Affection, there being none so much concern'd in this singular Enterprize as this City and our selves. May your Majesty enjoy repeated Congratulations, since it has been your Arms that has placed our Catholick Monarch on the Throne of this Principality. And we hope, that in what he has further to do, for conquering the Monarchy, Your Majesty's Royal Protection will not be wanting to him, whereon we rely for Success; We beseech God to protect Your Majesty's Person as is necessary.

Madam,

Vich, Octob. 24. 1705.

Your Royal Majesty's

most oblig'd humble Servants,

The Counsellors of the City of Vich.

*A Letter from the City of Barcelona to her
Britannick Majesty.*

Sacred and Royal Majesty,

THE City of *Barcelona* having gain'd great Advantages, both by the happy Arrival of our most beloved King and Lord *Charles III.* (whom God preserve) and by their being under his mild and lawful Dominion, they acknowledge they owe this their inexpressible good Fortune to the generous Protection of your Majesty, and the whole

whole *English* Nation, and to the Assistance of your great and powerful Fleet, and your brave and valiant Troops, under the Command of the Earl of *Peterborough*. This City has thought fit, with great Cheerfulness, to throw themselves at your Royal Majesty's Feet, to render you their due Acknowledgments, and most humble and respectful Thanks ; for your Majesty having been graciously pleas'd to make the Cause of the King our Lord so much, assuring your Majesty, that, in Gratitude for this Royal Favour, this City in every thing, that may be within their Power and Abilities, for your Majesty's Royal Service, will apply themselves to it with the true Zeal and Attention which becomes their grateful sense of your Majesty's Goodness : confessing, that all the Glory is due to your Majesty, to whom the Christian World will owe its Tranquillity, and this City their Liberty. May God preserve your Majesty's Sacred and Royal Person, for which, we, the faithful Subjects of the Lord and King *Charles III.* do humbly pray, and which we judge necessary.

Barcelona, Octob. 24. 1705.

Her Majesty likewise receiv'd two Letters more to the same Effect, one from the Consistory of the Deputies, and the Auditors General of the Accounts of the whole Principality of *Catalonia* ; the other from the military Arm of the said Principality and Counties.

In the Letter from the Earl of *Peterborough* to her Majesty there are these words.

' I do not solicit your Majesty for the necessary
' Supports of all Kinds for this happy Beginning ;
' your Allies, and your Parliament, can never a-
' bandon

‘ bandon a King beginning his Reign with an Acti-
 ‘ on of such Resolution and Courage, nor a whole
 ‘ Province of such Brave and Loyal People: Re-
 ‘ lying entirely on your Wisdom and Goodness, &c.

During the Seige of *Barcelona*, encouraged by the Declarations of the Queen of Great Britain, the *Miquelets* and well affected *Catalans*, were busie in securing the Cities and Towns of *Terragona*, *Tortosa*, *Lerida*, *Girone*, &c. The States of *Catalonia*, immediately after the Reduction of *Bacelona*, made a voluntary Levy of iix Regiments for King Charles’s Service, which were soon compleated; and indeed their Vigour and Loyalty to that Prince is hardly to be expres’d, nor shou’d ever be forgot.

Her Maiesty, at the sitting of the Parliament, thought fit to signify these things to them, and the fence she had of the Engagements and Service of the *Catalans* to the common Cause, may be there observed.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

HAVING newly receiv’d Letters from the King of *Spain*, and the Earl of *Peterborough*, which contain a very particular Account of our great and happy Successes in *Catalonia*; and shewing at the same time the Reasonableness of their being immediately supported, I look upon this to be a matter of so much Consequence in it self, and so agreeable to you, that I have order’d a Copy of the King of *Spain*’s Letter to my self; a Letter from the Junto of the Military Arm of *Catalonia*; and a Letter from the City of *Vich*; as also an Extract of the Earl of *Peterborough*’s Letter to me, to be communicated to both Houses of Parliament.

I recommend the Consideration of them to you, *Gentlemen of the House of Commons*, very particularly,

larly, as the speediest way to restore the *Monarchy of Spain to the House of Austria*: And, therefore, I assure my self, you will enable me to prosecute the Advantages we have gained in the most effectual Manner, and to improve the Opportunity, which God Almighty is pleased to afford us, of putting a prosperous End to the present War.

Both Houses address'd her Majesty on this Speech, and agreed with her, that 'twas necessary to support the War in *Catalonia*, for which they would make the necessary Provision.

In the mean time the King was received into the City of *Barcelona*, with such a Welcome, as nothing but a People inspired with the utmost sense of Joy could have shewn; and as they had reaked their Anger on his Enemies, they now doubled it with Kindness to his Friends, the Officers and Soldiers, the *English* especially, were caressed and entertained at the highest rate; and their Lives and Fortunes staked down to the King with the strongest Assurance Men could give, and we see hereafter that it came to be put to the Proof: Nor do I ever find, that among all the Complaints formed against the Allies, the *Catalans* were ever accused of not having done their Part.

The present Design does not permit me to give an Account of the several Details of the War; the Country, no less than the City of *Barcelona*, gave sincere Demonstrations of their good Affection; and it was not their Faults that an Opportunity was lost of making King *Charles* Master of the whole Kingdom; they furnished Troops, lent their Plate to be coin'd, and answered every part of our Expectations that could possibly be required.

The *French* Court and that of *Madrid* were so sensible of the Danger on this side, from the Affection and Bravery of the People, that they made all the Efforts possible to recover Affairs on this side, before the Danger should spread farther, and I need only mention here that they drew down a powerful Army into *Catalonia*, before the Confederates were well aware of it ; bringing with them very formidable and dreadful Preparations for the Siege of *Barcelona* it self.

Were the People at this time intimidated ? No, They told the King,

‘ That it was not enough to receive him in the
 ‘ midst of Prosperity, but they would stand by him
 ‘ with their Lives, and all that was dear to them,
 ‘ even in the extreamest Time of Danger. The
 ‘ Queen of *England* has assured us of her Care to
 ‘ support us, and we have hitherto experienced her
 ‘ singular Clemency and Goodness, and we will ne-
 ‘ ver sink under any Apprehensions of Danger,
 ‘ till we have placed your Majesty on your Lawful
 ‘ and Rightful Throne. We are unanimous in this
 ‘ Resolution, and dare own it though we see our
 ‘ selves enclosed by enraged Enemies. We desire
 ‘ nothing more than that your Majesty will stay
 ‘ with us, and by the Assistance of God, we doubt
 ‘ not to give you a greater Proof than you have yet
 ‘ had of our Zeal and Affection for your Royal
 ‘ Person.

This Deputation was delivered in the Name of all the Inhabitants, and made so notable an Impression on the King, that he resolv’d no Danger should be apprehended in Defence of so Brave and Loyal a People.

Of the Transactions at this time we shall see, as much as is necessary, by the following Letters writ at this time.

Prince

*Prince Lichtenstein's Letter to Sir John Leake, dated
March the 26th, 1706:*

HIS Majesty the King my Master finds at this Conjunction the Principality attack'd on both sides by the Enemies considerable Armies : One whereof is under the Command of *Anjou*, and the Other of the Duke of *Noailles*, and the City of *Barcelona* like to be besieged ; you may easily judge of the great Necessity there is to assist us speedily with the Squadron, Troops and Money, which the Queen your Mistress has design'd towards the succouring *Catalonia*. I hope these will find you within the *Streights*, nay, even on the Coast of the Kingdom of *Valencia* ; and what confirms me in this Hope, is, that the Enemies Eighteen Men of War that have block'd up this City for this Seven Weeks are sail'd ; but we know not whether they will return hither again, or go to *Thoulon* ; 'tis wish'd you could have the same Success on these Ships, as you had last Year with those of *Malaga*. All the Advices we have of the Enemies Designs and Motions agree, that they resolve to leave the Towns of *Lerida* and *Girone* behind them, and to march with all their Forces directly for *Barcelona* ; which Place, in the Condition it is in at present, is able to make but a very weak Defence, having no regular Troops, and only guarded by its Inhabitants. And the Fort of *Monjuic* is found in the same Condition as when it was taken, the City being also without Stores, Provisions, and Money. I well know his Majesty is confident of your Zeal and Application for his Royal Service, and the Common Cause ; that you will use all possible Diligence to come hither with the Troops that are to

be landed, without any Delay or Hindrance, without which, this City, and all the Principality of *Catalonia*, which depends on its Preservation, will run the Risque of being lost, with as much Ease, and in as little time, as the Glorious Arms of the Queen your Mistress, join'd with those of the Lords the *States-General*, conquer'd it; besides, the sacred Person of his Majesty will be expos'd to inevitable Dangers. Waiting the Honour of saluting you in a very short time, I am, &c.

P. S. Eight of the Enemies Ships have weigh'd, and are anchor'd again nearer this City, which makes me more pressing that you will come speedily with your Squadron and Forces.

A Letter from King Charles to Sir John Leake.

I the KING.

Admiral Leake,

I Am dispos'd to take upon me this Occasion to advise you the high Risque this Principality and my Royal Person is found in, for I make no doubt e'er the Morrow the Enemy will molest us; they have already blockaded me with a Squadron, and their Army is now almost in Sight of this City, and by their quick Marches have obtain'd some Posts, which if they might have been prevented, would very much have hinder'd their Designs.

I am resolv'd, although I find my self with such a small Garrison, (as a Thousand Men of Regular Troops, and Four Hundred Horse,) not to leave this Place; for in the present Conjunction, I have consider'd, that my going hence will be the Loss of the City, and consequently of all the other Places, which the happy Success of the last Campaign hath

reduced to my Obedience; for which Reason, it is my Opinion to risque All, and venture the Casualties that a Siege is incident to, putting just Trust and Confidence in your known Zeal towards the great forwarding the Common Cause, making no doubt how much you have contributed towards the Succours forwardness; I hope in a few Days you will appear before this Place, where your known Valour and Activity may meet with a glorious Success; for which I shall again constitute you the Credit of my Royal Gratitude. Given in *Barcelona* the 31st of *March*, 1706.

I the KING.

A Letter of the King of Spain to the Earl of Peterborough.

My Dear Lord,

AS I have often upon so many Occasions experimented your great Zeal and Affection for my Interest and Person; so in the fatal Conjunction I now find my self, I place my greatest Confidence in you; hoping, that with the utmost Resolution and Diligence, you will endeavour to succour a Prince, and without loss of Time, who (as the present Hazards, I am exposed to, demonstrate) sacrifices himself for the Publick Interest, rather than abandon his faithful Subjects, and what you have so Gloriously contributed to conquer.

I am in hopes, That as you have with so much Reputation possesst *Catalonia*, so I shall likewise owe you the Obligation of my Deliverance from the present Exigencies. The Enemy is within Two Leagues. My Subjects are in a Disposition to shed the last Drop of their Blood for me; but wanting Powder and Provisions for a long Defence, It belongs

longs to you, my Lord, (by so glorious an Attempt) to relieve a King in such Necessity.

You may represent the condition of my Affairs to my faithful Subjects, animating them, as well *Catalans* as *Valencians*, to shew at this time their true Love and Zeal. Endeavour, my dear Lord, as soon as possible to advise Admiral *Leake* and *Wassenaer*, that they may contribute of their part to my relief, that out of this present Danger, I may continue to expose my self for the *Common Cause*. I could be content to lay down my Life in this Place, if my Preservation were not of greater use to the general Concern.

My hopes then are all in You, and you may concert every thing, as far as possible, with the Count *de Cifuenes*, Prince *Henry*, and my self, and with my Lord *Donnegall*, who is advancing on his side, as well as the Country People of these Parts. Lose no time, my Lord, to come to my assistance, least it prove too late. We want every thing here, to resist, and defend our selves for any Time. Adieu, my Lord, I hope to embrace you in a few Days, as glorious as possible: Lose no time. I shall ever remain with the same affectionate Inclination,

Barcelona the
30th of *March*,
at Night, .706.

CHARLES.

King Charles's Letter to Sir John Leake.

S I R,
T IS with no small Satisfaction that I have been informed from the Earl of *Peterborough's* Letters of your happy Arrival upon the Coast of *Valencia*. I doubt not but you have heard

D

ot

of the Loss of *Montjuic*, and of the Condition my Town of *Barcelona* is in, where I was willing to suffer my self to be Besieged, and to endure all the Hardships and Accidents of War, to encourage both the Garrison and my Subjects by my Presence, to make a long and vigorous Defence.

It seems by the Enemies Motions, they have already receiv'd Notice of your Approach, but instead of thinking to Retreat, they have redoubled their Efforts, and Fire upon the Breach, which will be in Condition to be Storm'd after to Morrow at farthest; and in all appearance, they will make a desperate Attempt to render themselves Masters of this Town before the Fleet can arrive with the Succours.

Hence you will judge of the indispenfible Necessity there is that you should do your utmost Endeavours, using all possible Diligence to Relieve us without Loss of Time, and bring the Fleet directly hither, together with the Troops, to my Town of *Barcelona*, without stopping or disembarking the Forces elsewhere, (as some other Persons may pretend to direct you,) for they can be no where so necessary as in this Town, which is at the very Point of being Lost for want of Relief. Wherefore I pray God to have you in his Holy Protection; and expecting the Pleasure of Seeing you as soon as possible, I assure you of my perfect Esteem and Acknowledgment.

Barcelona, May 4.
N. S. 1706.

CHARLES.

In this great Exigence, which would have cast any other People but the *Catalans* into Despair, they were not the least dismay'd, taking Example
by

by their King, who shewed all the firmness possible ; of which I shall transcribe a short Passage from the Journal of an *English* Officer, present in that Memorable Siege.

‘ King *Charles* has been every day on Horseback, sometimes at *Montjuich*, sometimes round the City Ramparts, and is, indeed, the Life and Soul of the People, who seem not the least dismayed ; the Shops are daily open, every Trade goes forward ; the Women Laugh, and the Boys Sing ; and all Sleep at Night without dreaming of Sieges ; not but that we stand upon our Guard, which is reckoned a Diversion, not a Hardship ; so hearty are they on this Occasion.

Of the Arrival of the Fleet, and the Relieving the Town, we shall say no more than what is contained in Sir *John Leakes* Letter to the Prince’s Secretary ; Dated 1 *May*, O. S. 1706.

S I R,

ON the 13th, at Two in the Morning, I sail’d out of *Gibraltar* Bay, with the Wind at West North-West, sending the *Pembroke*, *Tyger*, *Leopard*, and a *Dutch* Man of War, with Orders to proceed before me to *Altea*, or *Denia*, to gain Intelligence of the Strength of the Enemy before *Barcelona* : The 15th, a *Dutch* Merchant-Man in six Days from *Lisbon* came into the Fleet, and acquainted Us, that the Convoy with the *Irish* Forces sail’d from *Lisbon* the Day before him. The 18th in the Morning we got the length of *Altea*, and in the Afternoon were join’d with the Four aforementioned Ships, who brought me no other Ad-

vice than what I had recieved before, and no Letters from my Lord *Peterborough* but what were of eleven Days date.

Upon which I call'd a Council of War to consider whether to stay till the *Irish* Convoy join'd me, the Wind being then *Westerly*, and it was agreed to remain off of that Place till the next Day at Noon, as you'll see by the Copy of our Resolution; and to send immediately the three four Frigats before to *Vineros* and *Tortosa*, on the Coast of *Catalonia*, to gain further Intelligence. The next Morning the *Panther*, which Ship I had order'd the foregoing Night to ply to the Windward, to look out for the *Irish* Convoy, discover'd three Sail, which in a few Hours join'd Me, and proved to be the *Antelope*, *Winchester*, and *Faulcon*; they gave me an Account that they parted with Sir *George Bing* off of *Cape St. Vincent*, and saw him the Night before off of *Cape de Gat*, and were sent by him to give me Notice of his coming to join us; upon which I call'd another Council of War, wherein it was resolved to stay till he join'd me, which he did with all the Ships under his Command by Ten a Clock the next Morning; and at Noon we bore away for *Tarragona*, the Place appointed for our Rendezvous, and left the *Faulcon* Pink to Cruize off of *Altea*, with Orders for Captain *Walker* to proceed after me thither. The 21st and 22d following, we had hard Northerly Winds, which drove us back as low as *Altea*, where we were join'd by Captain *Walker*, with the Ships under his Command, and the *Prince George*. The 27th following I got to this Place, and in a lucky Time to rescue it from falling into the Enemies Hands, for they expected to have been storm'd the same Night. Count *Thoulonse*, with the Fleet
under

under his Command, which consisted of about Twenty-eight Sail, retir'd the Night before ; but if it had pleas'd God that the Wind had continued that brought Sir *George Bing* to me, I believe I should have been able to have given you a much better Account of his Strength. This comes by Captain *George Delavale*, who is sent by my Lord *Peterborough* with the King of *Spain's*, and his Lordship's own Letters to Her Majesty in the *Falcon*, which Ship his Excellency has appointed Mr. *Robert Delavale*, Brother to Captain *Delavale*, and late Second Lieutenant of the *St. George*, to Command.

I hope my Letters which I sent by the *Newport* from *Gibraltar*, and the Duplicates of them which went by the *Mary-Galley* to *Lisbon*, are come to Hand.

The *Mark* and *Exeter*, in their Passage up the *Streights*, put ashore near *Cape de Gat* one of the *French Scouts* of Forty Guns, which the Enemy burnt.

His Royal Highness's Orders about the Mast Ships, which came with two Letters from you, were comply'd with by Sir *George Bing*, at *Lisbon*. Last Night the Enemy began to March off, and left behind them Fifty Pieces of Brass Cannon, and Thirteen Brass Mortars. *I am,*

S I R,

Your most Humble Servant,

John Leake.

The Joy of the *Catalians* on this occasion, is not to be described ; they embraced their Deliverers,

the *English* with open Arms. The Successes ensuing on the other hand, were as great as this could be ; and the great Discouragement and Diversion this gave the Enemy, cannot but be remembered in favour of this Brave People, and the vigorous Resolutions and Zeal they shewed in standing by their Engagements.

The greatest Vengeance was owing to them from King *Philip* and the Court of *Madrid*, they had incurr'd a Resentment never to be forgiven and the Occasion wholly to be imputed to them. Something of this we shall see in the following Speech.

The Queen of *Spain*, Wife of King *Philip*, on the March of the Confederates towards *Madrid*, assembled the Magistrates of that City, and made to them the following Speech.

‘ I sent for you hither, and appear my self to
 ‘ tell you, what Distress the State is in ; I cannot
 ‘ conceal it from you, while the King is exposing
 ‘ his Lite for your Defence ; Heaven blesses his
 ‘ Arms with Success in *Catalonia*, and we hope
 ‘ that *Rebellious Province will be soon reduced*. Affairs
 ‘ do not go so well in *Estramadura* ; the *Portuguese*
 ‘ Advance, will you tamely see such Enemies ap-
 ‘ proach you ? Do you not think of exerting your
 ‘ utmost Efforts to make them repent their Au-
 ‘ dacioufness ? The Preservation of the Monarchy
 ‘ is now the point in question ; you ought in this
 ‘ pressing necessity to shew your Zeal and Loyalty,
 ‘ by Sacrificing your All for the King for Me,
 ‘ and for your selves. Powerful and speedy Suc-
 ‘ cours are requisite. I am the first Queen that ap-
 ‘ pear’d in this Place on such an occasion. When
 ‘ I give you such extraordinary Marks of Affection
 ‘ on

‘ on, I well deserve you should do something for
 ‘ Me, and defend Me.

This was before they acknowledged at *Madrid* the raising the Siege of *Barcelona*: It is well known that it followed that the Queen was driven from thence, and all tended to an entire Revolution in *Spain*. The Reasons why it did not succeed, are no part of this Work; ’twas not laid at the Door of the *Catalans*, and so far it is the more unnecessary to be mention’d here,

I shall take Notice, that when Things went ill in *Castile*, and King *Charles* was obliged to retire again into *Catalonia*, they received him with as much joy as ever; they shewed no Reluctance nor Dispiritedness; they were pleased to see him, and as ready to hazard all to defend him as ever.

The next Year, the Earl of *Galway* came to Command the Army on this side; and the Memorial he Published in the Name of Queen *Anne*, is Memorable for its Excitation to stir up the People against King *Philip*, and engaging them in the Cause they so heartily espoused and suffered for.

The Earl of Galway's Manifesto,

‘ It being undeniably true, that in the whole
 ‘ Progress of this War, the most Serene Queen
 ‘ of *Great-Britain* my Mistress, and her Allies, are
 ‘ so far from being Enemies to *Spain*, that they
 ‘ have sent their Troops and Fleets for no other
 ‘ purpose, than to assist the good *Spaniards*, to
 ‘ shake off the Yoke and Domination of *France*,
 ‘ and to place on the Throne of *Spain*, his most
 ‘ Excellent Majesty King *Charles III*. To the end
 ‘ therefore, that the *Spaniards* themselves may
 D 4 ‘ hav

' have the Glory to co-operate in so honourable
 ' an Undertaking, as the Establishing the Liberty
 ' and Felicity of their Native Country, the said
 ' most Serene Queen, has been pleased to Com-
 ' mand me to declare a-new her Royal Pleasure,
 ' That I shou'd in her Name, Succour and Sup-
 ' port them accordingly ; by these Presents I de-
 ' clare and publish, That all the Generals, Com-
 ' manders, Officers, Soldiers, &c. of the *Spani-*
 ' *ards* of whatsoever Degree they may be, that
 ' will leave the Service of the Duke of *Anjou*, and
 ' give all due Obedience to his Catholick Majesty
 ' King *Charles III.* on their repairing to me, shall
 ' be maintained in the Service of his Catholick
 ' Majesty, in the same Posts, Honours and Degrees
 ' which they had before, without exception of
 ' Persons ; and that from the same Hour, they shall
 ' be paid and maintained punctually, according to
 ' the Pay they before enjoy'd, out of the Treasury,
 ' which for these glorious Ends, the said most Se-
 ' rene Queen has caused to be remitted to my
 ' Order. 'Tis to be hoped there will be no *Spa-*
 ' *niards* of Reputation, that will not make use
 ' of so favourable an opportunity of having the
 ' Honour to free their Country from Slavery truly
 ' Ignominious, and of gaining the peculiar Esteem
 ' of their Lawful Monarch King *Charles III.*

The Confederates were now esteem'd in a Condition to March to *Madrid*, and this was resolv'd on in a Council of War early in the Spring.

The *Catalans*, in the mean time, undertook their own Defence, with the Assistance of some few regular Troops to be left them, tho' it is very probable they might have been attack'd from the side of *Roussillon*, where the Enemy were collecting an Army.

Herc-

Hereupon followed the fatal Battle of *Almanza*, which reduced King *Charles's* Affairs to a desperate Condition. *Requena*, *Valencia*, and *Saragossa* Revolted; *Xativa* was taken and burnt; *Alcyra*, *Mequinenza*, and other Places were taken, and the Frontier of *Catalonia* laid open again; yet the *Catalans* retained their Spirit, and stood firm to their Engagements.

It will be almost unnecessary to mention any more the Result of the War of *Catalonia*; the People behaved themselves with great Duty to their Sovereign King *Charles*, and with a grateful respect to the *English*. I have shew'd how they were drawn in and engaged in the War; and I am next to shew, how they were left and abandoned to shift for themselves. Those who will see the Transactions in *Spain* throughout the War, must have recourse to History.

A Peace was entered upon, in which *Great-Britain* had the chief Mannagement: Her Majesty's Sence in all Her Speeches of that time, as well as of Her former Parliaments, were all forgot, and we, rather than the Enemy, were necessitated to make Peace; the M——y, who were without Credit to carry on the War longer, built their own Salvation upon desperate Measures, and precipitated themselves into such Terms, as were inconsistent with the Good of their Country; and notwithstanding, I believe some of them knew their Error, yet they were too far engaged to recede: And no doubt but our Enemies knew this, and therefore took the opportunity to make an Advantage of it.

What the Peace was in general, I need not mention; every body, by this time, is convinced we were trick'd into it, and who ought, if Justice were done,

done, to suffer for it; but how it affected the poor *Catalans* in particular, I shall endeavour to shew, as pertinent to the matter in Hand.

When Her late Majesty (or rather indeed the late M——y) was finally resolved on Peace, and order'd Her Plenipotentiary to deliver Her in the following manner to Her Allies, ' That she was resolv'd to conclude Her Peace without any further delay, being perswaded the other Allies would follow her Example. Therefore as a Salvo for the Emperor, a merciful turn was given to the dispossessing him of *Catalonia*, and whatever he had Conquered in *Spain*, by calling it Her Majesty's care to secure the return of the Empress, and the Imperial Troops out of *Catalonia*; for the Emperor had been gone before, and left his Queen and Troops to defend his Conquests till he returned or sent them Assistance; and the brave *Catalans* were never more Hearty and Resolute than at this time.

They assured his Majesty, that they would give fresh instances of their Zeal, and would conform in all things, to the Queen's Directions, as tho' he had been personally present; and if any concern appear'd in them, it was in losing his Presence.

This kind Act of turning the Emperor out of *Catalonia*, was termed, *The Convention, or Agreement for the Evacuation of Catalonia, &c.* and was chiefly treated by the *French* and *British* Ministers, and the Imperial Ministers agreed to it, not that they liked it, but because they could not help themselves; and indeed it may seem very plausible to some at first Sight, but it was backed by the same predominant Artifice which we check'd our Allies withal in *Flanders*, *The withdrawing our Troops, and leaving our Allies destitute*; so that there

there was a plain force to imply the Emperor's consent to it. I shall have no more to say to this, but to observe One or Two of the Articles which make a little to the Purpose.

' As soon as the Evacuation shall be begun,
' there shall be granted and published, in favour
' of all the Inhabitants of *Catalonia*, and of the
' Isles, Clergy and Laity, of what Rank soever, a
' general Amnesty and perpetual Oblivion of all
' that has been done by them during this War,
' and upon that Account, in any Place or Manner
' whatsoever, against the Parties in War, &c.
' Nor shall any be given on these accounts to the
' *Catalans*, and the Inhabitants of the Isles.

' And forasmuch as the Plenipotentiaries of the
' Power which withdraws his Troops out of *Cata-*
' *lonia* and the said Isles, have farther insisted to
' obtain before the Evacuation, the enjoyment of
' the Privileges of the *Catalans*, &c; and since on
' the part of *France* and her Allies, that Affair
' has been referred entire to the Conclusion of the
' Peace her *Britannick* Majesty has made re-
' iterated Declarations, That she will use her best
' Offices where ever they shall be necessary, to the
' end, that hereafter the *Catalans*, &c. may enjoy
' their Priviledges, with which the said Plenipo-
' tentiary acquiesced, in as much as the most
' Christian King has declared by his Plenipoten-
' tiaries, that he would concur with to the same
' end; on which Condition her Majesty made her
self Guarrantee.

Now, if her Majesty did insist on these Proviso's, in stipulating for the Priviledges of the *Catalans*, it must certainly be acknowledg'd that her Sollicitations could no way have failed but for want of weight, and that her Demands became much less
formi-

formidable, than they had been under a more flourishing Administration.

Could we ineffectually sue to save the Privileges of a remnant of People in one corner of *Spain*, when we might once effectually have Commanded the Restitution of the whole Kingdom; but we were sunk to the lowest Ebb of Reputation and Power, under the Conduct of a wretched M—y.

I shall now pursue the Affairs of the *Catalans*, not thinking it worth while to speak farther of our tricking Proceedings at Home; nor have I insisted on it, farther than it affected these unhappy People.

King *Charles* was by this time Elected Emperor, and had taken a solitary leave of his Loyal Subjects the *Catalans*; what followed from his Imperial Majesty's leaving *Spain*, as well as the Arts used to abandon the *Catalans*, will appear in the following Original Letter from an Officer in the Army.

THE 8th of *September*, the *Dutch* Admiral *Pieterfon* sailed with his Squadron from *Barcelona* homeward, and that Afternoon the *British* Admiral *Jennings*, with his Ships, came before that Place. The same Day, Brigadier *Price*, who Commands the *English* Troops, notified to Count *Starembergh*, that by Prince *Tserchaes de Tilly*, he had received Orders from the Lord *Bolingbroke* when at the Court of *France*, importing, That the Cessation of Arms by Sea and Land between *France* and *England* being prolonged from the 20th of *August* for Four Months, he should separate from the Army with his Troops, consisting of five Batalions and one Regiment of Dragoons. The way taken to convey these Orders to the Brigadier's Hands, was, very extraordinary.

ordinary. Some Days before, came a Trumpeter from the Enemy to Field-Marshal *Staremberg's* Quarters, with a Letter, to demand certain Prisoners, and with some Message of little Consequence. Whether some Suspicion was accidentally entertained of him, or whether he let fall Words that gave Occasion to examine him strictly, he was ask'd whether he had any other Letters about him? Whereupon he owned that he was entrusted with another Letter, which being demanded of him, was found to be directed to the *Commanding Officer of the British Troops*. The Trumpeter was threatned with the Gallows, for bringing Letters for any other than the Commander in Chief, to whom alone, according to the Rules of War, Letters ought to be directed; and by him only opened. Wherefore the Field-Marshal sent back the Letter to the Prince *Tserclaes de Tilly*, and wrote to him, *That he thought a General should be better acquainted with the Laws and Customs of War, than to act in such a manner; and that if the like were done again, he might depend upon it, that the Bearer should be hanged up.* Prince *Tserclaes* returned a very civil Answer; but two Days after he made use of another Artifice: He caused a Subaltern Officer of an *Irish Regiment* to desert with a second Letter, ordering him to conceal it carefully, and to deliver it to none but the *English Brigadier* himself, which he did. *No Person, (said the Prince in this Letter) but my self, the Collonel of an Irish Regiment and the Bearer, know that I write to you; 'tis to inform you that I have an Order for you from your Court; you will please to consider how to get it safely* Hereupon Brigadier *Price* called a Council of the Commanding Officers of his Regiments, to deliberate what to do, and whether he

he should send any one secretly to Prince *Tserclaes*, or whether he should acquaint the Field-Marshal with the Affair? The greatest part of the Officers gave their Opinion, That it was necessary to acquaint the General with it; that it was against all the Regulations of War, to receive Letters from the Enemy, without communicating them to the Commander in Chief; and that they could not, at that time, look upon the French otherwise than as Enemies. So the Field-Marshal being informed of the Matter, said the Brigadier might send a Drummer, who on the 8th returned with the above-mentioned Order. The 9th in the Morning, the Field-Marshal held a Council of War with the Generals and chief Officers of the several Troops, to acquaint them with the thing, that they might settle Measures for the future. Some Hours-after, Lieutenant-General *Koningseck* was dispatched to *Barcelona*, to give an Account of this Occurrence to the Queen; to whom it seemed very strange that such an Order should be conveyed privately, and even by the Enemy, while the *British* Minister, who in Person resided with her, had so much Consideration for Her Majesty, as to acquaint Her with it in a proper manner. Brigadier *Price* went the same Day to *Barcelona*, to confer with Admiral *Jennings*, and returned to the Army the 15th, to regulate the March of his Troops. In the mean while the Field-Marshal had sent the 9th at Night a Lieutenant Colonel with 500 Imperial Foot to *Terragona*, where the *English* had a Batallion; and the 15th, Lieutenant-General *Surmani* marched thither with a *Spanish* Squadron of *Nebot*, to command there; and to take sure Possession of the Place. The 16th the *English* Brigadier represented to the Field-Marshal, That he could not consent that the *English*

Batal

Batallion of *Elliot* should March out of *Terragona*, because the *English* Artillery and Magazines were there. Whereupon the Field-Marshal (considering the Importance and Convenience of the Place, and bethinking himself that the *English* might think of Garrifoning it, as they did *Ghent* and *Bruges* in *Flanders*) caused an Order in Writing to be drawn up for that Batallion to March out of it; and at length the Brigadier consented, that the said Order should be sent to the Commanding Officer of that Batallion, but without adding thereto any thing from himself. The 17th, we received Advice, that the said Batallion was marched out of that Town. That Morning the five *English* Batallions and a Regiment of Dragoons from our Army, of which they sent Notice by a Drummer to the Enemy. After three Days March, the *English* Troops arrived at *Sitias* on the Coast between *Barcelona* and *Terragona*. As soon as they had left us, we moved to a new Camp, on the Right of *Cervera*, where we encamped the 18th, namely the Infantry, still consisting of twenty eight Batallions, in two Lines on the rising Grounds, with the Left Wing to the Town; and the Horse, in number thirty five Squadrons, in two Lines likewise, behind the Batallions. This Camp is pretty advantageous: And tho' the Enemy are more numerous, having forty six Batallions and sixty eight Squadrons, yet we believe they will not dare to Attack us, but will rather attempt to break into the Plain of *Terragona* to oblige us to retire. Lieutenant-General *Wetzel* is with fifteen Batallions and sixteen Squadrons in the *Lampouñdan*, holding *Girone* closely blocked up. Deserters of the Enemy's Cavalry come over to us daily with their Horses, and report, that they are in great want
of

of Forrage. The 27th, Count *Staremberg* receiv'd some Dispatches from the Court of *Vienna*. The 30th, the Count *d'Atabaya*, General of the *Portuguese* set out for *Barcelona*, under Pretence of Indisposition, tho' we are assured it was to confer with the *English* Admiral to regulate the March of his Troops, which we suppose will shortly embark to be transported to *Portugal*; in which Case our Army will be dimished one good Batallion more, and ten Squadrons. The 1st of *October*, the Enemy fired three Rounds in their Army for the taking of *Doway*; and we had Intelligence, that the Duke of *Berwick* had detached twenty five Batallions and some Squadrons from *Dauphine* to *Koussillon*, and is to come in Person to command. The 2d, two *English* Men of War sailed from *Barcelona*, to fetch the Duke of *Argyle* from *Toulon*. The same Day arrived a Man of War from *Genoa*, with Letters for the *English* Admiral, for the Court, and for Count *Staremberg*. The 5th, came a Captain of our Volunteers to the Head-Quarters, and gave an Account that he with 150 Horse, and a like number of Miquelets Foot, attacked between *Fraga* and *Mequinenza* one of the Enemy's Convoys going with Corn from *Fraga* to *Lerida*, and took 300 Mules and 100 Horses, and two Captains with about eighty Soldiers Prisoners. The same Day General *Nebot*, who commands the Miquelets and Voluntiers in the Mountain on the Frontier, sent an account, that 300 Voluntiers being attacked in a Valley by 300 of the Enemy's Horse and 300 Foot, and being driven to the Mountains, were joynd there by some of their Comrades, with whom they repulsed the Enemy, killing the Colonel who commanded them, and taking three Captains with above 100 Horses, very few of the rest escaping.

escaping. The 11th, arrived at *Barcelona* an *English* Man of War from *Gibraltar*, with some Orders for the *English* Troops; After which it was rumour'd, that the Officers who had begun to sell their Equipages, stopped doing it. The said Troops are since marched from *Sitias* to *Mataro* near *Barcelona*, and the *English* Squadron sailed the 14th for *Port-Mahon*. The 18th, the Enemy's Army broke up, passed the *Segra* at *Lerida*, and encamped in the Neighbourhood of that Place. The same Evening was sent out of our Camp Major General *Contrecoeur*, with 400 Horse and 400 Foot, to post himself near *Montblanc*, and oppose the Enemy if they should attempt an Irruption into the Plain of *Terragona*. The 19th, the Enemy's Army marched to *Termes*; the 20th, to *Camuraze* on this side of *Balaguer*, and the 21st, they came to *Agramunt*, where is their Head-quarters, the Army lying in two Lines along the *Sio*, which River runs between the Armies. They appearing now to have no design on the Plain of *Terragona*, Major-General *Contrecoeur* is recalled into our Camp, and an Intrenchment is making on an Eminence to cover the Flank of our Right Wing: And every Night a Colonel of Horse and another of Foot, post themselves with a Detachment at the Head of our Camp, to watch the Motions of the Enemy who are but three Leagues from us, and have twenty six Cannon with them. The 22d, some Letters advised, that part of the *French* Battalions of the Detachment from *Dauphine* are arrived on the Frontiers of the *Lampourdan*.

We see by the foregoing part of this Letter, that some little Art was to be used in deserting these People; the other serves only to shew, how Mat-

ters went on as to publick Tranſactions. The *French* and *Spaniards* began now to pour down their Troops upon them; however, the Mareſchal *Starembergh* made ſuch Diſpoſitions, that he kept them at a Diſtance, and was in a Condition to have defended himſelf very well, and the *Spaniſh Army* not daring to attack him, repaſſed the *Segra*, and *Girone* was likely to fall into his Hands.

Things being in this Diſpoſition, he went to *Barcelona* to ſettle the Winter Quarters; and to hold a Grand Council with the Empreſs and the Deputation.

The States of *Catalonia* entred into vigorous Reſolutions, expreſſing a Coutempt of the Meaſures taken to abandon them; and being at that time aſſembled, drew up and ſent the following Letter to the Emperor.

S I R,

TH E Empreſs and Queen, our Miſtreſs, (whom God preſerve) having had the Goodneſs to acquaint the City of *Barcelona*, and the States of the Generality of *Catalonia*, with the Suſpenſion of Arms between *England* and *France*, and your Catholick Majeſty's generous Reſolution to go on with the War, for the Recovery of the *Spaniſh Monarchy* and the Defence of your faithful Principality; and having at the ſame time received Order, to declare our Intentions to your Catholick Majeſty upon the Propoſition which has been made to us; we moſt reſpectfully obey your Command, by the moſt humble Representation which we take the Liberty to addreſs to you, in Confidence that your Majeſty, out of your Goodneſs and Benignity, will accept in good part the Reſolution,

Intion which our Zeal and Affection inspire us with, never to recede from your Majesty's paternal and gentle Dominion, and to endeavour to deserve that your Majesty should make your greatest Efforts; to the End your most faithful Subjects may not become miserable Victims to their irreconcilable Enemies.

What makes us think this Confidence the better founded, is, that we have experienced a long Course of Favours from your Catholick Majesty, and particularly the Protection with which we have been honoured during your Majesty's Absence, by the Presence of the Empress and Queen our Mistress; which will be ever remembered with Thanks to Heaven by all *Catalonia*. We offer your Majesty to make the greatest Sacrifices, to obtain the End above mentioned, and to contribute to the Continuation of the good Successes which we have Ground to hope for from the Divine Clemency, and from the Piety of your Catholick Majesty.

That it may please the Almighty to prosper the most August Person of your Imperial and Catholick Majesty, so necessary to all Christendom, is the earnest Prayer of your most faithful Subjects.

The Representation of the Principality of Catalonia to his Imperial and Catholick Majesty.

THE City of *Barcelona*, the Deputation, and military Arm of the Principality of *Catalonia*, having been informed of the Suspension of Arms between *England* and *France*, and the other Dispositions which it has pleased the Empress and Queen our Mistress to communicate to us, touching the general Peace in the Conferences at *Utrecht*

and of a certain Project or Plan of Negotiation, contrary to the Service of their Catholick Majesty, and to the Liberty of the Monarchy of *Spain*; we think it our Duty and Obligation to your Majesty, as our lawful Father and natural King, to make the following most humble Representation to you.

Your Catholick Majesty knows in what glorious Manner your August Predecessors contributed to advance this Monarchy, and to defend it against the Violences of its Enemies, who constantly endeavoured to traverse its Grandeur. In succeeding time, the Fidelity of *Spain* has constantly been secured under the Dominion of the Princes of your August House, your Majesty's Predecessors, by a strict Correspondence and Union with the Empire for above a Century, which Union would be destroyed, should the Duke of *Anjou* remain in Possession of the Body of this Monarchy, which would thereby be engaged in Interests opposite to those of the August House of *Austria*, to whom the *Spanish* Nation owes its Glory and Renown.

Besides, it would be very difficult to defend the Parts separated from the Body of *Spain*, and to obtain the End proposed by declaring this War, which was to re-establish the Tranquility of *Europe*, by hindring the Union of the two Monarchies of *France* and *Spain*, which the Kings your Predecessors had so much at Heart to prevent, by those Renunciations which *France* have no manner of Regard to: So that the Ground of the War subsists still, and a Peace by which the Body of *Spain* is transferred to the House of *France*, cannot be looked on otherwise than as an Occasion of a new War; because that would furnish *France* with an Increase of Means to push on the Progress of her Arms, and to accomplish her Desires, formed so long ago against

gainst the August House of *Austria*, her Hereditary Countries, the Empire, and *Europe*.

This Danger is more apparent, because the Malice of your Enemies, will not fail to employ all Manner of Artifices to diminish the Reputation of your Arms, of your Power, and of your Catholick Majesty's August Person, should you be oblig'd to abandon a Monarchy to which you was called by your faithful Subjects who have acknowledged you for their Lawful Sovereign; into which you entred with signal Successes; and of which your Majesty has maintained Possession, by exposing your self to the greatest Dangers, and even to those of a most perillous Siege which was turned into Triumph. And certainly, it would be a very deplorable Fatality, if so many faithful Subjects of these Kingdoms should be sacrificed to the Hatred of their Irreconcilable Enemies, and of this Province in particular, which first invited your Majesty, and voluntarily acknowledged you, should be exposed to Slavery.

The States of the Generality of *Catalonia* believe, that the magnanimous Resolution which your Catholick Majesty has taken to continue the War, is founded upon the Motives abovementioned, and on the Tenderness which your Catholick Majesty preserves for your People. We return you most humble Thanks for it, and take the Liberty to represent to you, that the most effectual Way to recover your Monarchy, would be for your Majesty to be pleased to return in Person to the Continent of *Spain*, where your Royal Person would be a great Encouragement to your Subjects, who are always ready to renew their Efforts, and to sacrifice themselves for your Service. In the mean time, we are infinitely obliged to your Majesty's

Goodness, which continues to comfort us with the August Presence of the Empress and Queen our Mistress, who is the Joy of this Province.

Sir, we beseech your Catholick Majesty with the most profound Respect, to be pleased to persevere in so important and necessary a Resolution which you have taken, to maintain and establish *Spain* under your Majesty's Dominion by Force of Arms : And if it happen that Fortune decides otherwise by the Disposition of a Treaty of Peace ; and if the Domains of this Monarchy must be divided, we most respectfully beg your Majesty to protect *Catalonia* and the adjacent Provinces with all your Power, in such manner, that if they cannot be saved with the entire Body of the Monarchy, they may at least maintain themselves separately.

We will no longer interrupt your Majesty by repeating the Importance of the Services done by this Province, which has deserved so well of the Common Cause, and by representing to you the Condition to which it is reduced for having done its Duty . But we should think our selves wanting to our Zeal, and to the Obligation we have to your Majesty, if we did not take the Liberty to intreat you to have in deep Consideration the State to which Affairs are like to be reduced, without a very firm and very prudent Conduct at this Juncture

We offer to your Majesty all the Forces of *Catalonia*, our Estates and our Lives, for accomplishing your sacred Imperial and Catholick Majesty's Designs, and for the most serene Empress our Sovereign : For we consider that we are obliged so to do by our Duty towards God and towards your Majesty, for the Security and Tranquillity of *Europe*,

rope, the Liberty of *Spain*, and the Deliverance of the *Catalonian Nation*.

We now come to the memorable part of this Work, *The Evacuation of Catalonia*, which was a pretended Complement to the Emperor. The *Portuguese* had by this time made their Peace, and the Affairs of the Emperor obliged him to accept this Proposition. Besides what is particular in the Articles thereof, we find the following Clause in another place.

‘ If his imperial Majesty will readily consent to
 ‘ a Neutrality in *Italy*, and evacuate *Catalonia*,
 ‘ King Philip, at the Queen’s Request, will grant a
 ‘ full and ample Oblivion and Pardon to the Catalans,
 ‘ with the Preservation of their ancient Rights and Pri-
 ‘ viledges; otherwise they must expect to be sacri-
 ‘ ficed to the Troops of *France* and *Spain*.

These were among the Proposals the Earl of *Strafford* was charg’d to make to the States Deputies in *December* 1712, on a New Scheme for Peace.

*The Convention, or Agreement for the Evacuation
 of Catalonia, &c.*

I. All the *Germans* and Confederate Forces shall be Transported out of the Principality of *Catalonia*, and out of the Isles of *Majorca* and *Jvica*; and to the End this may be performed with the greater Speed and Safety, there shall be, between the Parties engaged in the War, their Armies, Troops and Subjects, in all the places abovementioned, a full and entire Cessation of Arms, and all Hostilities as well by Sea as Land, which shall begin 15 Days after they shall receive Notice of

the present Convention. The Day the said Cessation shall begin, the Power which makes the Evacuation shall be put into the Hands of the other Powers engaged in the War, either *Barcelona* or *Terragona*; the Choice remaining in the Power that surrenders, whether of the said Towns he will keep till the entire Evacuation; the said Suspension of Arms shall endure, and be observed *bona fide*, till the Court now residing in *Barcelona*, together with all its Retinue, and other Persons who are disposed to follow it, of whatsoever Nation or Condition, whether Military or not, or *Spaniards* or others, shall with their Effects, and the Troops above-mentioned, be entirely departed and arrived in *Italy*.

II. The said Transportation of the said Court and Troops shall begin, and be finished, without any Delay; and, to forward and compleat it as soon as possible, the Commander of the *English* Fleet, which is in those Seas, shall determine the whole, after having conferred about it with the Commanders in Chief, or Commissaries named by both Parties engaged in the War.

III. The said Court and all its Retinue, together with those who are willing to go along with it, as also the Troops abovementioned, may pass in all Safety from *Catalonia* to *Italy*, with their Effects, Baggage, Arms, Cannon and Instruments of War, excepting always the Cannon and Instruments of War which were found in the Places when taken, and such as are marked with the Arms of *France*, which shall be delivered up to the other Party.

IV. Men shall not be permitted to Arrest for Debt any who are minded to be gone; but for the Securities of the Creditors, it is agreed that Commissioners shall be named on both sides, who shall
state

state the Debts, and appoint Hostages to be given as Security.

V. The sick and wounded, as well as military Men, as of any other Condition, and namely the Clergy, shall be permitted to stay in *Catalonia* in all Safety, at their own Expence, till the Recovery of their Health.

VI. All the Prisoners taken in the War of *Spain*, shall be restored on both sides.

VII. As to the other Affairs which have been judged convenient for the accelerating and finishing the Point in hand, with a manner of Safety; principally with Regard to the Places which the Armies of Troops of the two Parties engaged in the War are to keep in Possession till the Entire Evacuation of *Catalonia*, and of the said Isles.

VIII. As soon as the Evacuation shall be begun, *there shall be granted and published, in favour of all the Subjects and Inhabitants of Catalonia, and the said Isles, Clergy and Laity, of what Rank soever, a general Amnesty and perpetual Oblivion of all that has been done by them, during this War, and upon that Account, in any Place or Manner whatsoever, against the Parties in War; insomuch that for these and the like Causes, they shall not, in general or particular, openly or secretly, directly or indirectly, by way of Right or Fact, be molested or suffer any Damage or Injury, either in Person or Estate, Reputation and Security, but that all the Injuries, Violencies, Hostilities, and Damages caused as well during the War, as by Means thereof, by Word, Writing, or Action, shall be entirely forgotten and abolished, without any Distinction of Persons or Things; Nor shall any Trouble be given, on these Accounts, to the Catalans, and the Inhabitants and Subjects of the said Isles.*

IX. And

IX. And forasmuch as the Plenepotentiaries c^e the Power which withdraws his Troops out of *Catalonia* and the said Isles, have farther insisted to obtain, before the Evacuation, *the Enjoyment of the Privileges of the Catalans, and of the Subjects and Inhabitants of the Isles of Majorca and Joica* ; and since on the part of *France* and her Allies that Affair has been referred to the Conclusion of the Peace, her *Britannick* Majesty has made a reiterated Declaration, That She will use her best Offices wherever they shall be necessary, to the End that hereafter the *Catalans*, and Subjects and Inhabitants of the said Isles, may enjoy their Privileges, with which the said Plenipotiaries acquiesced, inasmuch as the most Christian King has declared by his Plenipotentiaries, that he would concur to the same End.

X. Forasmuch as, in digesting the present Agreement, some other Points were debated, *to wit*, the general Amnesty, the preservation of Estates, Benefices, Offices, Pensions, and other Advantages, as well in Favour of all the *Spaniards*, as in Favour of the *Italians* and *Flemmings*, who have hitherto adhered, and are willing hereafter to adhere to one of the Two Parties; and since it was not judged Expedient to make the Discussion of those Points a part of this Agreement, which is entred into principally for the Evacuation of *Catalonia*, it has been thought fit to refer them to the Treaty of Peace, her *Britannick* Majesty having declared she will use her best Offices, to get those Points agreed and determined at the Conclusion of the Peace.

XI. It is farther agreed by the Parties contracting, in Concurrence with his Royal Highness the Duke of *Savoy*, that till the general Peace to be made, and four Weeks after the signing of the present
sent

sent Treaty, there shall be an entire Suspension of Arms, and Cessation of all manner of Hostilities by Sea and Land, under what Name, Pretence, or upon what Account soever, to take Place throughout all *Italy*, and the Islands of the *Mediterranean*, Respectively possessed by the Parties engaged in War ; as in all the Territories of his Royal Highness the Duke of *Savoy*, situate as well on this side as on the other side of the *Alps* ; and this Suspension of Arms shall stand good, without Reserve or Exception of any Place comprehended under the Name of *Italy*, the Islands of the *Mediterranean*, and the Territories of his Royal Highness the Duke of *Savoy*.

XII. The Affairs of *Italy* shall remain, during the present Suspension, in the Condition they now are ; and the adjusting thereof is referred to the Negotiation of Peace.

XIII. And forasmuch as the Affectionate Exhortation of her *Britannick* Majesty contributed much to the present Agreement ; and seeing it appeared necessary, for the secure and entire Execution of it, that her said Majesty should take part, and be engaged therein ; *Her Britannick Majesty, relying upon the Assurances given her by the most Christian King, as well in his own Name, as that of his Allies, by the present Stipulation, which shall have the force of a Treaty solemnly made between their Royal Majesties, That he the most Christian King and his Allies will perform, bona fide, and entirely, all and every of the Articles of this Agreement, she is pleased to make her self Guarantee of the present Treaty, so as to take upon herself, and to promise, that the abovementioned Parties contracting, shall observe, bona fide, and fully perform all and every of the Articles thereof.*

The

The Knowledge of these Articles arriving at *Barcelona*, we may easily judge the Astonishment of the poor *Catalans* : Nay, there was no less a Concern in the Empress, and Marechal *Starembergh* ; the Bravery and Affection of the People, had won such Regard from them, that they were at a great loss how, and in what Terms to break the Matter to them : But as there was no Probability to get over this Difficulty, and that the very worst must at last be known, and perhaps with more Disadvantage to the People by concealing the Intelligence from them : The Empress at length sent for some of the Deputation to her, and opened the whole Matter to them in these Terms.

‘ You have heard how disadvantageous some
 ‘ Affairs have been carried to the Interest of your
 ‘ good Lord and King the Emperor, and that he
 ‘ has been very far from obtaining just Satisfaction
 ‘ for his *German* Subjects, at the Treaty of Peace.
 ‘ Not that he has the Interest of his faithful *Cata-*
 ‘ *lans* less at Heart ; but being deserted by some of
 ‘ his Allies, it has obliged him for the Safety of
 ‘ our Person, and of the Troops he has in these
 ‘ Countries, to consent to the present Evacuation
 ‘ of *Catalonia*. You may depend upon having all
 ‘ the Favour and Assistance it is in his Power to
 ‘ shew you, and that he will never forget you,
 ‘ though for the present he is disabled to support
 ‘ you. You will see what Articles are agreed for
 ‘ you. I promise to be always an Advocate for
 ‘ you, and assure you I shall not easily forget such
 ‘ faithful People. I shall represent your Case timely
 ‘ to his Imperial and Catholick Majesty, and al-
 ‘ ways be ready to do you Favour, &c.

Marechal *Starembergh* had a long Conference with the Deputation, who were so far from being
 dif-

dismayed, that after a Consultation among themselves, they resolved not to submit to any other Sovereign than King *Charles III.* whom they called their Rightful King and Lord : and they were not backward in taking timely Care to provide themselves against the worst.

In the mean time Preparations were making for Embarking the *German Troops* at *Barcelona*, and the *English Squadron* was appointed to carry them to *Italy* : It is not difficult to credit, what was generally said at this time, That the *Germans* gave them all the Instances, in their power, of favouring their Proceedings, and furnished them with Necessaries for War, and other Things, that they could privately, and not expressly contrary to the Articles of Evacuation.

King *Philip*, to make the Matter more plausible, published a formal Amnesty for the *Catalans* ; but there was Exceptions which that brave and cautious People were warned of.

*Don Philip by the Grace of God, King of Castille,
Leon, Arragon, Valencia, &c.*

Although the obstinate Blindness with which the Natives and Inhabitants of the Principality of *Catalonia* continue to refuse to discharge the Obligations they have contracted by the Oath they have taken to me as my Subjects, without having the least Regard to the Generous Clemency with which my Paternal Care, forgetting their Indignity, has offered them their Pardon, and to re-establish them to my Grace and Favour, would be a just Motive, now that they find themselves reduced within so narrow a Compass of Ground, and almost to the last Gasp, to use them with the utmost Rigour in a manner suitable to their Rebellion,

bellion, and bring them under my Obedience by Conquest, seeing my Troops are so much superior in *Catalonia*, and may be daily augmented in Case of Need, by reason of the happy Successes wherewith God has been pleased to bless the Justness of my Cause; Yet the Clemency and Compassion I have naturally for my Subjects prevail with me over all other Considerations: And being sensible on the other hand, that through Fraud, and Reports of imaginary Advantages, the Violence, Force, and the Fears of the Hostilities which their own Protectors might exercise upon their Persons and Estates, rather than their own Inclination, have been the Reasons of their continuing in their Disobedience to me, notwithstanding the Oath they had taken to me; and being likewise perswaded that they are now convinced of their Error by their own Experience, and recovered from the Fears they had of their Enemies, seeing how much mine, with those of the King my Grand-Father, are superior to them, I am willing to give them a new Proof of my paternal Affection, Clemency and Grace, in granting by these Presents a new Pardon and full Amnesty to all the Cities, Towns, Boroughs, Chapters, Clergy, Laity, Commonalties, and all other Persons whatever, of what Quality, Condition, or Age soever they be, Natives of the said Principality of *Catalonia*; declaring, That none of them shall be molested now or hereafter, for having been concern'd in these Troubles; for having violated the Fidelity they had sworn to me, fomented Rebellion, excited Seditions, transferred their Allegiance to another Prince, giving him Assistance, maintained his Troops, and those of his Allies, resisted my Arms, disobey'd my Laws and Commands, and those of my Viceroys, Governors,

nors, or Ministers; and in short, upon no Pre-
tence or Motive whatsoever relating there unto.

My Will and Pleasure is, That all these Motives be deemed as if they were expressly contained in these Presents, and specially mentioned therein, that they may not be imputed to them for the future, and any Trouble or Disturbance given them upon that Account; remitting unto them, and forgiving from this Time for ever, all their Crimes aforesaid, not only as to Corporal Punishments, but also as to Fines and Confiscations of Estates, our Will being, that they be discharged and absolved from the same in regard to their Persons and Estates, and that no Proceedings be made against the said Cities, Towns, Commonalties, or private Persons; but on the contrary, commanding all our Tribunals and Courts whatsoever, to keep a perpetual Silence thereupon, revoking and annulling all the Proceedings that they have begun against them: BECAUSE I FULLY AND ABSOLUTELY PARDON AND FORGIVE ALL OF THEM, and that I receive all of them with Joy into my Protection.

Upon Condition, however, That for having a just Title to this Amnesty and general Pardon, they will be all obliged within two Months after the Publication of these Presents in *Catalonia*, to attend my Generals to make their Obedience, and and execute my Orders and those of the Generals aforesaid; declaring at the same time by these Presents, That those who shall not submit within the said Term of two Months, which is given them as the last Delay, shall be afterwards considered as Rebels, and guilty of High-Treason, and in that Quality proceeded against according to the utmost Rigour of the Law; and so they will have Cause
to

to impute only to themselves the dreadful Calamities which they shall draw upon themselves and their Estates, and the Destruction of the Towns which they inhabit, for having not accepted the Favour which my Royal Clemency and Piety is willing to offer them as the greatest and last Instance of my paternal Affection. And that this Amnesty and General Pardon may be known to all, I command, That the same be published in all convenient Places.

In Testimony whereof, I have caused these Presents, signed with my Royal Hand, to be issued out and published under my private Seal, and counter-signed by my Secretary of State and the Universal Dispatches.

Signed,

Given at Madrid.

I the KING.

And underneath,

JOS. GRIMALDI.

They rejected this Amnesty, or Pardon, with Indignation, which was so ambiguously Worded, as not to let them know directly that their Priviledges were aimed at. They immediately sent a new Deputation to *Utrecht* and the *Hague*, to solicit, that the Amnesty to be granted them, with the Confirmation of their Privileges, might be made an Article of the Treaty between *Great-Britain* and King *Philip*, and likewise in the Treaty between that Prince and the States-General; being sensible, that otherwise their Safeties, as well as their

their Liberties and Priviledges; wou'd be very precarious.

'Tis certain, that both the Maritime Powers solicited their Interests as far as they had weight; but all they could obtain, was, That they should have the same Priviledges with the *Castilians*; so that their own ancient Priviledges were to be entirely lost, and the Ministry in *England* stipulated for no other, pretending that they were the same Priviledges which they enjoyed when we first engaged with them.

The Duke *de Populi*, whom King *Philip* had appointed Captain General of *Catalonia*, drew down in the mean time to take Possession of that Principality. This was their Old Governour, who retained for them all the Resentment that a passionate prejudiced Man could suggest; and it must needs be an Argument of the King's Lenity and Forgiveness, that he sent a Person so very obnoxious to them, to take their Submission; he drew down Troops to take Possession of the Place, according to the Regulation made between the *German* and *Spanish* Commissaries, of which Proceedings, and other Consequences, we had the following accounts from *Barcelona* about this Time.

The 14th of *June* Count *Starembergh* received an Express from his Commissaries, who had met those of King *Philip* at *Cervern*, with Advice, That the said Imperial Commissaries having proposed that the Priviledges of the *Catalans* ought to be confirm'd before the Cessation of Arms was published; the *Spaniards* answered, That they were come hithee only to concert the Execution of the Treaty concluded at *Utrecht* for the Evacuation of *Catalonia* and to take Possession of *Terragona* or *Barcelona*, according to the Convention, and that it would be

Time enough to talk to King *Philip* of the Privileges of the *Catalans* after his taking Possession of that Principality; concluding, that they had no other Orders.

Count *Starembergh* having communicated this Answer to the Regency, the Council of the Hundred was immediately assembled, and in the mean time there was an universal Uproar in the City; the Majority declaring, That they would rather perish and starve within their Walls, than surrender at Discretion to the Duke of *Anjou*. The chief Inhabitants and Magistrates of the Villages and Commonalties of *Catalonia* were summoned to consider what was to be done in this dismal Conjunction for the Preservation of their Rights.

Count *Starembergh* and Admiral *Jennings* used all imaginable Endeavours to pacify the People, and promised that they would make fresh Instances to the *Spanish* Commissaries for the Confirmation of the Privileges of *Catalonia*; but this had no great Effect, and some Members of the Regency declared in plain Terms, That it was not in his Power to embark with his Troops, since the Emperor had written to them, that they were at their Service, if they thought it necessary.

The 15th the Confusion increasing more and more, the Imperial General thought fit to assemble all his Troops together for their greater Security. The 16th, Sir *John Jennings* received an Express from *England*, by the way of *France*. The 7th, General *Monteze* sent two Officers to *Girone*, to know whether the *Spaniards* or *French* would buy the Horses of his Cavalry and Dragoons. The 18th, Four Imperial Regiments incamped at *Badalona*, not far from *Barcelona*, on the side of the little River *Bezoz*, Count *Starembergh* having, in the mean

mean Time, propos'd to the Marquess *Ceva Grimaldi* to come to *St. Felieu*, within three Leagues of *Barcelona*, to continue there the Conferences for the Evacuation of that Country.

That General, with the other Commissaries of *Spain*, arriv'd there the 21st, being met at *Martorel* by a Detachment of 100 Dragoons of the *Dutch* Regiment of *Wassenaer*, and because *St. Felieu* was in the middle of the Quarters of the said Regiment, it was drawn up for the Security of the Commissaries. Those of *Spain* had a Guard of fifty *Castilian* Dragoons who made but an indifferent Figure. Those *Castilians* and the *Miquelets* had some high Words together, and one of the *Castilians* having call'd a *Boor*, or *Miquelet*, a Rebel, the other shot him dead, and 'tis likely few would have been spared, if the *Dutch* Dragoons had not interpos'd, and prevented further Mischiefs.

The Marechal *Starembergh* and Sir *John Jennings* met the *Spanish* Commissaries there, and the 22^d the Conferences were held at *Osputalet*, within a League of *Barcelona*, where the Evacuation and Cessation of Arms were agreed to in the following manner; and the Marquess *Ceva Grimaldi* having sent an Express to *Madrid* about the same, and some Overtures made in relation to the Privileges of the *Catalans*, return'd the 23^d to *Balaquer*, to make a Report thereof to the Duke of *Popoli*.

Convention made for the Evacuation of Catalonia.

I. THE Cessation of Arms both by Sea and Land, will begin the 1st of *July*.

II. *Barcelona* shall be deliver'd 15 Days after, that is, the 15th Day of the same Month. The Power which evacuates the Country will continue

in *Terragona*, and remain in the Possession of a sufficient District for the Substance of the Troops which shall remain in *Catalonia* after the first Imbarkation. And in Case the delivering up of *Barcelona* should meet with any Difficulty, which is not expected, *Terragona* shall be delivered up, and those who make the Evacuation, shall remain in Possession of *Barcelona* with a convenient District, as has been expressed in the former Article relating to *Terragona*.

III. After one of the two Places aforesaid, *viz.* *Barcelona* or *Terragona* is evacuated, the other Places shall be evacuated according to the Treaty.

IV. The Islands of *Majorca* and *Ivica* shall be likewise evacuated conformable to the Treaty.

V. As to the Artillery, the Treaty shall be observed, and Commissaries appointed on both sides to regulate the same; with this Proviso, That there shall be a Compensation for the Artillery, Mortars, and other Implements of War which are in the Towns or Places in the Mountains in the Possession of the Forces which make the Evacuation, and other Pieces of Ordnance, Mortars and other Implements shall be given in Lieu of the other, out of the Artillery, which shall be found in the Maritime Places or Towns near the Sea-Coast, belonging to the Power who takes Possession of *Catalonia*, in order to facilitate the Imbarkation thereof.

VI. All Families or Persons who are retired into *Barcelona* or in other Places in *Catalonia*, as also in the Islands of *Majorca* or *Ivica*, of what Nation, Profession. Distinction or Quality soever they be, shall have the Liberty to remain therein with all Safety, and sufficient Passes shall be given to such who shall be willing to follow those who make the Evacuation, and secure their Passage into *Italy* when
they

they shall have an Oportunity to set out for that Country.

VII. The Troops under the Duke of *Popoli* are allowed to begin their March, when it shall be thought expedient to take Possession of one of the two Places aforesaid, provided they do not approach *Barcelona* or *Terragona* before the Time stipulated for their Evacuation.

VIII. All the other Articles shall be executed *bona fide* according to the Treaty.

IX. In case the Commons, or Civil Power in *Barcelona* or *Catalonia*, have a mind to send to the Duke of *Popoli* one or more Persons, Passes shall be given them. The same shall be allowed to all other Persons or Families, who have taken Refuge in *Barcelona*, *Catalonia*, and the Islands of *Majorca* and *Ivica*.

X. The Imbarkation shall be in such Places as Admiral *Jennings* shall think convenient, although it were in sight of the Places whereof Possession has been taken.

XI. The Marechal having proposed to the Marquess of *Grimaldi*, that in case there should happen any Difficulty for the delivering up of *Barcelona*, or in relation to the Troops which shall remain there, or in the Neighbourhood thereof after the first Imbarkation, the said Troops should remain in Possession of *Ostalrick* and *Blanès*, with a convenient District for their Subsistence; and the said Marquess having not agreed thereunto, the Marechal has refer'd the Decision of this Article to the Duke of *Popoli* himself, declaring that he has no other View in this Point than the Security of his Troops. Signed,

Done at Ospitalet,
June 22. 1713.

The Count de Koningleck.
The Marquess Ceva Grimaldi.
Thomas Swanton.
Anthony Welcombe.

Count *Staremergh* having acquainted the Deputation with what had been resolved upon in these Conferences, which occasioned great Murmurings and Expostulations, quitted *Barcelona* the 26th, and declared that he would come no more therein. He took his Quarters at *Badalona*, in the middle of his Troops, signifying to the *Catalans*, That by the 15th of *July* they were to have another Master, since *Barcelona* or *Terragona* were to be delivered to the *Spaniards* that Day. This Declaration occasioned a great Tumult, and the Burghers sent immediately a Detachment to secure *Montjoni*, and hinder any Imperial or *Spanish* Troops, to take Post there. Mean time Letters were issued out, requiring all the Gentlemen belonging to the Law, and others, throughout the Principality, to meet the 30th at *Barcelona*, to assist in a great Council, which was to be held there, to consider whether they ought to continue in Arms, or submit to King *Philip*. The 27th of *June* the *Dutch* Troops incamped between *St. Andrew* and *Columna*, within a League of *Barcelona*, and Notice was given in their Camp, That it was free for every one to sell the Horses they had.

The 3d of *July*, Sixteen Imperial Batallions embarked, and sailed the same Evening for *Italy*, under Convoy of three *British* Men of War. The 4th, six Barks and four Frigots arrived to take on Board the *Dutch* and *Palatine* Troops. The same Day the *Catalans* assembled in a general Council, resolved not to submit to King *Philip*; but on the contrary, to continue the War with Vigour. They gave Orders for forming their Army, and took into their Service all the *Miquelets* and Volunteers, appointing the famous *Nebor* Chief of the same, and General of their Cavalry. A private Merchant

chant, called *Delmas*, offered to raise a Regiment of 500 Horse at his own Charge, provided he was made Collonel of it, and that the Deputation would maintain it, which was granted.

Between the 8th and 9th, The *Dutch* and *Palatine* Troops marched to the *Mole of Barcelona*, and begun to imbark: Count *Starembergh* went at the same time on board the *British* Admiral; whereupon the *Catalans*, who had not published any Orders while he was on Shore, looking upon him as their Viceroy, sent, as soon as he was got into the Pinnace of the Admiral, a Detachment of Soldiers with the Drums and Trumpets of the City, who in the Name of King *Charles III.* proclaim'd the War against the Duke of *Anjou*, in Defence of their Rights and Privileges. They came to the Sea-shore, and published at the Head of the Troops which were to be imbark'd, That such Officers who should be willing to remain in their Service, should have the same Places and Pay as they had before, and that the private Soldiers should receive a Pistole in Hand, and two Reals a Day; upon which Invitation and Promises, a great many Soldiers went to them.

All our Advices at this time confirmed the Resolution of the *Catalans* to defend themselves to the last Extremity, and that the Inhabitants of *Majorca* following their Example, made such a terrible Fire upon the *Spanish* Gallies, which were sent to take Possession thereof, that they were forced to retire in great Precipitation. The Duke of *Popoli* being arrived before *Barcelona*, sent the following Letter to the Deputation of *Catalonia*.

DON RESTANNO CANTELMO ESVART
Duke of Popoli, Prince of Petarano, Knight of the Holy Ghost, Gentleman of the Chamber of his Catholick Majesty, Captain of one of the Troops of his Life-Guards, and Captain-General of his Army in the Principality of Catalonia.

THIS is to signify to the City of *Barcelona*, That if they do not open their Gates this present Day, *July* the 29th, to the Troops of the King our Sovereign, and submit to his Obedience, the Indult (Pardon) that his Majesty has been pleased, out of his great Clemency, to grant to the Inhabitants, shall take no place, but that they will be used as obstinate Rebels: And whereas the Army of his Majesty has invested the City, they are warned out of a Motive of Compassion, before the Operations to chastize them are begun, that they are to prevent their total Ruin, by accepting the Amnesty granted by his Majesty, and sending Deputies to the Army to implore the Clemency of his Majesty.

Signed,

The Duke of POPOLI.

*Done at the Camp
 before Barcelona,
 July 29. 1713.*

And underneath

Don Bartholomew Crespo.

*The Deputation's ANSWER to the LETTER
of the Duke of Popoli.*

THE Singularity of the Letter which this City received this Day from the Enemy by a Trumpeter, has deserved so much Attention, as well in respect to the Style, as to the Circumstances thereof, that the Trumpeter could not be sent back immediately, some time being required to consider in what manner they should answer. That the Gates of *Barcelona* have been shut up to defend the Place against the Enemy, who design to make themselves Masters of it: That this City and whole Principality persist in their Resolution to continue the War, out of an inviolable Fidelity which they have always had for their Sovereign, whose Power it is to make Peace or declare War: That the Menaces and injurious Ways, attended with an unheard of Style, do not discourage the said People, but confirm them in the Oath of Fidelity which they have renewed: That as the Capital City is not used to violate the Rules of good Manners, they send back the Trumpeter as safely as he came: That the Duke of *Popoli* might take what Resolution he pleases on the Answer delivered to his Trumpeter; and lastly, That this City is resolv'd vigorously to oppose all the Enterprizes of the Enemy, as they have done in Time past.

Barcelona, July 29. 1713.

Things coming to this Extremity, they began to form their Army, of which, they gave the Command to the General *Vallareal*, Count *Puebla*, and General *Nebot*. The Inhabitants of *Barcelona* were com-

comanded to take up Arms, and the *Miquelets* had Notice given them to come near that City. The States sent the Generals aforesaid to Count *Staremburg*, to tell him, That they were sensible that the Emperor would never have forsaken them but by an unavoidable Necessity, to which he was forced to submit, and that therefore they would preserve for him the same Zeal; Affection and Respect, as they had all along expressed for their Lawful Sovereign: They added, That they hoped he had not consented to deliver up *Barcelona* to their Enemies, and that therefore he would evacuate the Castle of *Montjony* and that City, and leave it to the Inhabitants and the States of *Catalonia*, to make the best Terms they could for themselves. Count *Staremburg*, who doubtless, quitted *Baaccelona* with the utmost Regret, was very well pleased with their Resolution, though he did not think fit to approve it publicly, and comply'd with their Request; so that the *Catalans* garrison'd *Montjony*, and seiz'd the Posts of *Barcelona*, except such as the Imperial General thought fit to keep, for the Security of the Imbarkation of his Troops.

The *Catalans* sent at the same time a Detachment to seize *Terragona*, but the Governour would not admit them into that Place, which was delivered the 13th or 14th to the *Spaniards*.

The first Detachment of the Imperial Troops arrived at *Vado* the 8th of *July*, and the second with Count *Staremburg*, embarked at *Barcelona* the 9th of that Month, and arrived at *Genoa* the 16th, under Convoy of the *British* Squadron under Sir *John Jennings*. It was upon the Departure of that General that the *Catalans* proclaimed War, by beat of Drum and found of Trumpet, against *France* and the Duke of *Anjou*, resolving rather to perish than to surrender

render to King *Philip*, before their lawful Privileges were confirmed ; in order to which they sent all the uselefs Mouths out of the City, and hung out a black Standard at *Montjoux* with this Inscription, *Death or our Privileges maintained.*

They likewise raised three new Regiments in the City, and gave them the Names of the *Holy Faith*, the *Rosary*, and the *Conception.*

They remitted large Sums of Money to *Algiers* to buy Corn and other Necessaries, which the *Algerines* engaged to deliver in the Harbour of *Barcelona.* They have in the mean time received a Supply from *Naples*, the *Spanish* Gallies before that Place being not numerous enough to block it up, and fearing the twelve *Algerine* Men of War, which had been seen on the Coast of *Valencia.*

The Inhabitants of *Cardona* and the Neighbouring Country being resolved likewise to defend themselves to the last Extremity, put that Place into a good Posture of Defence, and have formed five new Regiments to which they gave black Colours with Motto's importing, *That they will live Free, or Die.*

While these Places, and some others, prepared themselves for a vigorous Defence, the *Miquelets* and *Voluntiers* possessed themselves of all the *Defiles*, to streighten the Duke of *Popoli*, whose Communication *Lerida* being thus cut off, was obliged to send his Dispatches for the Court by Sea to *Valencia.*

The Town of *Mamza* had submitted to the Duke of *Popoli*, and receiv'd a Garrison of 300 *Spaniards*; but upon the Arrival of 400 *Miquelets*, sent by the Deputation of *Barcelona*, the Inhabitants took up Arms, drove the *Spaniards* out of that Town, and declared against King *Philip* where

whereupon the Duke of *Popoli* detached Lieutenant General *Armendaria* with 4000 Men and four Pieces of Cannon, with Orders to put all the Inhabitants to the Sword, and burn the Town.

The Courts of *France* and *Madrid* began to have another Opinion of this Matter than they at first entertain'd; tho' they published Accounts much to their own Advantage. They found that the Troops under the Duke *de Popoli* would not be sufficient to reduce *Barcelona*; the *Miquelets* and Country People were very troublesome; and at least a good Squadron must be equipped to block up *Barcelona* by Sea. On these Considerations therefore, it was resolv'd that the Duke *de Popoli* should send them a new Summons to surrender; declaring, that it would be too late to offer it after the raising of the Batteries; that no Quarters should be given them, and that the very Houses and Walls of the City would not be spared.

But they were so far from being brought over by these Menaces, that they entertain'd it with Contempt. They dismissed the Messenger very courteously, with this Answer:

' That they had not taken the Resolution mentioned in the former Answer to his first Summons, without having duely considered what they had answered to; That they saw no reason to change their Minds, for he could not but know that they had gained many Advantages: And in Conclusion told him, he would never have the Satisfaction of seeing any One of them in *Barcelona*, imploring his Clemency, since they were resolv'd to defend themselves to the last Man, rather than live Slaves. The Motive which induced them therefore must be a Confirmation of their ancient Privileges.

‘vileges, and if it was in his Power to procure
 ‘that for them, they would with all Gladness open
 ‘open their Gates and receive him.

This Answer was not relished with any Satisfaction, and produced a great deal of Warmth and Heat against the distressed People: Terrible Preparations were talk’d of to reduce them, of which they had Notice, but seem’d not the least influenced or intimidated by it. Of their Resolution, the following Letter from thence is a sufficient Instance, and the Truth of it confirmed by all Accounts since.

AS to what passes we have wrote to you before this, so we have only to say if you will look over our former Letters, you will find we have always told you, that though the whole World should continue the War, because it is the Cause of God, for the Kings Cause is just, and was approved as such by those who have now abandoned us. We were six Days debating, and at last it was resolved to continue the War in the Name of the King our Master, the 6th of *July*. We assure you, though the Enemy is before the City, and that this Day they have begun to batter the Convent of St. *Madrone* with six Pieces of Cannon, here is no Body in this City afraid, for we put our Hopes of a Remedy in God Almighty, and I am certain, in a very short time, we shall experience the Success to the Amazement of the whole World; and God will do this, that Men may know that he only is Capable of making Kings and destroying them. It is now six Weeks the Enemy has lain before the City, in which time they have done nothing; and I assure you that in that time, what with our Troops
 the

the Country People, Voluntiers and Miquelets, we have killed 3000 of the Enemy, and have not lost 100 Men on our side.

Other Letters from *Barcelona* at this time acquainted us, that on the 21st of *November*, *N.S.* in the Night, General *Nebos*, and Don *J. Joseph Martini*, Lieutenant General of the Infantry, sallied out of that Place in great silence, with 4000 Men, divided into Eight Regiments; That having penetrated as far as the Convent of our *Lady of Grace*, where the *Castilians* had one of their Principal Quarters, they forced it, put 600 Men to the Sword, and took 400 Prisoners, among them one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, ten Captains, and thirty Subalterns; which done the *Catalans* retired in good Order into the Town, with their Prisoners, and a great Booty of Horses and other Things: That the *Catalans* lost but a Hundred Men in that well Concerted and Successful Action, and amongst them the Lieutenant Colonel of the Deputation, who was very much regretted. That the *Castilians*, upon this disaster, abandoned several Posts near *Barcelona*, for fear of a Surprise, and had Cast up Intrenchments in several places: That since the arrival of a great Fleet with Provisions from the Island of *Majorca*, and another from *Sardinia*, they had plenty of all things in *Barcelona*, and sufficient Quantities to serve 'em the whole Winter; That there was a perfect Harmony between the Inhabitants and the other *Catalans* that had taken Sanctuary there, who were both the one and the other resolved to defend the Place, and assert their Liberties and Privileges to the last Extremity; but that however they had certain Assurance, That the *Spaniards* would not Besiege the Place in form that Winter; That the

Barcelonians were daily augmenting their Naval Forces, infomuch that at this time they had actually at Sea fourteen Men of War, besides several Frigots and Armed Barks : That on the 21st this Squadron took a *French Ship* of thirty Guns, homeward bound from the *West-Indies*, with 100000 Pieces of Eight on Board, and a great deal of Merchandize ; That all the Captains of that Squadron were enjoyned to Sieze on all Ships aden with Provision, of what Nation soever they be, and to bring them into *Barcelona*, where they should be paid the full value of their Cargo ; by which means they hope to be sufficiently supplied with Provisions from time to time. That they had already brought into that Port two *English Ships* laden with Cod-fish bound to *Marfailles* ; That the 19th two other Vessels Laden with Corn, from the *Levant*, had, by strefs of Weather, been forced to put into *Barcelona*, and that they had received Intelligence, which confirmed their former Advices, That General *Bracamonte*, who attempted to surprize the Castle of *Cordona*, was repulsed with the loss of six Hundred Men, besides a great Number that was kill'd in his Rear, being pursued in their Retreat by Colonel *Farrer* with his Regiment ; so that upon the whole Matter, the Affairs of the *Catalans* where in a very prosperous Condition. This single instance shews what Men are capable to perform when they exert themselves for the Defence and Support of their Rights and Privileges.

It was not to be doubted, as I have observed, but that the most violent Resolutions would be taken against them, and this it seems it produced, as other Accounts from thence at that Time make appear.

MATARO, October 12

THE Principality of *Catalonia* is utterly laid desolate by the several Detachments of the Generals *Bracamonte* and *Piennes* in pursuing General *Nebot*; the little Towns and Villages of *Maresvilla*, *Sara*, *Arbusias*, *Villaograd*, *Tarasa*, and, divers other Places are almost wholly burnt to the Ground; the Soldiers not abstaining from plundering the Churches and Altars, but committing all other Disorders, violating Women, and abusing the Religious of the Convents, where-ever *Nebot* had taken Shelter in his Marches. The Plain of *Barcelona* has not been exempted from military Executions, for all the Houses on it are burnt down by Friend or Foe, and nothing but Trees and some Vineyards are left standing on the Ground. The People of *Barcelona* continue resolute, and have proclaimed anew, that the Religious of the Monasteries and all private Persons, must on very rigorous Penalties produce whatever Money, Plate or other Goods lie deposited and concealed in their Hands by those who have retired out of the City to submit to the *Castilians*; which Effects they will employ for the common Service. They have also not only made divers new Works in the Mountain of *Montjuy*, but surrounded them with a Line of Circumvallation, and cast up Redoubts on several Eminences. Besides, they have three Galeasses and other Armed Vessels at Sea to keep open a Communication with *Majorca*; which they have now the better Opportunity of doing, because the *Spanish* Gallies not being able to Cruise on the Coast at this Season of the Year, are sailed away. They have added new Fortifications about the Cloyster
of

of the Capuchins : They have abandoned Fort *Madrona* after two days Resistance ; but have since by the Fire of their Artillery from the Town made the *French* retire out of it again ; and now neither Party is possessed of it. The Duke *de Popoli* has caused Barracks to be built for his Troops, and has received some Reinforcements from *Estramadura* ; but having no more than Twenty Cannon, he is not in a Condition to form an Attack against the Town : He gives out that he waits for five *Spanish* and four *French* Men of War, under the Command of *M. du Casse*, which are to bring sixty Guns for Battery, and all other necessaries for the Siege. Notwithstanding which, we are of Opinion the *Spaniards* will only Block up the Town, and try to reduce the Inhabitants by Famine.

We shall add, to conclude this Article, That there are Letters from *Barcelona* of the 1st of *October*, which say, That the Deputation of *Catalonia* has caused two Persons of Note to be taken up for keeping Correspondence with the Duke of *Popoli*, and acquainting him with all the Resolutions that were taken in the Town against the *Castilians*. They have appointed *Don Raphael Lanet* to go to *Vienna*, to make a Representation to the Emperor about their Condition. They have fitted out three Men of War of forty Guns each, with divers Frigots, and armed several other Vessels ; so that that they have a Fleet of Thirty five Sail, with which they are resolv'd to go in quest of the *Spanish* Gallies, and oblige them to retire into their Harbour, that the Ships they expect from *Naples* with Provisions, may pass not into their Port.

All the cruel Executions used, did but the more dispose the *Catalans* to defend themselves, and what helpt to animate them was, the arrival of a

large Fleet from *Majorca*, with a Reinforcement of 2600 Men, and great supplies of Provisions. The Students in *Barcelona* were form'd into a Regiment, kept Watch every Evening at the City Gates. Several Places, and almost the open Towns in the Principality were exasperated by the Ravages us'd against them, to take up Arms a second time in their Defence, so that indeed it became a very Bloody Scene of War.

On the arrival of the *Spanish* Fleet to block up *Barcelona*, the Duke de *Populi* sent another threatening Message to the Town, That if they did not submit, he wou'd beat the Town about their Ears, by Bombarding it from the Sea : And to shew them that this was practicable, he caus'd Six Bombs to be thrown into the Town ; but neither this, nor the Menaces they us'd, were capable to shake their Resolution. They answer'd, That neither his Fleet, nor Land Forces had any Influence on their Councils, in which they had stedfastly resolv'd, and sworn it on the Holy Evangelists, to defend their Liberties and Privileges to the last drop of their Bloods.

It was now resolv'd to Besiege the Place in form, since the *Spaniards* had experienced that all other means were ineffectual. The *Barcelonians* were as active in preparing against it ; hourly expecting they should hear something from the Emperor, to whom they dispatched the Marquis de *Lanes*. Accordingly on the 22d of *April*, two *Majorcan* Vessels arrived in the Road, and in one of them came over the Sieur *Barbarina*, Gentleman of the Horse to the Viceroy of the Island ; He brought with him three Letters from the Emperor, viz one to the Deputation of the Principality of *Catalonia*, one to the Magistrates of *Barcelona*, and another

to the Protectors and Generals. He brought also as many Letters from the Empress to the same, all which were filled with the kindest Expressions, and contained in Substance,

That his Imperial Majesty seeing himself forsaken by his Allies, and even against common Justice, obliged to withdraw his Troops from the Assistance of such Good and Loyal Subjects, contrary to his own Inclinations; whose Faith and Affection he had so often Experienced: And finding himself under a necessity to enter into a Treaty with the Most Christian King, which he had concluded at *Radstar*; yet he had preserved his Rights, Titles, and Pretention to the Crown of *Spain*, and assured them he would assist them with all his Might, in order to procure them the Advantages they deserved for their singular Fidelity, Firmness, and Glorious Actions.

The Letters from the Empress were of the same tenor, and gave great satisfaction to the People; they expressed their Joy in a Publick Rejoycing, and caused a solemn Procession to be made, and *Te Deum* to be sung with great solemnity. These Rejoycings continued for two Days, and the Guns on the Ramparts were fired in Salvoes. What a lively Instance was this, of the wonderful Faith and Affection of these brave People, who under the dreadful Apprehensions of a Siege, a formidable Army lying before their Gates, could with so little concern, perform such a joyful solemnity. How worthy are such Subjects of the Protection and Favour of any Prince that shall Reign over them!

It was resolved once more, before undertaking the Siege, to make them offers of Submission, and a Message was sent them by *Monf. Orry*, importing

importing in substance, That if they would now Submit, his Majesty would come to some more favourable Resolutions concerning them than they had reason to expect. To this Message the Deputation of *Catalonia*, delivered the following Answer to the Marquis *de Guerchi*, who was sent into the Town on that Occasion.

‘ That according to the Advices they had from
 ‘ *Vienna*, the Affairs of the *Catalans* had been
 ‘ mentioned in the Conferences at *Rastadt*, and
 ‘ have been preferr’d in a more particular manner
 ‘ to the Congress, to be held for a Peace between
 ‘ the Emperor and *France*; wherein they had
 ‘ hopes they should be included to be restored to
 ‘ their ancient Privileges and Liberties. That
 ‘ the Emperor had thereupon offer’d his Guarante
 ‘ tee, and had engaged besides, that they should
 ‘ not receive any of the King’s Troops to Garri
 ‘ son the chief Places in *Catalonia*, which should
 ‘ be kept by their own Forces. That in order
 ‘ thereto, they wou’d maintain 18000 Men; And
 ‘ lastly, that if the *Spaniards* were willing to en
 ‘ ter immediately into a Capitulation with them
 ‘ upon these Conditions, they were ready to lay
 ‘ down their Arms; but that otherwise they would
 ‘ defend themselves to the last Man.

On this resolute Answer, the *French* Troops designed for the Siege were ordered to speed their March, and a Squadron was ordered to Block up the Place by Sea. We see here, that the *French* King had forgot the Intercession he had promised to make in their favour, and proved the only means of reducing, which, from past Experience, could not have been affected without it.

The Marshal of *Berwick* arriv’d in the Camp before *Barcelona*, the 7th of *July*, the Night between the
 the

the Twelfth and Thirteenth, at the Distance of three Hundred Toises from the Town, and were carried on within one Hundred Toises of the Counterscarp. The Besieged redoubled the Fire of their Cannon and Mortars: They made a Sally with Foot and Horse, and killed some Soldiers, but were repulsed.

We must expect that the Journal of the Siege coming thro' *France*, they will be somewhat Partial; but as we could have no other, it will be proper to see what Account they give; and the conclusion and brave Defence of the Garrison will sufficiently help to set the Reader right.

From the Camp before Barcelona, July 26.

WE began yesterday Morning to batter this Place with 74 Pieces of Cannon and 24 Mortars, and this Day from a new Battery of 22 Guns, The Mareschal of *Berwick* has given 30 Pistoles to the Gunners to encourage them to do their Duty.

July 25 N. S. On the 12th Instant the Marquis *Villareal*, who Commands in the City, sent a Trumpet with a Letter to the Marquis *de Guerchi* Lieut. General, who immediatly carry'd it to the Duke of *Berwick*, without opening it. The Duke gave it back again, unopen'd also, to the Trumpet, telling him he had not best return for his Life; that he would have nothing to do with Rebels; and that their only Way was, to open their Gates, and surrender at Discretion. The same Evening, the Trenches were open'd by four Battalions of the *Spanish* Guards, three of the Regiment of *Normandy*, two of *Artois*, one of the Royal Artillery, ten Companies of Grenadiers, and five Hundred Horse.

On the 13th, in the Afternoon, the Besieged made a Sally, with upwards of three Thousand Men, the *Sieur Raimondo*, a Major-General, being at their Head, with several of their Officers. Their Foot came and attack'd the Trenches in Front, whilst their Horse took them in Flank; for the Parrallel could not yet be carried on to the Sea. Several Workmen, who did not retire Time enough, were kill'd. The Besieged made a great Fire that Day, having a great Number of Cannon upon Battery, with six Mortars, from which they fire Stones.

In the Night between the 13th and 14th, we perfected the Works, carry'd on the Parallel towards the Sea, and it was finish'd in the Night between the 14th and 15th. The Besieged made a great Fire from their Cannon and Muskets, with which we had but 15 or 16 Men kill'd and some others wounded.

The Night between the 16 and 17th was spent in perfecting the Works of the preceeding Nights.

On the 17th, at Four in the Morning, appear'd twenty Deserters well mounted, among whom were five Officers, one named *Pontou* a Major-General, Son of a Lawyer at *Vich*, accompanied by his Brother, *Grenouillas* a Brigadier; *Margenil* a Goldsmith's Son, with his Brother. and two other Officers. They had their Valets and Portmanteaus well fill'd, which rais'd a Suspicion that they design'd to go and join the *Marquifs de Pual* Chief of the Rebels in the Country; the rather, because we had Information, that they had been Ringleaders in the Revolt. Wherefore the Duke of *Berwick* sent them on board a Ship the same Day (17th) for the Castle of *Peniscola*, where they will be kept till further Orders. This is no very happy Instance

stance to invite those within to submit to Mercy.

The Duke of *Berwick*, who had so despicable a Notion of these People, to say, That they knew not how to Defend themselves, nor how to Surrender, and sent their Letter back unopen'd, was convinced after that he was mistaken; the Letter they sent him, was only full of sentiments of Kindness to his Person, to excuse themselves that they did not open their Gates to him, and that they would at any Time spare the Place wherein they knew he had his Quarters.

Whilst they continued making a brave Resistance, all *Europe* was afflicted with Compassion for them; and in regard they were inspired with the Notion of Liberty, few People could forbear to wish them Successful.

The Parliament of *England*, in particular, took their Case into Consideration, and the House of Lords addressed Her Majesty in their Behalf, as we may see.

The House of Lords humble Address to Her Majesty
April the 3d. 1714.

WE your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, having taken into Consideration the several Papers your Majesty was most graciously pleased to Order to be laid before this House, in pursuance of our humble Address of the Seventeenth Day of *March* last, That your Majesty would be pleas'd to Order an Account to be laid before this House of what Endeavour had been used that the *Catalans* might have the full Injoyment of their ancient Liberties and Privileges; did with the utmost Thankfulness to your

Majesty, and Satisfaction to our Selves, observe the repeated and earnest Endeavours of your Majesty for preserving to the Catalans the full Enjoyment of all their just and ancient Liberties; and that altho' it appears by the Treaty of Peace with Spain, that the King of Spain has hitherto not been induced to agree with your Majesty's interposition in their behalf, *but insists that they shall come under the condition of his Subjects of Castile*, there is yet room for your Majesty's further interposition, for securing to that People those Liberties which cannot but be very valuable to them; we do therefore make it our most humble and earnest request to your Majesty, that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to continue your Interposition in the most pressing Manner, That *the Catalans may have the full Enjoyment of their just and ancient Priviledges continued to them.*

Her Majesty's Answer was as follows.

My Lords,

I Heartily Thank you for this Address, and the Satisfaction you express in the Endeavours I have used for securing the *Catalans* their just Liberties.

At the Time I concluded my Peace with *Spain*, I resolved my Interposition upon every proper Oecasion for obtaining those Liberties, and to prevent, if possible, the Misfortunes to which that People are exposed by the Conduct of those more nearly concerned to help them.

This we suppose Points at the Emperor; But had we not put it out of his Power either to help himself or them? and was he not fain to compound for the safety of his Empress and Troops? But sup-

suppose this true, could we not complain that our Ships were made use of to reduce them? And was it not highly injurious to Her Majesty's Dignity, and look'd like an insult to offer at such a Proceeding? which is evidenced by the following Letter from our *English* Merchants at that Time.

Sirs,

At the Foot hereof, are the Names of all our Ships in this Port that lie under a general Embargo to serve the King of *Spain*, and nothing will serve to get them releas'd, notwithstanding all our Diligence and Care, as you will hear of in a little Time (perhaps by the *Ormond* Man of War, Captain *Masters*, who is this Day come in and going Home, who, if he gives us Time, we shall represent the Case and send it Home;) yet by this Means our Commerce is retarded to send Home our Wines and Fruit; a deplorable Circumstance to be concerned, which is what offers at present.

I am, &c.

<i>Eagle,</i>	<i>Portugal,</i>
<i>Dreadnought,</i>	<i>Baltimore,</i>
<i>Peter,</i>	<i>Mansell,</i>
<i>Hendon,</i>	<i>Asia,</i>
<i>Loyal Subject,</i>	<i>Charles,</i>
<i>Herne,</i>	<i>Speedwell.</i>
<i>America,</i>	

N. B. *These Ships are to carry Horses and Troops for the reducing Majorca and Barcelona; and William Warren, Master of the Charles, writes, they will agree no Frieght, nor how they shall be paid.*

This

This is little Correspondent with Her Majesty's great Concern, and very probable she did not want Inclination; but our Remonstrances were become of no Weight, we were sunk into the contempt of our New Friends.

Let us now proceed with the Accounts of the Siege of *Barcelona*.

ON the 19th of *July*, the Sier *d'Asturias* Lieutenant-General, the Sier *de Maulevrier* Major-General, the Duke *de Havre* and the Sier *Sarrote* Brigadiers, mounted the Trenches, with 10 Battalions, six Companies of Grenadiers, 1800 Workmen, and 300 Horse. Two Deserters affirmed, that the Officers who came out of the Town the Day before, and were sent to *Peniscola*, went on purpose to raise the Country, and that they did not pretend to be Deserters, till they were stopt by the Patroul. The Besieged made a great Fire the whole Day, which kill'd us 4 Men, and wounded 16; among these was the Sier *Sarrote* a Brigadier, tho' but slightly. At Two in the Afternoon, the Duke of *Berwick* went to view the Works; and the whole Night was spent in getting ready the Batteries.

On the 20th, the Sier *de Verboom* Lieutenant-General, the Marquis *de Broglio* Major-General, and the Sieurs *d'Alba* and *de Sanzay* Brigadiers, mounted the Trenches, with the same Number of Battalions and Troops as was done the Day before; Three Deserters reported, That the Besieged flatter'd themselves with Succours from *Naples*, and from the Miquelets, Commanded, as they believ'd, by the Officers who were seiz'd and sent to *Peniscola*; whereupon the Duke of *Berwick* order'd them to be brought back to the Camp.

Camp. We had that Day 10 Men kill'd and 20 wounded.

On the 21st, the Trenches were reliev'd by the *Sieur de Laver* Lieutenant-General, the Duke de *Mortemar* Major-General, and the *Sieurs Courten* and *Desmaret's* Brigadiers, with the same Number of Troops, and 2000 Workmen; and we had 12 Men kill'd and wounded.

On the 22^d, the *Marquifs de Guercby* Lieutenant-General, the *Sieur Gabaret* Major-General, and the *Chevaliers Fosse* and *de Nesves* Brigadiers, mounted the Trenches with a like Number of Troops. The Duke of *Bermick* went in the Night to view the Works, and order'd two New Batteries, one of six Guns against the Bastion of *St. Claire*, and the other of four at the Attack of the *Capuchins*. We carried in the Night-time, 40 Pieces of Cannon, and 20 Mortars, to the Batteries; two Pair of Kettle-drums, four Trumpets, and a Company of Hautboys, marching at their Head, and answering one another alternatively. The Leaders of the Mules took up the Straw in their Return, which had been laid to take off the Sound of the Musick which made too great a Noise. We had that Day 30 Men kill'd, and 20 wounded.

On the 23^d, the *Sieur de Muret* Lieutenant-General, *de Crevecœur* Major General, the Viscount *del Puerto*, and the *Marquifs de Torrecusa* Brigadiers, mounted the Trenches, with the same Number of Troops, and 2880 Workmen. In the Evening we carried to the Batteries, with the same Attendants as before, 20 Cannons and 8 Mortars; and had 20 Soldiers kill'd, and 12 wounded.

On the 24th, the Trenches were reliev'd by the *Chevalier de Croix* Lieutenant-General, the Count *de Charny* Major-General, and the *Sieurs de Castro*
and

and *d'Ordonnio* Brigadiers, with 2000 Workmen, and the same Number of Horse and Foot. That Day, the Nine last *French* Battalions which were expected, arrived in the Camp; and the Night following, the Duke of *Berwick* went and view'd the Batteries, which were finish'd. An Officer, 12 Troopers, and 3 Foot-Soldiers, came out to us, who reported, that Proclamation had been made in the City, That all Manner of Persons, not excepting the Priests and Monks, must come and Work upon a great Retrenchment, which was begun from *Port Neuve* to a Place call'd *La Locata*, which takes in the Monasteries of *St. Augustin* and *St. Claire*. An Officer in the *Spanish* Guards, and 25 Soldiers were kill'd, and 15 wounded.

On the 25th, being *St. James's* Day, whose Name the Duke of *Berwick* bears, he went into the Trenches at Four in the Morning, and order'd Mass to be said therein, by the Vicar-General of the Army, who afterwards bless'd the Artillery. Exactly at five a Clock, all the Cannon and Mortars began to play; the Royal Battery against the *Courtine*, from the Angle of the Bastion of *Port Neuve*, to that of the Bastion of *St. Claire*; and two other Batteries against this last Bastion, and the Redoubt of *St. Eulalia*, near the Sea side. A Bomb from the Place set Fire to 12 Barrels of Powder, without doing any other Damage. That Day, the Trenches were reliev'd by the Prince *de Robec* Lieutenant-General, the Chevalier *de Damas* Major-General, the Duke *d'Havre* and the *Sieur Garbon* Brigadiers, with the usual Number of Troops, and 2200 Workmen. We had 12 Men kill'd, and 8 wounded. Forty Soldiers deserted, who reported, that all the rest would do the like, if they had an Opportunity.

On

On the 26th of *July*, the Trenches were reliev'd by Don *Juan d'Acunia* Lieutenant-General, the *Sieur de Castille* Major-General, and the *Sieurs de Sanvelbeuf* and *de Balincourt* Brigadiers, with the usual Number of Troops, and only six Hundred Workmen. The two *English* Men of War, which had lain in the Road, set Sail, having been answer'd by the *Barcelonians*, That the Effects which they reclaim'd were absolutely necessary for them in the present Juncture; and, That they would either restore them, or pay the Value, after the *Raising of the Siege*. The Batteries having made a continual Fire, we began to discover the Platform of the Rampart. In the Night 24 Mortars were several times discharg'd all together. There came out 24 Deserters, who said, those in the City began to talk much of Surrendring; that our Cannon did them a World of Damage; and that the Right of the Attack had cut off the Course of the Rivulet which supply'd their Powder-Mill with Water. The Besieged fired but little, and by very long Intervals. The Captain of Grenadiers of the Regiment of *Castille*, lost a Leg by a Bomb-Splinter; and we had six Soldiers kill'd, and ten wounded.

On the 27th, the Baron *d'Hasfeld* Lieutenant-General, the *Sieur Ribadeo* Major-General, and the *Sieurs Courti* and *Rossi* Brigadiers, mounted the Trenches, with the ordinary Guard, and 1500 Workmen. The Battery of six Guns fired in the Morning against the Flank of the Bastion of *St. Claire*; and that of four against the Retrenchment which the Enemy had cast up against the Royal Battery, and which it took in Rear. Four Deserters came out; a *Swiss* Captain was kill'd, with 20 Soldiers, 12 were wounded; and the
Count

Count *de Mirabel*, an Engineer, was shot thro' both his Cheeks with a Musket Ball.

On the 28th, the *Sieurs de Geofreville* Lieutenant General, *d'Araxiel* Major-General, *de Velasco* and *Cavalier* Brigadiers, reliev'd the Trenches, with the same Number of Troops, and 2000 Workmen. In the Night we fired three Branches on the Right, and as many on the Left, in order to augment the Fire from the Trenches. A Deserter reported, that on the 25th there was a great Assembly in the Town-house, whither the Counsel of a Hundred repair'd. Several represented, that they must needs submit ; but *Villaroel*, the *Sieur Pinos*, a Person of Quality, *Basset* one of the principal Authors of the Revolt of the Kingdom of *Valencia*, and a great Vicar of the Bishoprick, rejected that Proposal ; this last assuring them of Succours from Heaven ; and *Basset*, That he had the Secret of a Powder, which would cast a Mist before the Eyes, and lay a-sleep the Besiegers, when they should make the Assault. Upon such Assurances, it was resolved to persist in the Defence ; nevertheless, *Villaroel* sent his Wife to *Montjuy*, whither the principal Ladies of the City are retired. In the Night, a Captain of the Regiment of *Cordona* was kill'd, with 12 Soldiers ; and we had 20 wounded.

On the 29th, the *Marquis de Ceva Grimaldi* Lieutenant-General, the *Sieur Luequesi* Major-General, and the *Sieurs de Sanzax* and *d'Alba* Brigadiers, reliev'd the Trenches with the usual Number of Troops. We continued the Saps, and enlarged the Breaches ; that in the Courtine was 20 Toises wide, and that in the Bastion of the Levant 10. Three Deserters came thro' the Breach in the Night, and reported, That the Evening before, the Besieged assembled 12 or 13000 Men,
of

of all Ages and Conditions, from 12 Years old, to make a great Sally; but that when they should have march'd, that Multitude dispers'd themselves, except five Hundred. As the Enemy fired no longer from the Cover'd Way, we sent two Grenadiers to view it, who brought Word, that they saw no Person in it. The Artillery of the Besieged being dismounted, they had recourse to flinging of Stones.

The 31st, The Batteries continued firing to enlarge the Breach, and sixty Men were kill'd and wounded.

The 1st of *August* in the Night, the *French* Miners had carried their Work under the Bastion of the New Gate, and the *Spaniards* theirs under that of *St. Claire*. Four Batteries were begun for ruining the Faces of those two Bastions. In the Day, a Number of Men and Women of the Town placed in the Breach a Colours with a Death's Head in it.

The 2d in the Night, the *Spaniards* had wrought a Mine under the right Flank of the Bastion of *St. Claire*, though the *French* had made another under the left Flank. But the 3d at Seven in the Morning, the Besieged made a Sally, killed two Miners, and took the other four, who told them that Miners were also at Work under the Bastion of the New Gate. The Besieged proposing to seize these last, made a Sally with 400 Men: The great Bell rang out, and the Ramparts were lined with Inhabitants, who made a very great Fire.

The 4th, the Besiegers were employed in removing their Batteries, and fired only from two Batteries on the Left at the Breach.

The 5th at Six in the Morning, the Besieged made a Salley with 1000 Men, and stealing through

through Ravines and hollow Ways, which begin at the Angel-Gate, they surprized near the Capuchins, a Redoubt in which were 30 Men, of whom a Lieutenant in the Walloon Guards and 17 Soldiers were killed. They beat off a Piquet, and advanced to a Battery of four Guns, three of which they nailed.

The 6th, a Battery of ten Guns, placed on the Covered Way of the Bastion of the new Gate, fired all Day against the Bastion of *St. Claire* : 15 Men were killed, and 25 wounded.

The 7th, three new Batteries fired.

The 8th, Batteries made a great Fire, especially that against the Face of the Bastion of *St. Claire*.

The 9th, so great a Fire was made with Cannon and Muskets, that the Besieged durst not fire; and so we had but one Man killed and ten wounded.

The 13th, About ten a Clock at Night the Bastion of *St. Claire* was attacked by twenty Companies of Grenadiers. The Fight lasted 'till Six in the Morning of the 14th, and notwithstanding the extraordinary Fire which the Besieged made on all Sides, the Bastion was taken; the Assailants lodg'd themselves on it, and there maintained their Ground.

The 24th, About Noon the Besieged returned to the Charge, in so great Numbers, that our Men were forced to retire and abandon the Bastion, after having maintained themselves on it 14 Hours.

These were the Accounts given by the *French* and *Spaniards*, those from others we shall see differs much.

Thus far we have seen how far Things were pushed to the Ruin of the *Catalans*; and we have mentioned some Instances made to Her late Majesty by Her Parliament toward their Relief: But of
this

this we never saw any Effect ; not so much, probably thro' the want of concern to risque these injured People, whom we had drawn into this Misfortune, as the want of Power to obtain the least Favour from those very *Courts*, which we had so manifestly served and befriended.

On the Death of the late Queen, we find however, That it was one of the first Things the Regency thought on, when they ordered the *English Resident* at the Court of *France* to make a Representation in favour of the *Catalans*.

‘ That his most Christian Majesty having promised to interpose his good Offices with the King of *Spain*, in Favour of the *Catalans*, they were surpris’d to find, that instead thereof, his *Most Christian Majesty* had sent his Troops to assist those of his Grandson in the Reduction of *Barcelona* ; and that their Excellencies hoped, his *Most Christian Majesty* would make good his Promises, and consider the ill Consequences of his suffering Forces to Act against a People who were under the Protection of the Crown of *Great Britain*, to which the Resident received Answer.

‘ That the *Most Christian King*, had already made good his Engagements in behalf of the *Catalans* ; That their Obstinacy was the Cause of all the Misfortunes that might befall them, and that his Glory would not suffer him to recall his Troops from before *Barcelona*.

So that it seems their Misfortunes were owing to his Majesty’s Glory ; he could not recal his Troops ; but overlooks the Reason why he sent them thither , the Chief Article of all.

In short, all Interposition was vain on that Side, they had been too much used to lend a Deaf Ear to any Thing that came from *Britain*.

We shall therefore now pass on to the Catastrophe

phe of this fatal Siege, the Journal of which is before given to this Time, and we are now come to the Day of Storm; a Day Bloody and Dismal, and in which *Liberty* was gloriously asserted. The best Account given of this by the *French* and *Spanish* Journalists is as follows, and is well worth the Reader's Attention, the only Town which stood a Storm during the whole War as we remember.

The Duke of *Berwick* found the Siege hung so heavy on his Hands, that he was resolved to wait no longer the Effects of his Mines, or the coming up of the Troops he expected, but to Storm the Place without giving the Besieged farther Time, who were not without Hopes of being succoured, as well from the several *Bodies* they had still stirring in the Country, as from the Intercessions they had made both at *Vienna*, *Britain*, the *Hague*, and other Courts: But the greatest Motive of undertaking this Storm, which they were convinced by the former Defence of the Garrison, would be very bloody and hazardous to them, had more probably another View, which was the Remonstrances made by the Regency of *Great Britain* on the Death of the Queen, which if it had once reached the Besieged, would have enflamed them with fresh Ardour.

The Storm was undertaken the 11th of *September*, *N. S.* and was very Bloody and Obstinate. The Besieged disputed every Inch of Ground, and let their Enemies spend their Vigour in the three several Attacks they carried on; one against the Bastion of the New Gate; a Second at that of *St. Claire*, and the Third at the Grand Breach; and with their Cannon laden with Cartridge-shot, mowed down their Enemies in whole Ranks, no Quarter being given on either Side, and reserving themselves to the last Occasion; so that when the

Besieged had gained the Breach, and were entered the Skirts of the Town, they found that they had still a fresh Difficulty to surmount, and that all the Streets were full of Coupures of Retrenchments, on which the Besiegers did not think to venture; The Besieged seeing them at a stand took fresh Heart, regained the Bastion of *St. Peter*, that of *St. Augustine, &c.* and attacked the Breach again, killed and overthrew all in their Way, and drove the Enemy even to the Foot of it; and had probably driven them further, but that the Body of Reserve was ordered to the Defence of it, and Eight fresh Battalions were ordered from the Camp to sustain the rest, which made Fourty Nine Battalions, besides Fourty Four Companies of Grenadiers employed in this Assault. The greatest Strefs of the Action lay at the Bastion of *St. Peter*, which was taken and retaken Eleven times that Day, and here the Besiegers lost an incredible Number of Men. It may be observed that 'tis very improbable the Besieged, according to the *French Journals*, should in this Instant of Success, retire without being driven, and beat the Chamade, if the Marshal *Berwick* had not let them understand, that if they thought fit to make Proposals, he would receive Deputies, and consent to a suspension of Arms, as he accordingly did, and at Eight in the Evening, three Persons came out to treat for the Body of the City. The Negotiation was terminated the 12th in the Evening upon the following Conditions: That they should be assured of their Lives; that the City should not be Plundered; that they should be left to the Discretion of the King of *Spain*, which they consented to with great Reluctance; that they should immediately surrender *Cardona* in the State it is, and should dispose the *Majorcans* to submit; and lastly,

lastly, that all those who had served in the regular Troops, and would not take Service with those of *France* and *Spain*, should have the Liberty to go where they pleased. In Consequence of this Capitulation *Montjuy* was delivered up at One in the Morning to the *Sieur Guerchois*, who went into it with Eight Battalions. The 13th at Five in the Morning they brought the Keys of the Gate to the *Sieur Guerchy*, and at Six took Possession of all the Posts and put the necessary Guards in them. How well they have kept the Faith of this Treaty, many of these miserable People have dearly experienced already; they were immediately stript and disarmed, forced to redeem themselves from Plunder by large Sums, the Laws of *Castile* publickly declared, and many of the Chief of them distributed into several Goals, and destined to the worst of Slavery, working in the Mines. Well may their Conquerors tell us, they are fain to secure their Troops in Garrison, in the Monasteries, Convents, &c. to preserve them from the Repentment of the People, who will still live in hopes to have an opportunity of recovering their Liberty and Privileges.

The Clergy during the whole Siege, distinguished themselves in a very particular Manner, and fought with a desperate Resolution, and encouraged the People both by their Prayer and Example to die in Defence of their Liberties. The Zeal of the Women was no less remarkable; for they encouraged their Husbands to stand it out to the last Extremity, declaring they would share with them all the Danger and Fatigue, as indeed they did, and worked in the Intrenchments with great Alacrity. This Siege cost the *French* and *Spaniards* an incredible Sum, with the loss of 20000 choice Men.

LA HISTÒRIA DEPLORABLE
DELS CATALANS

NOTA

L'afar dels catalans durant la guerra de successió d'Espanya va commoure tot Europa. L'heroisme i la tenacitat emprats per aquest poble per defensar les seves llibertats foren lloats fins pels mateixos enemics. A Anglaterra, l'interès pel desenvolupament dels fets fou tan gran que s'arribaren a publicar fulletons populars com el presentat el 1714 per J. Baker, que pel preu d'un xíling contava «La història deplorable dels catalans».

La traducció i síntesi d'aquest fulletó ha estat la base amb què han estat escrites aquestes pàgines. El traductor vol remarcar que, havent estat requerit a presentar sols una versió resumida del text esmentat, s'ha vist sovint obligat a anotar o recrear els fragments escollits. Tot i això ha procurat mantenir el tarannà informatiu del veritable autor.

Després de la declaració de guerra a França i Espanya, el 4 de maig de 1702, una de les primeres accions d'importància va ser la memorable expedició contra Cadis... El nostre fracàs en aquesta ocasió ens va convèncer, però, que els espanyols, si més no els d'Andalusia, no tenien la força necessària per a esbatre's el jou francès... Vam pensar, per tant, en un mitjà que ens permetés guanyar una entrada al regne i a conveniència desembarcar les tropes per continuar la guerra amb probabilitats d'èxit. Per això ens vam aliar amb Portugal (...).

En aquell tractat d'aliança, entre d'altres coses, es va convenir que l'arxiduc Carles, tenint indubtablement el dret a la monarquia espanyola, anés en persona a Lisboa, acompanyat per la Flota Reial i un exèrcit de 12.000 homes, dos terços anglesos i un terç holandès, als quals s'incorporarien 13.000 portuguesos a costa dels aliats i 15.000 més a les seves (...).

D'aquesta manera, Sa Catòlica Majestat (que abans havia estat proclamat rei a Viena) desembarcà a Lisboa a finals de febrer de 1704 malgrat les tardances ocasionades pels vents.

Per tal que el lector pugui entendre millor l'estratègia d'aquesta expedició, no fóra impropï assenyalar que els regnes d'Aragó i de Castella, units des de fa molt de temps pel casament de Ferran i Isabel, mantenen encara les seves antigues enemistats. A més, els castellans, des de la mort del rei Carles II, es van adherir als interessos francesos amb entusiasme poc esperat d'una nació que d'antic té interessos tan diferents. Només aquest motiu era raó suficient perquè el poble d'Aragó desitgés un Títol de la Casa d'Àustria.

Sota el nom d'Aragó s'aplega no solament aquest antic reialme sinó també el regne de València i el Principat de Catalunya: els valencians hi estaven més ben predisposats, però els catalans van fer mostres tan grans de zel per la seva sobirania legítima, que la reina Anna, per consell dels seus ministres, va creure convenient enviar Mr. Crow per incitar-los a fer una revolució (...).

Per encoratjar els ciutadans Mr. Crow portava la següent carta de la reina:

«(...) Havent-nos armat en defensa de les llibertats d'Europa, per tal de reduir l'exorbitant poder de França i frustrar els nostres veïns en la seva aspiració a la monarquia universal, hem estat informats amb gran satisfacció que esteu molts zelosos d'assegurar les vostres llibertats. Que suportant amb justa indignació el jou francès imposat, esteu determinats a convertir-vos en homes de revolució. Per això hem considerat oportú enviar-vos el nostre lleial i benivolgut Mr. Crow, al qual hem donat poders totals i autoritat per a tractar i actuar amb vosaltres en totes i cadascuna de les particularitats que ens puguin conduir a la perfecció d'aquest treball insigne. No dubtem que la seva arribada serà molt agraïda (...) (7 de març de 1705)».

(Nota: Les garanties de la reina Anna decidiren els catalans a signar el 20 de juny de 1705, a Gènova, un pacte en virtut del qual Anglaterra desembarcaria les seves tropes a Catalunya a canvi de garantir el manteniment de les llibertats i institucions del Principat, fins i tot davant de situacions adverses.)

La flota i les forces angleses, amb Sa Catòlica Majestat a bord, arribaren davant de Barcelona el 12 d'agost de 1705. Diàriament el rei rebia noves mostres de l'afecte del poble de Catalunya que l'apressava a emprendre el setge de la ciutat (...).

En el primer consell de guerra (16 d'agost), els generals arribaren a la conclusió que el setge no podia ser emprès amb esperances d'èxit. En un segon consell de guerra, dies més tard, el comte de Peterborough discrepà de l'opinió de la resta dels generals adduint entre altres raons que:

«Sa Majestat persisteix amb fermesa en la creença que la ciutat de Barcelona es rendiria si es batés en bretxa la muralla...

»Cap altra raó, sinó la desobediència manifesta a les ordres de Sa Majestat (la reina), m'impediria complir qualsevol mandat que vingués de Sa Catòlica Majestat (el rei)».

Malgrat tot, en el consell de guerra del 25 d'agost els generals es mantingueren encara fermes en les seves opinions sobre el risc del setge, però l'endemà arribaren a aquest acord: «Des que el rei d'Espanya està decidit a fer un intent d'assalt sobre Barcelona, durant divuit dies, no obstant els nostres arguments irrefutables en sentit contrari, i puix que estem extremadament pressionats pel rei i els seus ministres, estem disposats a dur a terme l'intent mencionat al temps que volem expressar en el nostre interès que aquesta acció ens exclourà de tots els futurs serveis d'aquesta campanya militar (...)».

L'endemà, el comte de Peterborough va escriure una carta al príncep de Hesse: «(...) El consell de guerra ha resolt sacrificar les vides, opinions i interessos del seu país a les demandes absolutes del rei, en la seguretat que la gent del país convindrà amb nosaltres en tots els oficis de guerra (...)».

El dia 28, però, tots els acords van ser revocats pels generals, que disposaren embarcar les tropes cap a Savoia. El rei Carles, davant d'aquesta actitud, prengué la determinació inamovible de restar amb els seus catalans. Res fóra més dolorós per a ell que el pensament d'abandonar un poble que ha vist posar-se voluntàriament al seu servei,

i des del qual espera tot sol fer el camí cap al tron d'Espanya.

Vista la posició intransigent dels generals, el rei provà d'obtenir ajuda entre aquells en qui encara confiava, i ordenà al príncep de Hesse d'escriure a Sir Cloudsley Shovel:

«Sa Catòlica Majestat està molt apesurada de trobar Lord Peterborough resolt altra vegada a deixar aquesta empresa... Sa Majestat troba que els seus súbdits i la seva corona seran sacrificats sense raó, per això està resolt a quedar-se amb ells passi el que passi; la qual cosa vol fer-vos saber esperant que vós no permetreu la crueltat d'aquest abandó (...)».

Aquesta carta fou seguida d'una altra l'endemà:

«Des del Camp, 9 de setembre de 1705:

»(...) el rei està obligat en honor i consciència a no abandonar els seus bons súbdits, els quals li han demostrat tot el zel imaginable. Més de dos terços del país s'han posat sota la seva obediència i el consideren com el rei legítim... Crec que l'única solució és que el rei es disposi a seguir les resolucions preses en el consell de guerra del passat mes de març, on s'acordà apoderar-nos de Tarragona, mantenir les tropes holandeses amb nosaltres i desplegar els nostres quaters d'hivern a Tortosa, i fins a València si es presentava l'ocasió».

Aquesta resolució va ser acceptada per Sa Majestat. Qualsevol projecte era admissible, tret d'abandonar un poble que, amb gran risc, li havia expressat una gran lleialtat.

Hi ha moltes altres cartes i papers relacionats amb la guerra; però sols he volgut destacar-ne aquells que tenien una estreta relació amb la gent del país i amb la bona

disposició que mostraven envers el príncep de la casa d'Àustria (...).

Es podria pensar que una part necessària d'aquest treball fóra donar algunes explicacions sobre les operacions militars, i aquelles circumstàncies relacionades amb la gent del país. Aprofito, doncs, l'avinentsa per presentar una carta de Sir Cloudsley al Príncep i al Consell...

«D'acord amb el consell de guerra del 5 d'agost, salparem cap a Altea, després d'haver enviat alguns dels nostres vaixells a les costes de Catalunya per poder estar informats veritablement de la disposició de la gent del país, i saber fins a on podien ser útils en la reducció de Barcelona... Seguint el mateix procediment vam enviar també el capità Loads amb l'*Orford* a Dénia, una ciutat: emmurallada amb un castell armat amb vint canons. Després d'un primer atac sobre Dénia, el poble obligà el governador a lliurar la ciutat, i a admetre com a nou governador el comandant general Ramos Basset, a qui els magistrats i caps dels ciutadans van donar paraula de fidelitat al rei Carles II.

»Vam continuar la nostra travessia cap a Barcelona amb la més gran de les diligències, i, malgrat la mena de mariners miserables que portàvem, el temps i el vent ens van ser favorables i ancoràrem a la ciutat el dia 11 a la tarda (...). El diumenge dia 12 l'exèrcit va baixar en terra (...); no vam trobar oposició i no es va disparar ni un sol tret de mosquetó per impedir el nostre desembarcament. La gent de les poblacions veïnes es va quedar a casa, tothom ens considerava com a amics, i a la guarnició com a enemics (...).

»El dia 3 al matí, Lord Peterborough amb part de l'exèrcit va atacar Montjuïc. El dia 6, per accident, explotà un magatzem de pólvora dins el castell, i la nostra gent va aprofitar l'oportunitat de la confusió de l'enemic per forçar el castell i conquerir-lo. Tots els enemics van ser fets presoners de guerra. L'atac al castell es realitzà amb

molt poques baixes, però, entre d'altres, va morir el príncep de Hesse. Aquesta pèrdua, la vam lamentar molt, però més especialment per la gent del país.

»Després d'aquesta acció, Sa Senyoria ens indicà que si hi havia alguna possibilitat de prendre la ciutat de Barcelona, hauríem de realitzar l'atac (...).

»El *Britannia* enfront de Barcelona, 12 d'octubre de 1705.»

«La present reporta a Vostra Altesa Reial la relació dels procediments des del passat 10 de setembre (...).

»El dia 11 al vespre, vam ordenar començar el bombardeig de la ciutat de Barcelona des dels vaixells bombarders de la flota (...).

»El 12, una de les nostres bateries de terra obrí també foc, i féu danys considerables a l'enemic (...).

»El 16, Sa Catòlica Majestat m'informà que la ciutat i el castell de Tarragona, que encara estaven en contra d'ell, van ser bloquejats per alguns dels seus súbdits fidels. Vam poder subministrar-los armes perquè poguessin reduir l'enemic i alhora els ajudarem amb una o dues fragates (...).

»El 17, vam desplegar la nostra gran bateria de trenta canons, catorze dels quals van començar a actuar sobre la part de la muralla on volíem obrir una bretxa (...). El mateix dia el comte de Peterborough pujà a bord i ens féu sabedors de la gran necessitat que hi havia de diners per a mantenir l'exèrcit i dur a bon terme el setge de Barcelona i les accions militars a la resta de Catalunya... Davant d'això els oficials de les esquadres van decidir deixar quaranta mil dòlars del seu contingent i una petita quantitat de diners de la flota.

»El 19, prenguérem la determinació de quedar-nos davant de Barcelona més temps del que en principi havíem decidit (...). Vam continuar el bombardeig de la ciutat des del mar, ja que el nostre petit magatzem de projectils i el temps ho permeteren.

»El 22, per tal de garantir la seguretat de la ciutat de Lleida, el Príncep de Liechtenstein i el comte de Peterborough van sol·licitar, a petició de Sa Catòlica Majestat, que fossin subministrats prop de cinquanta barrils de pólvora i una certa quantitat de bales. El consell de guerra aprovà la resolució (...).

»El 23 al vespre, vam obrir una bretxa a la muralla. Estant disposats per a l'atac, vam tornar a convocar la ciutat. Barcelona va preferir capitular (...).

»El 26, van informar en secret a Sa Catòlica Majestat que la guarnició de Tarragona es rendiria si bombardejaven la plaça. Ràpidament van salpar vaixells amb l'ordre de sotmetre la ciutat (...).

»El 2, Sa Catòlica Majestat m'ha fet saber que els seus lleials súbdits havien assetjat la fortalesa de Girona.

»El 3 a la tarda, els ciutadans de Barcelona s'aixecaren contra la guarnició espanyola i sens dubte haurien mort el virrei i els simpatitzants del duc d'Anjou si aquests no haguessin volgut la protecció del meu Senyor i de l'exèrcit, que en aquell instant marxava cap a la ciutat... Tot i això, Sa Senyoria no va poder evitar els saquejos i robaris a moltes cases d'aquells que eren enemics del rei Carles III.

»El 5, el capità Cavendish tornà de Tarragona després de sotmetre aquella ciutat (...). El virrei, temorós de la ràbia de la gent, va demanar que la seva guarnició fos transportada per mar (...). De primer volgueren ser desembarcats cap a l'est; però quan van saber que tot el país, tret de Roses, estava a les mans del rei Carles III, i no sentint-se segurs en cap part de Catalunya, van voler ser desembarcats prop de Màlaga o Almeria.»

La notícia de la conquesta de Catalunya va ser molt ben rebuda a Anglaterra i amb ella van arribar aquestes cartes adreçades a la reina.

Carta del rei Carles a la reina de la Gran Bretanya.

«Senyora germana meva,

»(...) vull fer-vos saber que la ciutat de Barcelona s'ha rendit a mi per capitulació. No dubto que rebreu aquestes notícies amb gran satisfacció... He de fer justícia a tots els oficials i soldats, i en particular a Lord Peterborough, que ha mostrat en tota aquesta campanya una constància, bravesa i conducta que prova l'encert de Vostra Majestat en escollir-lo... Durant el setge de Barcelona alguns dels vaixells de Vostra Majestat, amb l'ajut de les tropes del país, van prendre la ciutat de Tarragona... Girona va ser presa de sorpresa, també per les tropes del país. La ciutat de Lleida s'ha rendit, i també la de Tortosa a l'Ebre; per tant hem conquerit totes les places de Catalunya, tret de Roses. Algunes places a l'Aragó, prop de Saragossa, m'han donat suport, i la guarnició del castell de Dénia a València va rebutjar els atacs de l'enemic (...). La presa de Barcelona amb un nombre tan petit de tropes és molt remarcable (...). Només amb set o vuit mil homes del vostre exèrcit i dos-cents miquelets, vam assetjar i fer rendir una plaça, que 30.000 francesos no pogueren bloquejar (...). La crueltat del virrei provocà els ciutadans, que prengueren les armes contra la guarnició (...); hauria pogut ser una carnisseria (...), però les tropes de Vostra Majestat entraren a la ciutat i en lloc de saquejar-la, una pràctica comuna en aquestes ocasions, apaivagaren el tumult i salvaren la ciutat i fins i tot les vides dels enemics, amb disciplina i generositat sense exemple (...). He pensat, d'acord amb els sentiments dels vostres generals i almiralls, a donar suport a les conquestes obtingudes amb la meva presència i mostrar als meus súbdits que no puc abandonar-los (...). Sóc conscient que el suport dels meus interessos us ha causat una gran despesa. Però, senyora, sacrifico la meva persona, i els meus súbdits de Catalunya exposen també les seves vides i fortunes amb la seguretat

que es troben sota la generosa protecció de Vostra Majestat.»

Moltes cartes d'agraïment i felicitació va rebre la reina Anna d'Anglaterra. Cal esmentar les de la Junta Militar de Catalunya, la de les ciutats de Vic i Barcelona i la del Consistori de Diputats i Auditors Generals de Comptes del Principat de Catalunya, entre d'altres. Totes elles contenien a més grans elogis pel coratge mostrat pel comte de Peterborough, que escriví a la reina aquestes paraules:

«Que els vostres aliats i el vostre parlament no abandonin mai un rei que ha començat el seu regnat amb tal resolució i coratge, ni una província amb un poble tan valerós i lleial».

La reina, per la seva part, reuní les dues cambres parlamentàries i, davant l'èxit de l'operació, opinà que la manera més ràpida d'instaurar la monarquia de la casa d'Àustria a Espanya i assegurar els avantatges que havien aconseguit era donar el màxim suport a la guerra a Catalunya, a la qual cosa tots els parlamentaris expressaren el seu acord.

La cort francesa i la de Madrid van ser sensibles al perill que això representava i (...) desplegaren un poderós exèrcit a Catalunya abans que els confederats poguessin reaccionar. El poble de Catalunya no s'intimidà per això, sinó que expressà encara més la seva lleialtat al rei Carles III.

De la correspondència d'aquells moments destaquem les següents cartes:

Carta del Príncep de Liechtenstein a Sir John Leake, datada el 26 de març de 1706:

«Sa Majestat el Rei està essent atacat a dues bandes per uns exèrcits considerables: l'un és sota el comanda-

ment d'Anjou i l'altre sota el del duc de Noailles. La ciutat de Barcelona està assetjada; fàcilment podreu jutjar la gran necessitat que hi ha de rebre ajut ràpidament amb una esquadra, tropes i diners, tal com va designar la reina per al socors de Catalunya (...). Les notícies que tenim segons els moviments de l'enemic són la seva decisió de deixar enrere les ciutats de Lleida i Girona i marxar amb les seves forces directament a Barcelona, que en les condicions actuals pot oferir una defensa molt feble. No té tropes regulars i sols la defensen els seus habitants. El castell de Montjuïc està en les mateixes condicions de quan el vam prendre...».

Carta del rei Carles a Sir John Leake:

«Almirall Leake, voldria aprofitar aquesta ocasió per fer-vos conèixer del gran risc en què es troben aquest Principat i la meva reial persona. Estic convençut que demà l'enemic ens atacarà. A hores d'ara m'han bloquejat amb una esquadra i la seva armada gairebé assetja la ciutat. He decidit, malgrat que la meva guarnició sigui petita –mil homes de tropes regulars i quatre-cents de cavalleria– no deixar aquesta plaça. Marxar significaria la pèrdua de la ciutat i, en conseqüència, de totes aquelles altres poblacions reduïdes a la meva obediència al llarg dels feliços èxits de l'última campanya. Per aquesta raó, opino que és millor arriscar-ho tot. Sense dubtar com vàreu arribar a contribuir en els primers socors, espero veure-us en els propers dies enfront d'aquesta plaça, on, com ja sabeu, valor i acció poden esdevenir gloriosos èxits.

»31 de març de 1706«.

Carta del rei d'Espanya al comte de Peterborough:

«L'enemic és a dues llegües d'aquí. Els meus súbdits estan disposats fins a perdre l'última gota de la seva sang

per mi. Les armes i les provisions per a la nostra defensa depenen de Vós, estimat Lord. Estaria content de deixar la meua vida en aquesta ciutat si la meua salvaguarda no fos del grat de l'interès general. La meua esperança, doncs, està en Vós. No perdeu temps, benvolgut Lord, per venir a ajudar-me. Ho volem tot per resistir i defensar-nos per molt de temps.

»La nit del 30 de març de 1706 a Barcelona».

Carta del rei Carles a Sir John Leake:

«Senyor, no ha estat pas amb petita satisfacció que he estat informat per les cartes del comte de Peterborough de la vostra felicitat arribada a les costes de València. No dubto que ja estareu assabentat de la pèrdua de Montjuïc i les condicions en què es troba Barcelona. Sembla, pels moviments dels enemics, que també hagin tingut esment de la vostra proximitat, però en lloc de pensar a retirar-se han reblat els seus esforços. Tot sembla indicar que faran intents desesperats per a apropiarse d'aquesta ciutat abans no arribi la flota amb el vostre socors (...).

»Barcelona, 4 de maig de 1706».

Patint tan gran fretura qualsevol altre poble ja s'hauria descoratjat. Però els catalans, en el seu desesper, no tingueren el més petit desmai. Prenien exemple del seu rei, com mostra un petit passatge del diari d'un oficial anglès present en aquell setge memorable:

«El rei Carles cada dia fa la ronda a cavall. De vegades per Montjuïc, de vegades per les muralles de la ciutat. I és, de fet, la vida i l'ànima d'aquest poble que sembla no tenir el més petit desmai. Les botigues estan obertes cada dia, els comerços van endavant, les dones riuen, els nois canten i, al vespre, es dorm sense malsons de setges».

De l'arribada de la flota aliada i de l'ajut que rebé la ciutat no exposaré més que el que conté la carta de Sir John Leake al Secretari del Príncep, datada l'1 de maig de 1706.

«El dia 13, a les dues del matí, hem salpat de Gibraltar, amb vent de l'oest nord-oest, enviant el *Pembroke*, el *Tyger*, el *Leopard* i un vaixell de guerra holandès amb ordres d'anar primer cap a Altea o Dénia per tenir notícies de les forces que l'enemic tenia enfront de Barcelona. El dia 15 un mercant holandès, que aconseguí la flota en sis dies des de Lisboa, ens informà que un comboi amb forces irlandeses havia salpat de Lisboa un dia abans que ell. El 18 al matí arribàvem a l'alçada d'Altea i a la tarda retrobàvem els quatre vaixells abans esmentats, els quals no em van donar cap notícia diferent de les que jo ja sabia, ni cap carta de Lord Peterborough. Amb això vaig convocar consell de guerra i vam resoldre esperar l'arribada del comboi irlandès. El vent era de ponent. Era millor quedar-nos on estàvem fins l'endemà al vespre. Immediatament, però, vaig fer salpar les mateixes quatre fragates cap a Vinaròs i Tortosa, a la costa de Catalunya, per saber més notícies. L'endemà al matí, el *Panther*, al qual vaig ordenar la nit anterior de vigilar l'arribada del comboi irlandès, va descobrir tres vaixells, que amb poques hores ens van aconseguir. Van resultar ser l'*Antilop*, el *Winchester* i el *Faulcon*, que ens duïen la nova que Sir George Bing venia per trobar-se amb nosaltres. Vaig convocar un altre consell de guerra i vam resoldre d'esperar-lo i posar els vaixells sota el seu comandament, la qual cosa fou feta a les deu del matí següent. Al vespre vam marxar cap a Tarragona, el lloc que havíem acordat per trobar-nos. El 21 i el 22, vents molt forts del nord ens van fer retrocedir. El 26 següent, però, vaig arribar a Barcelona a temps per evitar que caigués a les mans dels seus enemics. La darrera nit l'enemic: va començar a marxar tot

deixant al seu darrere cinquanta canons i tretze morters.»

La joia dels catalans en aquesta ocasió no és per ser descrita. Van rebre els seus alliberadors anglesos amb els braços oberts.

(Nota: La desfeta dels Borbons en la guerra de successió a Espanya semblava imminent: al mateix temps que Felip V es veia obligat a fer una retirada desastrosa i refugiar-se a França, Lord Galway, amb un exèrcit angloportuguès, aconseguia entrar a Salamanca i començar a avançar sobre Madrid.)

Abans que es tingués coneixement a Madrid del fracàs del setge de Barcelona, la reina d'Espanya, esposa de Felip V, en una assemblea de magistrats feia el següent discurs:

«Us he fet venir i sóc davant vostre per fer-vos saber el dolor que pateix l'estat. No us puc amagar que mentre el rei està exposant la seva vida per la vostra defensa (el cel beneeixi les seves armes) amb èxit a Catalunya —espero que la rebel·lió a la província sigui ben aviat reduïda— els assumptes no van bé a Extremadura. La preservació de la monarquia és ara el punt en qüestió. Vosaltres mateixos esteu en la necessitat peremptòria de mostrar el vostre zel i lleialtat sacrificant-ho tot pel rei, per mi i per vosaltres».

És ben sabut que tot Espanya tendia a la revolució. Explicar les raons per les quals aquesta no reeixí no formen part d'aquest treball, per la qual cosa no considero necessari fer-ne menció. Només cal esmentar que quan les coses tornaren a anar malament a Castella i el rei Carles III, que havia aconseguit entrar a Madrid el juliol de 1706, es va veure obligat a marxar altra vegada a Catalunya, els seus súbdits el van rebre amb més alegria que mai.

L'any 1707 va ser el del ressorgiment de Felip V. La fatal batalla d'Almansa va reduir els interessos del rei Carles a una condició desesperada. Requena, València i Saragossa revoltades, Xàtiva fou presa i cremada, Alzira, Mequinensa i altres poblacions preses, i la frontera de Catalunya altra vegada oberta. Els catalans van emprendre la seva pròpia defensa amb l'ajut d'algunes petites tropes regulars. Era molt probable que fossin atacats des del costat del Rosselló, on l'enemic estava aplegant els seus exèrcits.

Malgrat tot, però, els catalans van conservar el seu esperit i es mantingueren fermes en els seus compromisos. El poble es comportava amb gran obediència cap al seu sobirà, el rei Carles, i amb gran gratitud respecte als anglesos.

Fins ara he exposat com els catalans van ser dirigits i portats cap a la guerra. A continuació us explicaré com van ser abandonats a la seva sort.

(Nota: Després de deu anys de guerra, Gran Bretanya i França desitjaven la pau. Sobretot des de la mort, sense successió, de l'emperador Josep I, que convertia en hereu el seu germà l'arxiduc Carles. Aquest optava així a les corones de l'imperi germànic i d'Espanya. Un perill massa gran per a França i Anglaterra, que s'afanyaren a negociar un tractat a Utrecht i Rastadt. En aquest tractat s'atorgava la corona d'Espanya a Felip V, Anglaterra conservava Menorca i Gibraltar i se li concedien importants avantatges per comerciar amb Amèrica; Flandes i els altres territoris espanyols a Europa es lliuraven al nou emperador Carles VI. D'altra banda, malgrat que totes les potències aliades es van sentir obligades a ajudar Catalunya, aquell poble que havia lluitat amb tant de coratge, les resistències a trobar solucions per part de Felip V i la por per part dels aliats que un fracàs del tractat fes perdre els avantatges adquirits, van fer abandonar els catalans a la seva sort.)

¿Com va afectar la pau entre les grans potències els pobres catalans en particular? En parlaré tot seguit:

Quan finalment Sa Majestat, la reina Anna, va resoldre la pau, s'acordà desposseir l'emperador, l'antic rei Carles III, de Catalunya i de tot el que havia conquerit a Espanya. Sa Majestat, a més, va haver de tenir cura d'assegurar el retorn de l'emperadriu i de les tropes imperials fora de Catalunya, atès que l'emperador havia marxat abans deixant la reina i les tropes defensant les seves conquestes mentre ell tornava o bé feia arribar ajuda als valerosos catalans.

La retirada de l'emperador de Catalunya va ser estipulada a la convenció o acord per a l'Evacuació de Catalunya, pactada entre els ministres francesos, britànics i el ministre imperial, que hi va estar d'acord, no perquè li agradés sinó perquè no hi podia fer res més.

No tinc res més a dir sobre això, però observeu uns paràgrafs d'aquest tractat:

«Tan aviat com l'evacuació hagi començat, quedaran garantits i publicats en favor de tots els habitants de Catalunya una amnistia general i un perpetu oblit de tot allò que hauran fet en temps de guerra. I atès que el plenipotenciari del poder que retira les seves tropes de Catalunya i de les illes ha insistit arduosament en el fet que abans de l'evacuació els catalans puguin gaudir dels seus privilegis (...) la reina assegura recórrer als seus bons oficis per assolir aquest objectiu (...). Tanmateix el rei més cristià, mitjançant els seus plenipotenciaris, s'adhereix també a aquesta proposta».

El rei Carles, escollit emperador, va deixar els seus súbdits catalans. Les arts que es feren servir per a abandonar aquest poble es fan paleses a la següent carta d'un oficial de l'exèrcit:

El 8 de setembre, l'almirall holandès Pieterseon salpa amb la seva esquadra de Barcelona... El mateix dia el

general de brigada Price, que manava les tropes angleses, va notificar al comte Staremborg –que a través del príncep Tserclaes de Tilly havia rebut ordres de Lord Bolingbroke– que la suspensió de les hostilitats per terra i mar entre França i Anglaterra s’havia perllongat quatre mesos des del dia 20 d’agost. El camí pres per fer arribar aquestes ordres a les mans del general de brigada fou molt extraordinari:

Alguns dies abans arribà un trompeter de l’enemic amb una carta per al mariscal de camp Staremborg. A la carta es demanava la llibertat d’uns presoners i alguna cosa més de poca importància. Per la seva actitud, se sospità que el trompeter venia amb altres intencions i se li va preguntar si portava cap altra carta. Ell confessà que li havia estat confiada una segona carta adreçada directament al comandant oficial de les tropes britàniques. El trompeter fou amenaçat amb la força per portar cartes per a una altra persona que no fos el comandant en cap. Les lleis de guerra determinen que les cartes només han de ser adreçades a ell i només ell les pot obrir.

El mariscal de camp envià una altra carta al príncep Tserclaes de Tilly dient-li que: «pensava que un general estaria més ben assabentat de les lleis i els costums de la guerra. Si aquest gest es repetís una altra vegada penjarien el portador».

El príncep Tserclaes contestà amb una resposta molt educada, però dos dies més tard va convèncer un oficial subaltern d’un regiment irlandès de portar una altra carta al general de brigada anglès Price. En aquesta carta el príncep deia: «Ningú, sinó jo mateix, el coronel d’un regiment irlandès i el portador, sabem que us he escrit. I ho he fet per informar-vos que m’ha arribat per vós una ordre de la vostra cort». El general de brigada Price convocà consell d’oficials per deliberar què calia fer, contestar amb una altra missiva al príncep Tserclaes o bé assabentar el mariscal de camp d’aquest afer.

La major part dels oficials van ser de l’opinió d’infor-

mar el general d'aquest assumpte, ja que encara no podien mirar els francesos sinó com a enemics.

El mariscal de camp, ja informat, ordenà al general de brigada d'enviar un timbaler a buscar l'ordre abans esmentada. L'endemà el consell de guerra decidí enviar a Barcelona el lloctinent general Koningseck per informar d'aquest fet la reina, ja que semblava molt estrany que l'ordre de cessament d'hostilitats hagués arribat privadament i des de l'enemic mentre el ministre anglès en persona estava en aquesta ciutat.

El dia 15, el general de brigada Price, després de trobar-se amb l'almirall Jennings, començà a preparar el retorn a Anglaterra de les seves tropes. El 16, el batalló anglès d'Elliot marxava de Tarragona. El 17, cinc batallons anglesos i un regiment de dragons abandonaven el nostre exèrcit perquè havien rebut ordres per mitjà d'un timbaler de l'enemic. El 27, el comte Staremberg va rebre alguns despatxos de la cort de Viena. El 30, el comte d'Atalaya, general dels portuguesos, es disposava a anar a Barcelona amb el pretext de patir una indisposició, però podem assegurar que hi va anar per acordar amb l'almirall anglès la forma de regular la marxa de les seves tropes, les quals embarcaren ben aviat per ser transportades a Portugal. En qualsevol cas el nostre exèrcit es va veure disminuït en un batalló més i deu esquadrons.

El primer d'octubre vam saber que el duc francès de Berwick destacà vint-i-cinc batallons i alguns esquadrons al Rosselló. El dia 5, un capità dels nostres voluntaris notificà que va atacar a l'alçada de Mequinensa un comboi enemic que anava de Fraga cap a Lleida. El mateix dia el general Nebot, que comandava els miquelets i els voluntaris de la muntanya, va ser atacat prop de la frontera per 300 enemics a cavall i 300 a peu. L'11, va arribar a Barcelona, des de Gibraltar, un vaixell de guerra anglès amb ordres per a les seves tropes. El 14, l'esquadra anglesa salpà cap a port-Mahó. El 18, l'exèrcit enemic passà el Segre per Lleida i acampà als afores d'aquesta ciutat. El

21, arribà a Agramunt i fixà en aquesta ciutat el seu quarter general. El 22, algunes cartes confirmaren que els batallons francesos destacats al Rosselló van arribar a la frontera de l'Empordà.

A partir d'aquell moment els exèrcits espanyols i francesos es van llançar sobre el Principat.

Els estats de Catalunya prengueren determinacions de gran valentia i així ho expressaren en les cartes adreçades a l'emperador:

Els vostres súbdits més lleials no es convertiran en víctimes miserables dels seus irreconciliables enemics. Us oferim, Majestat, de fer els més grans sacrificis per a obtenir aquest objectiu i contribuir d'aquesta manera a la continuació dels feliços èxits (...). Senyor, supliquem a la Vostra Catòlica Majestat, amb el més profund respecte, de perseverar en la determinació que heu pres, tan important i necessària, de mantenir i restablir Espanya sota el domini de Vostra Majestat per la força de les armes.

Si per atzars de la fortuna, en les resolucions del tractat de pau es decidís d'altra manera i el domini d'aquesta monarquia s'hagués de dividir, molt respectuosament demanem a Vostra Majestat de protegir Catalunya i les seves províncies adjacents amb tot el vostre poder, de tal manera que si no es pot salvar sencer el cos de la monarquia, que es pugui si més no mantenir separada.

Anem ara a la part més memorable d'aquest treball, l'Evacuació de Catalunya.

Entre els acords generals, que més endavant significarà, l'emperador es va veure obligat a acceptar clàusules com les que vam trobar en un altre apartat del tractat:

«Sa Majestat Imperial consentirà immediatament la neutralitat d'Itàlia i evacuarà Catalunya. El rei Felip i la reina garantiran el perdó als catalans amb la preservació dels seus antics drets i privilegis».

Conveni o Acord per a l'Evacuació de Catalunya.

«Els alemanys i forces confederades seran transportats, amb la més gran diligència i seguretat, fora del Principat de Catalunya i de les illes de Mallorca i Eivissa... Entre les parts implicades en la guerra (...) hi haurà un cessament total de les hostilitats que començarà quinze dies després d'haver tingut notícies del present acord (...). La cort que ara resideix a Barcelona marxarà amb tots els seus exèrcits cap a Itàlia.

»Tan aviat com l'evacuació haurà començat, es garantirà i publicarà, a favor dels habitants de Catalunya, una amnistia general i un oblit perpetu per tot el que van fer al llarg d'aquesta guerra (...).

»I ja que els plenipotenciaris del poder que retira les seves tropes de Catalunya i de les illes han insistit d'obtenir, abans de l'evacuació, el gaudi dels privilegis dels catalans, i que aquest afer es contemplava en els acords de pau (...), el rei més cristià ha declarat a través dels seus plenipotenciaris d'assenir en aquest mateix objectiu. (...).

Podem jutjar amb facilitat quin va ser l'astorament dels pobres catalans quan van tenir coneixement d'aquests articles. L'emperadriu tractà amb alguns membres de la Diputació aquest assumpte en aquests termes:

«Havent estat abandonat per alguns dels seus aliats, l'emperador s'ha vist obligat, per la seguretat del nostre perdó i de les tropes que hi ha en aquests països, de consentir la present evacuació de Catalunya (...).

El rei Felip, per fer l'afer més creïble, decretà una amnistia formal per als catalans en aquests termes:

«Malgrat l'obstinada ceguesa amb què els nadius i habitants del Principat de Catalunya continuen refusant

les obligacions que com a súbdits van contraure per jurament (...), ELS PERDONO ABSOLUTAMENT I TOTAL, i els rebo feliç a tots sota la meva protecció. Amb la condició, però, (...) que estaran obligats a executar les meves ordres i les dels meus generals; declarant que tots aquells que no se sotmetessin a aquests termes en dos mesos, com a darrer termini, seran des de llavors considerats culpables d'alta traïció i jutjats com a tals amb les lleis més severes».

Els catalans van rebutjar aquesta amnistia, o perdó, amb indignació perquè estava redactada tan ambiguament que no els permetia saber directament si els seus privilegis estaven o no inclosos.

Mentrestant el duc de Pòpuli, nomenat pel rei Felip Capità General de Catalunya, arribà per prendre possessió del Principat. Aquest era l'antic governador, que portava amb ell tot el ressentiment que un home apassionat i perjudicat pot guardar (...).

Aquests són alguns dels fets que van succeir aquells dies a Barcelona:

El 14 de juny, el comte Staremborg rebé una carta urgent dels seus comissaris, els quals s'havien trobat amb els del rei Felip a Cervera. Li deien que havent-los indicat que els privilegis dels catalans havien d'ésser confirmats abans de la cessació de les armes (...), foren respostos pels espanyols que ells eren allí només per concertar l'execució del tractat signat a Utrecht per a l'evacuació de Catalunya i prendre possessió de Tarragona o Barcelona d'acord amb la convenció, i que ja hi hauria prou temps per a parlar al rei Felip dels privilegis dels catalans després de prendre possessió del Principat...

El comte Staremborg va comunicar aquesta resposta a la regència i el Consell de Cent es reuní immediatament. Mentrestant a la ciutat es produí un gran avalot; la majoria

de la gent declarava que preferia morir de fam dins de les muralles que rendir-se al duc: d'Anjou (...).

El comte Staremborg i l'almirall Jennings usaren tots els esforços imaginables per pacificar el poble, i prometeren que farien noves instàncies als comissaris espanyols per a la confirmació dels privilegis de Catalunya.

El comte Staremborg va proposar al marquès de Ceva Grimaldi d'anar fins a Sant Feliu, a tres llegües de Barcelona, per continuar les conferències per a l'evacuació del país (...).

El 22, les conferències es tingueren a l'Hospitalet, a una llegüa de Barcelona. L'evacuació i cessació de les armes foren acordades en aquests termes:

—La cessació de les hostilitats per terra o per mar començarà l'1 de juliol...

—Barcelona serà lliurada quinze dies després...

—Les tropes sota el comandament del duc de Pòpuli no començaran la seva marxa envers Barcelona o Tarragona abans del temps estipulat per a l'evacuació.

El comte Staremborg, després d'informar a la Diputació del que s'havia acordat a les conferències, cosa que provocà grans murmurs i protestes, marxà de Barcelona el dia 26 (...) i en el seu quarter, al bell mig de les seves tropes, va anunciar als catalans que el 15 de juliol tindrien un altre Senyor (...). Aquesta declaració ocasionà un gran tumult. Els ciutadans enviaren immediatament un destacament a Montjuïc, i van impedir prendre posicions a cap tropa imperial o espanyola (...).

El 27 de juny, s'informà les tropes holandeses que podien vendre lliurement els seus cavalls.

El 3 de juliol, setze batallons imperials embarcaren rumb a Itàlia.

El 4, els catalans decidiren no sotmetre's al rei Felip, ans al contrari, continuar la guerra amb coratge. Formaren el seu exèrcit, i prengueren al seu servei tots els voluntaris

i miquelets (...). Un vaixell mercant privat, anomenat *Delmas*, s'oferí per carregar un regiment amb cinc-cents cavalls (...).

Entre el 8 i el 9, l'exèrcit holandès i el del palatinat van marxar del moll de Barcelona (...). Totes les notícies van confirmar la resolució dels catalans de defensar-se fins a les darreres conseqüències. Els habitants de Mallorca van seguir el seu exemple (...).

El duc de Pòpuli, en arribar davant de Barcelona, envià la següent carta a la Diputació de Catalunya:

«La present és per assabentar la ciutat de Barcelona que si no obre les seves portes en el dia d'avui, 29 de juliol, a l'exèrcit del rei nostre sobirà, i es sotmet a la seva obediència, l'indult (perdó) ofert per Sa Majestat, amb la seva gran clemència, no tindrà lloc, sinó que els seus ciutadans seran considerats com a rebels obstinats i la ciutat serà assetjada per l'exèrcit de Sa Majestat ... ».

La Diputació respongué amb una altra carta al duc de Pòpuli:

«La singularitat de la carta que la ciutat ha rebut del seu enemic en el dia d'avui mitjançant un trompeter ha merescut la nostra més gran atenció, tant pel que fa al seu estil, com per les seves circumstàncies. El trompeter no ha estat enviat de retorn immediatament perquè hem necessitat temps per a considerar de quina manera hauríem de respondre. Les portes de la ciutat de Barcelona han estat tancades per defensar la plaça del seu enemic (...). La ciutat i tot el Principat persisteixen en la seva resolució de continuar la guerra (...). El duc de Pòpuli pot prendre la determinació que li plagui amb la resposta lliurada a aquest trompeter (...). Barcelona 29 de juliol de 1713».

La situació arribà a tal extrem que els catalans començaren a formar el seu exèrcit sota el comandament del

general Villarroel, el comte Puebla i el general Nebot (...). A Montjuïc fou hissada una bandera negra amb aquesta inscripció: «Mort o manteniment dels nostres privilegis». Remeteren grans quantitats de diners a Algèria per comprar cereals i altres coses necessàries (...).

Els habitants de Cardona i poblacions dels voltants van decidir també defensar-se fins a les darreres conseqüències formant cinc regiments als quals donaren banderes negres amb la divisa «lliures o morts».

Mentre aquestes ciutats, i moltes altres, es preparaven per a una defensa coratjosa, el duc de Pòpuli es va veure obligat a enviar els seus despatxos a la cort per mar fins a València, ja que les comunicacions a Lleida van ser tallades.

La ciutat de Manresa havia estat sotmesa al duc de Pòpuli, i rebé una guarnició de 300 espanyols. Però l'arribada de 400 miquelets, enviats per la Diputació de Barcelona, aixecà la població en armes, que foragità els espanyols de la ciutat i declarà la guerra al rei Felip.

Davant d'aquesta tenaç resistència, les Corts de França i Madrid van començar a canviar de parer (...). Trobaven que l'exèrcit comandat pel duc de Pòpuli no era suficient per a reduir, Barcelona (...) sinó que com a mínim s'hauria de preparar una bona esquadra per bloquejar-la per mar (...).

Es decidí que el duc de Pòpuli faria crides a la població perquè es rendís, anunciant que fóra massa tard si esperaven que les bateries es pronunciessin (...). Lluny d'atemorir-se amb aquestes amenaces, els catalans feren tornar el missatge amb molta cortesia i amb aquesta resposta:

«(...) El motiu que els indueix és la confirmació dels seus antics privilegis, i si està en el seu poder aconseguir-ho, obriran amb satisfacció les portes i us rebran».

Aquesta resposta no fou rebuda amb satisfacció (...) i es van fer terribles preparacions per reduir-los, però

semblava que això no els intimidés (...). La següent carta n'és prova suficient:

«(...) l'enemic és davant la ciutat, i avui ha començat a canonejar el convent de Santa Madrona, ningú a la ciutat té por, perquè hem posat les nostres esperances en Déu Totpoderós, i estic segur que en poc temps sorprendrem el món sencer (...). Fa sis setmanes que l'enemic es desplega davant la ciutat; en tot aquest temps puc assegurar que no han aconseguit res, mentre que amb les nostres tropes, el poble, els voluntaris i els miquelets, hem mort 3.000 enemics, mentre que nosaltres no hem perdut ni 100 homes».

Per altres cartes de Barcelona sabérem que:

«(...) el 21 de novembre al vespre, el general Nebot i en Josep Martini, lloctinent general d'infanteria, abandonaren la ciutat en gran silenci, amb 4.000 homes dividits en vuit regiments; i havent penetrat fins al convent de Nostra Senyora de Gràcia, on els castellans tenien un dels seus principals quarters, van atacar. Passaren 600 homes per les armes, i feren 400 presoners. Després, els catalans; es retiraren en ordre cap a la ciutat amb un gran botí de cavalls i altres coses. Els catalans perderen 100 homes (...) entre ells el lloctinent coronel de la Diputació, que fou molt plorat (...)»

«L'arribada de dues grans flotes amb provisions, una des de l'illa de Mallorca i l'altra des de Sardenya, abastiren suficientment Barcelona per passar tot l'hivern...»

«Els barcelonins augmentaven diàriament les seves forces navals.»

«El general Bracamonte, que atacà per sorpresa el castell de Cardona, fou rebutjat i va perdre 600 ho-

mes (...). El perseguiren en la seva retirada el coronel Ferrer i el seu regiment.»

Tot això mostra que els afers dels catalans eren pròspera, i evidencia el que són capaços de fer els homes quan actuen en defensa dels seus drets i privilegis.

Es van emprendre accions molt violentes contra els catalans, com mostra aquesta carta:

«Mataró 1 d'octubre:

»El Principat de Catalunya està sent desolat pels desataments dels generals Bracamonte i Fiennes, que en la persecució del general Nebot han destruït totes les petites poblacions i ciutats on el general s'ha refugiat. Els soldats no s'han estat de saquejar les esglésies i els altars, ni de cometre tota mena de desordres, violant dones i abusant de les religioses dels convents. La plana de Barcelona no ha estat exempta tampoc de les execucions militars (...). El duc de Pòpuli ha rebut reforços d'Extremadura, però com que no té més de 20 canons, no està en condicions d'atacar la ciutat. Està esperant cinc vaixells espanyols i quatre de francesos, sota el comandament de M. du Casse, per assetjar la ciutat. Tot i això, som del parer que els espanyols volen bloquejar la ciutat i provar de reduir els seus habitants per la fam».

El 22 d'abril de 1714 arribaren a la rada dos vaixells mallorquins. En un d'ells hi viatjava el senyor Barbarina, que portava tres cartes de l'emperador; una per a la Diputació del Principat de Catalunya, una per als magistrats de Barcelona i una altra per als protectors i generals. Portava també moltes cartes de l'emperadriu, totes elles expressaven els millors dels sentiments i contenien en substància que:

Sa Majestat Imperial, havent estat abandonat pels seus aliats, i fins i tot en contra de la justícia, obligat a retirar els seus exèrcits d'ajut als seus bons i lleials súbdits,

contràriament a les seves inclinacions (...) i trobant-se ell mateix sota la necessitat d'arribar a un tractat amb el rei més cristià, que va ser conclòs a Rastadt; encara ha preservat els seus drets, títols i pretensions a la corona d'Espanya, i els assegurava que els ajudaria en tot el que li fos possible, per tal de procurar per a ells els privilegis reservats a la seva singular fidelitat, ferma i accions glòries.

Les cartes de l'emperadriu eren del mateix to i omplien de gran satisfacció el poble, que expressà la seva alegria amb una gran processó i amb un *Te Deum* cantat amb gran solemnitat. Aquestes alegresces van continuar durant dos dies i es dispararen salves des dels canons de la muralla. Quin exemple són la fe i l'amor d'aquest poble valerós, que sota l'espantosa aprensió d'un setge, amb un formidable exèrcit desplegat davant de les seves portes, pot amb tan poca cosa mostrar aquesta joiosa solemnitat. Que merescuts tenen aquests súbdits la protecció i el favor de qualsevol príncep que els governi.

Finalment, s'ordenà a l'exèrcit francès destinat per al setge d'accelerar el desenvolupament de la seva missió. Una esquadra bloquejà la ciutat per mar. El 7 de juliol de 1714 el mariscal Berwick arribà enfront de Barcelona. El rei francès acabava d'oblidar la intercessió que havia promès fer a favor dels catalans.

Era d'esperar que el diari del setge provinent de França fos parcial; però com que no en teníem cap altre, era propi veure quines informacions ens donava. L'epíleg d'aquest afer i la coratjosa defensa de la guarnició catalana seran de prou ajut perquè el lector pugui corregir les desviacions.

«Des del camp de batalla davant Barcelona el 26 de juliol.

»Ahir al matí vam començar a bombardejar aquesta plaça (...). El mariscal Berwick va donar 30 pistoles als canoners per encoratjar-los en la seva tasca.»

«25 de juliol. El dia 12 el marquès de Villarroel, que comanda la ciutat, envià un trompeter amb una carta al marquès de Guerchi, que immediatament la portà al duc de Berwick, sense obrir-la. El duc la va fer retornar també sense obrir-la. El mateix vespre obrírem trinxeres amb quatre batallons de guàrdies espanyols, tres del regiment de Normandia, dos d'Artois, un de l'artilleria reial, deu companyies de granaders i cinc-cents soldats de cavalleria. El 13, a la tarda, els assetjats atacaren per sorpresa, el major general Raimondo era el seu cap. El dia 17 a les quatre del matí van comparèixer vint desertors a cavall, entre ells cinc oficials, un anomenat Pontou, un general major, fill d'un advocat de Vic, acompanyat del seu germà, Grenouillas, un brigadier; Margonil, el fill d'un orfebre, amb el seu germà i altres dos oficials. Portaven els seus ajudants de cambra i els baguls ben plens. Això va fer sospitar que de fet pretenien anar a trobar el marquès de Pual, cap dels rebels del país, i que van fer-se passar per desertors en ser interceptats per una patrulla. El duc de Berwick els envià a bord d'un vaixell al castell de Peníscola. »

Mentre els catalans continuaven fent una coratjosa resistència, tot Europa s'apiadà d'ells. Poca gent podia abstenir-se de desitjar-los èxit perquè els inspirava la noció de llibertat. El Parlament d'Anglaterra, en particular, prengué el cas en consideració, i la cambra dels Lords adreçà aquesta carta a Sa Majestat:

«La cambra dels Lords humilment s'adreça a Sa Majestat el 3 d'abril de 1714. El rei d'Espanya (...) insisteix a posar els catalans sota les mateixes condicions en què es troben els súbdits de Castella (...); posem la nostra més humil i seriosa proposta a vostra Majestat, perquè a vostra Majestat li plagui de continuar la vostra interposició de la manera més forta perquè els catalans

puguin continuar gaudint dels seus justos i vells privilegis».

La resposta de Sa Majestat fou la següent:

«Quan vaig concloure la pau amb Espanya vaig decidir que, sempre que l'ocasió fos propícia, presentaria la meva interposició per aconseguir les justes llibertats dels catalans i prevenir, si era possible, les desgràcies a què està exposat aquest poble per la conducta d'aquells a qui més concierneix ajudar (...), però si això és veritat, ¿no ens hauríem de queixar que els nostres vaixells mercants es facin servir per a reduir-los? (...)».

Pel que fa al setge de Barcelona la ciutat era constantment bombardejada malgrat la resistència aferrissada que oposava. El 25 de juliol de 1714 hi va haver una gran assemblea a l'Ajuntament de la ciutat. Alguns representants volien rendir-se; però Villarroel, el senyor Pinos, Basset, un dels principals autors de la revolta del regne de València i un important vicari del bisbat, rebutjaren la proposta; tot assegurant que els socors vindrien del cel. Davant d'aquestes garanties, es va decidir de persistir en la defensa; no obstant això Villarroel envià la seva esposa a Montjuïc, on es recollien les principals dames de la ciutat.

(Nota: El dia 12 d'agost de 1714 s'obrí la darrera esperança per als catalans: moria la reina Anna d'Anglaterra. El seu successor Jordi I, que veia amb simpatia l'heroisme del poble català, ordenà al seu ambaixador a la cort francesa que transmetés a Lluís XIV el seu desig que es garantís la reducció de Barcelona per tractat. A les noves amenaces dels anglesos, el rei francès amenaçà amb l'anul·lació de la renúncia a la corona de França per part de Felip V. Aquesta fou la darrera interposició britànica.)

La tempestat arribà a Barcelona l'11 de setembre i va ser molt sagnant i tenaç. Els assetjats defensaren aferrissadament cada pam de terra. La lluita més forta es lliurà al bastió de Sant Pere, que va ser pres i reprès onze vegades aquell mateix dia. Finalment, a les vuit del vespre, per estalviar a la ciutat el saqueig i la barbàrie, tres persones negociaren la rendició amb aquestes condicions: les seves vides estarien assegurades; la ciutat no seria saquejada; acceptaven rendir-se al rei d'Espanya; es disposaria immediatament la rendició de Cardona i Mallorca, i finalment tots aquells que havent servit l'exèrcit regular no volguessin entrar al servei dels de França o Espanya quedarien en llibertat d'anar on volguessin.

Aquest darrer tractat tampoc no es respectà. Molts ho patiren immediatament essent desautoritzats i desarmats, forçats a compensar amb grans quantitats de diners els actes de pillatge, distribuïts per les presons o treballant com a esclaus a les mines. Bé poden dir els conqueridors que han d'assegurar les guarnicions en els monestirs i els convents per preservar-se del ressentiment d'un poble que encara viu en l'esperança de tenir l'oportunitat de recobrar la llibertat i els seus privilegis.

El clergat es distingí durant tot el setge d'una manera molt particular. Lluità amb desesperada determinació i encoratjà el poble amb les seves pregàries i també morint en defensa de les seves llibertats. El zel de les dones no és menys remarcable: animaren els seus marits fins a l'extrem. Declararen que volien restar amb ells en tots els perills i fatigues i treballaren a les trinxeres amb gran celeritat.

Aquest setge va costar als francesos i als espanyols una suma increïble, a més de la pèrdua de 20.000 homes escollits.