

ships of the line into the MEDITERRANEAN, under the command of Admiral BYNG, who was ordered to maintain the neutrality of ITALY.

THE Spanish minister vainly persuaded himself, that no powers but those who were directly attacked, would interfere in opposing his wild schemes, which tended to disturb the settled tranquillity of EUROPE; and he least of all expected to see an intimate alliance betwixt the courts of GREAT-BRITAIN and FRANCE. His success against SARDINIA, which was but a trifling conquest, so far blinded him, that he thought himself sufficient alone to oppose three of the most formidable powers of EUROPE united. He still pursued his warlike preparations with the utmost vigour, which were greater than any fitted out by SPAIN, since the time of the famous Armada against ENGLAND. He consulted with nobody; and the Spanish officers, of the greatest prudence and experience, who ventured to give their advice, were treated by him with contempt and arrogance.

To counterbalance the power of the triple alliance, he vainly attempted to embroil all EUROPE. He sent an envoy to CONSTANTINOPLE, to excite Prince RAGOTSKI to renew the war in HUNGARY, where the Turks had agreed to a truce for four years; he formed a conspiracy in FRANCE, for deposing the Regent, which served only to heighten the animosity of the Duke of ORLEANS against himself; he pressed the Czar of MUSCOVY, to attack the Emperor's hereditary dominions; and he offered large subsidies to CHARLES XII. of SWEDEN, if he would invade GREAT-BRITAIN.

DURING these negotiations, the Spanish fleet, consisting of 26 ships of the line, besides frigates, sailed from BARCELONA, having on board 30,000 of the best troops of SPAIN, most of them veterans, who had been in all the actions of the long war of the succession.

ON the first and second of July 1719, the army landed on SICILY, and, in a few weeks, made themselves masters of a great part of that



that island. The entire conquest, in all probability, would very soon have been completed; but the Spanish fleet, on the 9th of August, being totally defeated by Admiral BYNG, who took and destroyed 23 ships of the line, their land army could no longer receive any considerable supplies, while the Piedmontese garisons were daily reinforced by German troops from the kingdom of NAPLES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the fatal blow the Spanish marine had received, ALBERONI still thought himself able to cope with the many enemies his turbulent ambition had raised against SPAIN, though he had exhausted, not only the King's revenues, but those of many private persons. Being disappointed in his expectations from CHARLES XII. who was killed, on the 10th of December, before FREDERICKS-HALL in NORWAY, he sent for the pretender from ROME, and ordered 5000 men to be embarked at the GROUYNE, with a view to invade both SCOTLAND and IRELAND. Only about 1000 of those troops, however, landed in SCOTLAND, where they, and about 2000 Jacobites, who had joined them, were quickly defeated and dispersed. The rest, after suffering greatly by a storm, were obliged to return to SPAIN. A few ships, about the same time, sailed from VIGO to the coast of BRITANY, in hopes of raising an insurrection in that province, against the Duke of ORLEANS; but this attempt had no better success than the other.

THOUGH ALBERONI seemed to triumph in the beginning of his enterprizes, yet he now began severely to feel the superior strength of the powers he had to contend with, which, indeed, had been discovered long before, almost by every body but himself. The Regent of FRANCE sent a powerful army against SPAIN, under the command of the Duke of BERWICK, who, in three months, made himself master of the provinces of GUIPUSCOA and ROUSSILLON, with all their fortified places, and, at PORT-PASSAGE and SANTOGNA, burnt seven ships of war, and materials for seven others, the loss of the whole being computed at near 800,000 l. and, a few months after, the English landed, with 4000 men, at VIGO, where, after making them-



selves masters of the town, they carried off six small vessels. These invasions, with the bad news from SICILY, where the Spaniards had been obliged for several months to act on the defensive, at length opened the eyes of PHILIP, and induced him to hearken to the representations of his confessor d'AUBENTON, and the Marquis SCOTI, the minister of PARMA, who assured him, that the allies would never agree to a peace, while ALBERONI continued in SPAIN.

PHILIP, alarmed with the bad situation of his affairs, had, for some months, expressed great dissatisfaction with ALBERONI, and now parted with him without regret. He ordered him to leave SPAIN in three weeks, declared the Marquis de BEDMAR and the marquis de GRIMALDO his first ministers, and recalled several noblemen, who, on various pretences, had been banished, during the late administration. ALBERONI left SPAIN about the middle of December, and retired to ITALY, where he was so persecuted by the Pope, and even by PHILIP, that for several years he was obliged to travel disguised, and to conceal the place of his residence.

A FEW months after the retreat of ALBERONI, PHILIP, though very unwillingly, acceded to the triple alliance, by which he engaged himself to evacuate both SICILY and SARDINIA. The Spanish troops accordingly abandoned those two islands the ensuing summer, the Emperor being put in possession of SICILY, and the Duke of SAVOY of SARDINIA. Soon after, a congress was appointed to be held at CAMBRAY, to settle all differences among the contending parties, and treat of a final pacification. While some preliminary points were settling, PHILIP sent the Marquis de LEYDE, with a considerable fleet and army, to the relief of CEUTA, which had been besieged for 26 years by the MOORS. The Spanish troops, a few days after their arrival, totally routed and dispersed the MOORS, and made themselves masters of their entrenched camp, and all their artillery.

As the Duke of ORLEANS, since the disgrace of ALBERONI, had seemingly favoured the pretensions of SPAIN, PHILIP the following



lowing year, at his solicitation, contracted a double alliance with the branches of the house of BOURBON in FRANCE. The Infanta of SPAIN, tho' then only three years of age, was sent to FRANCE as future queen to LEWIS XV. and two of the daughters of the Duke of ORLEANS arrived in SPAIN, to be married to the Prince of ASTURIAS and the Infant DON CARLOS. The succession of this last to the Dutchies of PARMA and TUSCANY seemed now to be the chief object of the court of SPAIN. This point and many others were to be settled at CAMBRAY; but as the Emperor, who had no inclination to gratify the Spaniards, purposely delayed the congress, PHILIP this year concluded a particular treaty with the court of GREAT BRITAIN, who having the *assiento*, or contract of supplying the Spanish colonies with negroes, renewed, agreed to restore the ships taken off SICILY.

NOTHING memorable happened in SPAIN during the two following years; but in the beginning of the year after, 1724, PHILIP astonished all EUROPE, by publicly abdicating his crown in favour of his eldest son DON LEWIS, Prince of ASTURIAS, who was then in the seventeenth year of his age. PHILIP himself, tho' he had not reached his fortieth year, had long been sick of regal grandeur. From a weakness of body and mind, the least application to business had for some years given him a disgust; his mind was continually filled with religious scruples, which rendered him timorous and indecisive in every thing; and he falsely imagined that a sceptre was incompatible with a life of integrity.

THE Spaniards expressed great joy upon the accession of LEWIS I. who was endeared to them, not only by being born among them, but by his generosity, affability, and many other virtues. The public joy, however, was soon turned into mourning, by the unexpected death of the King, who died of the small-pox, universally regretted, in the eighth month of his reign.

UPON the death of LEWIS, PHILIP was persuaded to resume the reins of government, and the year following surprised all the powers of EUROPE, by concluding a particular treaty with the Emperor, upon which the different princes recalled their plenipotentiaries



potentaries from CAMBRAY, where they had trifled away three years merely in feasting and entertainments. By the treaty of VIENNA, which was with the utmost secrecy negotiated by the famous RIPERDA, PHILIP resigned all pretensions to NAPLES, SICILY, the LOW-COUNTRIES, and the MILANESE; CHARLES, on the other hand, renounced all claim to SPAIN and the INDIES, and besides, promised to grant the investiture of PARMA and TUSCANY to Don CARLOS. PHILIP soon after entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the court of VIENNA; to counterbalance which, the courts of GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE and PRUSSIA concluded a mutual alliance at HANOVER.

THE system of EUROPE by these treaties seemed again changed, especially as PHILIP was at this time greatly irritated against FRANCE, on account of their sending back the Infanta, and now connected himself most closely with the court of VIENNA. The bad understanding betwixt SPAIN and FRANCE was soon followed with a rupture betwixt that court and GREAT BRITAIN. RIPERDA, by concluding the treaty of VIENNA, rose so high in PHILIP's favour, that he was created a Duke and Grandee of SPAIN, and was entrusted with the departments of war, of the marine, the finances, and the INDIES. He enjoyed those honours and offices, however, only a few months; for the different regulations he proposed were so disgustful to the lazy Spaniards, that he was accused of mal-administration, and not only disgraced, but persecuted. To save himself, he took refuge in the house of Mr. STANHOPE, the English ambassador; but the court was so exasperated against him, that they took him from thence by force, and sent him prisoner to the castle of SEGOVIA. The ENGLISH Ambassador, in resentment for the breach of his privileges, protested against their violence, and left MADRID.

THE Emperor, who was offended with the opposition he had met with from GREAT BRITAIN, in establishing an East-India company at OSTEND, fomented the differences betwixt this court and SPAIN, and was so successful at MADRID, that the year following, 1727, in the end of February, the Spaniards laid siege to GIBRALTAR.



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BRALTAR. They soon found the enterprize, however, above their strength, and, after four months of open trenches, were obliged to retire with disgrace. The bishop of FREJUS, afterwards so well known by the name of Cardinal FLEURI, was at this time labouring to establish a general pacification among the powers of EUROPE, and had prevailed on the Emperor and King of GREAT BRITAIN, and the States-General to agree with FRANCE in signing the preliminaries for a peace. The Spaniards, who wanted a fair pretence to withdraw from GIBRALTAR, soon after acceded to these preliminaries. A general congress being then appointed to be held at SOISSONS, PHILIP sent three plenipotentiaries thither, and soon after sent an ambassador for the first time to RUSSIA, who concluded a treaty of commerce between the two nations. As the negotiations at SOISSONS met with many interruptions, on account of the various claims of the different princes who had sent their plenipotentiaries thither, PHILIP, the following year, 1729, concluded a particular treaty at SEVILLE, with GREAT BRITAIN and FRANCE, to which the States General afterwards acceded. By this treaty PHILIP promised no longer to countenance the OSTEND-company; and the other powers, in return, engaged to guarantee the succession of Don CARLOS to the dutchies of TUSCANY, PARMA, and PLACENTIA, and to assist in introducing 6000 Spaniards into these territories. The Emperor, who could not bear the thoughts of seeing Spanish troops in ITALY, was greatly offended with this treaty, and endeavoured, by artifice, to render it ineffectual. Accordingly, two years after, when the succession to PARMA and PLACENTIA opened to Don CARLOS by the death of the last Duke of the Farnese family, the Emperor's troops took possession of several fortified places in those dukedoms, under pretence that the widow of the late Duke had been left with child by him. CHARLES however, seeing no way of securing those dutchies by negotiation, and being sensible that the cheat would soon be detected, agreed at length to suffer 6000 Spaniards to accompany Don CARLOS into ITALY, and also engaged to suppress the OSTEND-company, which had given so much offence: GREAT BRITAIN, on the other hand, promising to guarantee his dominions in ITALY. Soon after, an English fleet joined that of SPAIN, and conducted the  
Infant



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Infant Don CARLOS to LEGHORN, who quietly at length took possession of PARMA, which had been destined to him as his inheritance ever since his birth.

THE settlement of Don CARLOS being accomplished, the court of SPAIN turned their views to the recovery of ORAN. An army of 25,000 men was accordingly sent to AFRICA under the command of the Count de MONTEMAR, who totally defeated the Moorish army, and in less than a month made himself master of the place, tho' it was defended by a garrison of 10,000 men.

THE recovery of their African possessions was far from satisfying the ambition of the Spanish court; who now eagerly embraced an opportunity of breaking with the Emperor, and thereby extending their dominions in ITALY. The throne of POLAND becoming vacant, by the death of the Elector of SAXONY, the greatest part of the POLES elected STANISLAUS, who had formerly been their King; but a few of the most powerful chose the new Elector of SAXONY, and the son of their late King. STANISLAUS was supported by his son-in-law, LEWIS XV. of FRANCE, who, on this occasion, entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the Kings of SPAIN and SARDINIA. The Emperor CHARLES, and the Czarina zealously espoused the cause of the other competitor.

THE war which ensued was very favourable to the Spaniards, who, in one campaign, made an entire conquest of the kingdom of NAPLES. The year following, 1735, Don CARLOS completed the conquest of SICILY, and was crowned as King of the Two SICILIES in PALERMO, the capital city of the island. The Emperor, in the mean time, being driven out of almost all his possessions in LOMBARDY and TUSCANY, and being also unable to oppose the French armies on the RHINE, solicited the mediation of the maritime powers, who by threatening to take part in the war, prevailed on the contending parties to agree to a suspension of arms in the beginning of winter. As the Elector of SAXONY was by this time securely fixed upon the throne of POLAND, and the intercession of the maritime powers cut off all hopes from the French and Spaniards of enlarging their conquests in ITALY and GERMANY,

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they were obliged to continue the armistice, and to negotiate a peace.

THE preliminary articles of the treaty which were settled by the courts of VIENNA and PARIS, being published in the beginning of the year 1736, were far from being satisfactory to the court of SPAIN, because, tho' they were allowed to keep NAPLES and SICILY, it was proposed they should restore PARMA and PLACENTIA to the Emperor, and renounce all claim to TUSCANY. The maritime powers, however, acquiescing in the disposition that had been made, SPAIN was obliged to submit, and the year following upon the death of JOHN GASTON DE MEDICIS, the last male descendant of that illustrious family, the Spanish troops evacuated TUSCANY, which by the treaty then negotiating, was given to the Duke of LORRAIN and BAR, who in the beginning of the preceding year had married the Arch-Duchess MARIA-THERESA, the heiress of the family of AUSTRIA.

THE peace, which had been negotiating near three years, was at length concluded at VIENNA in the month of November 1738. By this treaty, PARMA and PLACENTIA were ceded in full propriety to the Emperor; and his son-in-law was declared Duke of TUSCANY; the Duke, in return, ceding his dutchies of BAR and LORRAIN, to the exiled King STANISLAUS, upon whose death they were to be annexed to the crown of FRANCE. The fiefs of the FORTONESE and VIGEVANCSA were detached from the MILANESE in favour of the King of SARDINIA, and DON CARLOS was left in possession of the kingdoms of NAPLES and SICILY, with some places on the coast of TUSCANY.

THE treaty of VIENNA was hardly ratified, when SPAIN was threatened with a new war with GREAT BRITAIN, on account of the disputes, which, for some time, had subsisted between the two courts, about the freedom of commerce in AMERICA. The British court had, for some years, made loud complaints of the piracies and hostilities committed in the American seas, by the Spanish guarda-costas, who, on trifling and false pretences, seized  
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