

the English ships in their passage to their own colonies, and not only made prize of them, but treated their crews with the greatest inhumanity. The court of SPAIN, on the other hand, alleged, that the British merchants, in violation of solemn treaties, had, for many years, carried on a clandestine trade with the Spanish colonies in AMERICA, by which the commerce of SPAIN had been greatly prejudiced; that SPAIN was, therefore, greatly interested in putting a stop to such an illicit traffic, and that those who were seized in carrying it on could not justly complain of any injury.

BOTH nations insisted loudly on the injuries they had received; but each evaded giving any satisfaction as to those injuries which their respective subjects had committed. The Spaniards, indeed, amused the English with hopes of redress; they sent orders to their commanders in AMERICA to cease hostilities; yet they connived at the breach of those orders; and returned evasive answers to all representations that were made to them on that head. Their presumption was not so much owing to a confidence in their own strength, as to their opinion of the passiveness of the British ministry, and their knowledge of the violent contentions between the different parties in this island.

IT was certainly the interest of both parties to avoid coming to extremities; but the Spaniards not acting with sincerity, even in their negotiations for a peaceable accommodation of all differences, and aiming by the famous convention concluded in the beginning of the following year, to quiet the complaints, without having the causes of them fully discussed, the court of LONDON was at length provoked to issue letters of reprisals against the Spaniards, their vessels and effects. This step was soon followed by declarations of war at LONDON and MADRID, and both nations began hostilities with great animosity. The Spaniards at first made considerable advantages by the capture of great numbers of English ships; but they were soon alarmed with the news of the loss of PORTO BELLO, which was taken in the beginning of December 1739, by Admiral VERNON. About the same time, they suffered very considerably by the ravages of the Barbary corsairs

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION. xxvii

on their coasts, and were threatened with the loss of their richest provinces in AMERICA, by a conspiracy formed by one CORDOVA, who pretended to be descended from the antient Incas of PERU. The conspiracy however was happily discovered before it took effect, and the author of it put to death.

THE following year the Spaniards sent a fleet of 18 ships of the line to the WEST-INDIES, with a design, as it was supposed, of attacking JAMAICA. The French likewise, though they still professed a neutrality, sent two squadrons to the American seas, to act defensively in favour of the Spaniards, being bound by treaty to guarantee their territories. The English, in the mean time, blind to their own internal strength, suffered themselves most absurdly to be alarmed with the rumour of an invasion from SPAIN, and neglected sending succours to Admiral VERNON, who had bombarded CARTHAGENA, and taken CHAGRE, a town on the river of that name, the head of which is but a few miles distant from PANAMA, on the South Sea.

ABOUT the same time, General OGLETHORPE, Governor of GEORGIA, attacked Fort ST. AUGUSTINE, the capital of Spanish FLORIDA; but, after lying some weeks before the place, he was obliged to withdraw, with loss. In the end of OCTOBER 1740, the English, at length, sent out a most powerful fleet, as a reinforcement to Admiral VERNON, who, the following year, in the month of March, invested CARTHAGENA by sea and land, with a fleet of 29 ships of the line, and an army of about 12,000 men. The Spaniards, however, by the dilatoriness of the English ministry, having had leisure to reinforce the garrison, and the season of the year being very unfavourable to troops in the field, the English, after a siege of some weeks, were obliged to retire, with the loss of several thousand men. The neglect of timely supporting Admiral VERNON was very fortunate for SPAIN, for, if he had commanded but half that force the preceding year, when he made the first attack upon CARTHAGENA, he would, in all probability, have reduced that city as well as CHAGRE; and, as the passage from this last place to

xxviii HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

PANAMA is but very short, the land troops might also have reduced that town, which would have enabled them to co-operate with Commodore ANSON, who had sailed round CAPE-HORN, and this year began to act offensively against the Spanish settlements on the South Sea.

THE bad success of the English arms in the WEST-INDIES occasioned great joy in SPAIN; and PHILIP, as a reward for the bravery of the Marquis de ESLABA, Governor of CARTHAGENA, promoted him to the rank of Captain-general, and created him Viceroy of PERU. PHILIP, some months before, had published a memorial, claiming the succession of the hereditary dominions of his rival CHARLES VI. who had died at VIENNA in the month of October, and was succeeded by his eldest daughter, MARIA THERESA, who took the title of Queen of HUNGARY. All that the Catholic King aimed at by this claim, was the securing of LOMBARDY for his third son, Don PHILIP, which, he thought, would, at this time, be an easy prize, as the Queen of HUNGARY was unexpectedly attacked by the King of PRUSSIA, and also by the Elector of BAVARIA, who was assisted by the Kings of FRANCE and POLAND. However while the fate of CARTHAGENA depended, the Spaniards made not the least efforts against their new enemy; but, upon receiving the news of the repulse of the English, they assembled a body of forces at BARCELONA, which failed for NAPLES in the month of November, under the command of the Duke de MONTEMAR. Those troops were reinforced the following year 1742 from SPAIN, and, being joined by the Neapolitans, formed an army of about 60,000 men, MONTEMAR then advanced through the ecclesiastical state as far as the Bolognese: but the King of SARDINIA declaring for the Queen of HUNGARY, and joining the Austrian army, the Spaniards were obliged to retreat, in the end of summer, to the kingdom of NAPLES, where, soon after their arrival, they lost their Neapolitan allies, Don CARLOS being forced to agree to a neutrality, by an English squadron, which threatened to bombard his capital. This was a great disappointment to the Spaniards, for they depended upon being superior in ITALY before the end of the campaign, as Don PHILIP,

LIP, after marching through FRANCE at the head of 30,000 men, had now entered SAVOY, and taken possession of CHAMBERRY. PHILIP expected to conquer this dutchy, while the King of SARDINIA was opposing MONTEMAR; but, to his great surprize, the Piedmontese, who had left pursuing MONTEMAR, quickly attacked him, and obliged him to retreat to FRANCE.

THE Spaniards, notwithstanding the bad success of their arms, were still bent upon pursuing their ambitious views in ITALY, where they supported their armies at a great expence for several campaigns, the detail of which is of no great importance. The Count de GAGES, and their other generals, instead of having any prospect of making conquests in that country, found themselves every year obliged to struggle with new obstacles; and any flattering successes they met with were more than counterbalanced by the advantages gained by their enemies. Their perseverance in the unsuccessful war in ITALY was chiefly owing to the Queen, who having gained a great ascendancy over her husband, prevailed upon him to sacrifice every thing to procure a settlement for her son PHILIP; and her views were seconded by the prime minister, the Marquis ENSENADA, who having been first raised from an obscure station, by the favour of the Count de GAGES, was very active and zealous in furnishing him with supplies, which, however, were seldom adequate to the necessities of the army.

FORTUNATELY for SPAIN, the attention of the English was also drawn off to an unnational object, which exhausted their revenues, and prevented them from prosecuting the war in AMERICA with any vigour. King GEORGE, who had espoused the cause of the Queen of HUNGARY, not only assisted her by large subsidies, but most imprudently transported his troops to FLANDERS, and maintained a large army on the continent, at an immense expence, while naval armaments were almost wholly neglected. Because one enterprize in AMERICA had proved unsuccessful, the English seemed to conclude, that it would be in vain to hope for success in any other. Admiral VERNON, after his return from CARTHAGENA, made a descent upon CUBA near ST. JAGO; but the
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xxx HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

troops, instead of attacking that place, were suffered to remain several months inactive in their camp, where the greatest part of them were cut off by sickness.

IN the beginning of this year, a small reinforcement arriving at JAMAICA, Admiral VERNON again failed for PORTO BELLO, General WENTWORTH, who commanded the land troops, proposing to cross the isthmus, and attack PANAMA: but when they arrived at the Spanish coast, it was agreed, that the enterprise was impracticable. They accordingly failed back to JAMAICA, and in the end of the year returned to ENGLAND. The Spaniards at St. AUGUSTINE in the mean time had made an attempt upon GEORGIA, with two frigates and 30 other vessels, on board of which were 3000 land-forces: but General OGLETHORPE quickly obliged them to retire.

THE following year, 1743, the Spaniards were so intent upon supporting their arms in ITALY, that they wholly omitted prosecuting the war against ENGLAND, unless by their privateers, who made a great many prizes both in EUROPE and AMERICA. The affairs of the empire in the mean time chiefly engrossed the attention of the English, who marched into GERMANY under the command of the Earl of STAIR; and after King GEORGE had joined them, defeated the French at DETTINGEN on the 27th of June. One of their squadrons, under the command of Commodore KNOWLES, made an attack upon LA GUIRA and PORTO CAVALLLO, two fortresses on the north coast of SOUTH-AMERICA; but were repulsed by the Spaniards with considerable loss.

THE Spaniards were chiefly annoyed by the English squadron in the Mediterranean under Admiral MATTHEWS, who greatly disturbed their trade, and rendered it extremely difficult for them to send supplies to their armies in ITALY. The following year, on the 11th of February, that admiral attacked the Spanish and French fleets united off TOULON; this engagement was prevented from becoming general, by the French declining to come into the line, on one hand, and the backwardness of admiral LESTOCK on the other; but the Spanish ships that engaged were defeated by
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the English. The Spanish fleet might have been attacked three days after, at a great disadvantage; but a bad understanding that subsisted between the English admirals prevented them from improving the favourable opportunity.

FROM this time nothing very memorable happened relative to the affairs of SPAIN, till the 11th of July, 1746, when PHILIP died at MADRID, in the 63d year of his age, and was succeeded by the only surviving son of his first marriage DON FERDINAND. By his second Queen ELIZABETH of FARNESE, who is still alive, PHILIP left three sons, DON CARLOS, then King of the Two SICILIES. DON PHILIP at present Duke of PARMA and PLACENTIA, and DON LEWIS, who was created archbishop of TOLEDO when an infant, but since has resigned that benefice, and obtained leave to quit the church. Three daughters by the same Queen likewise survived him, MARIA ANNA VICTORIA, at present Queen of PORTUGAL; MARIA THERESA, married the year before to Dauphin; and MARIA ANTONIETTA; MARIA THERESA the Dauphiness died in child-bed, a few days after her father.

FERDINAND VI. who was about 33 years of age, when he ascended the throne, began his reign with several acts of popularity. Among others, he assigned two days in the week to receive in person the petitions and remonstrances of his subjects. He appointed the famous DON JOSEPH DE CARVAJAL Y LANCASTRE his first minister, and soon after published an edict, declaring, that he would fulfil the engagements of his predecessors with his allies. It might rather have been expected at this time, that an alteration would have taken place in the system of the court of SPAIN; for the war in ITALY, which for five years had been very burthensome, and was plainly an unnational object, was now very unsuccessful; and the war with GREAT BRITAIN seemed to have no other consequence but to interrupt the Spanish commerce, and to heighten the price of English commodities in SPAIN, where they are always much wanted. The Spaniards, this campaign, had been twice defeated in LOMBARDY, with the loss of upwards of 20,000 men killed and prisoners, and had been forced by the Austrians to abandon ITALY, and retire into PROVENCE.

FERDINAND, however, still continued the war, and imputing the disgrace of his arms to the misconduct of the Count de GAGES, recalled him, and gave the command to the Marquis de las MINAS. In the end of the year, indeed, he allowed the chamber of commerce to enter into a private treaty with the English South-Sea company, for supplying the Spanish AMERICA with negroes; but he could not be prevailed upon by the King of PORTUGAL to agree to a separate peace with GREAT BRITAIN. His allies the French, however, suffering greatly the following year, 1747, by the destruction of their fleets, the ruin of their commerce, and a general famine, which induced them to solicit a congress, he also gave his consent for a peace, as it was vain to expect to continue the war with any success, either in ITALY or against GREAT BRITAIN, after the French had laid down their arms.

WHETHER this was agreeable to the Queen Dowager is uncertain; but as she had for several years interfered in the direction of state-affairs, in behalf of her children, to the great prejudice of the kingdom, and had treated him, when Prince of ASTURIAS, in a disrespectful manner, and on many occasions very despitely, FERDINAND now ordered her to leave MADRID, and to reside either at TOLEDO, or VALLADOLID, or BURGOS, or SARAGOÇA; and he also gave orders, that her son Don LEWIS should retire to his diocese.

SOON after, the plenipotentiaries began to assemble at AIX LA CHAPELLE, the place appointed for the congress; and the following year, after they had agreed upon the preliminary articles, a cessation of hostilities was published in the month of May. The definitive treaty was concluded on the 7th of October, and contained twenty-four articles, of which the treaties of WESTPHALIA, MADRID, NIMEGUEN, RYSWICK, UTRECHT, BADEN, LONDON and VIENNA were declared the basis. By this treaty the Queen of HUNGARY ceded to the Infant Don PHILIP the duchies of PARMA, PLACENTIA, and GUASTALLA; but with this reserve, that if PHILIP should die without male issue, or he or his posterity should succeed to the throne of SPAIN or SICILY, those duchies should revert to the house of AUSTRIA. As the King of

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HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION. xxxiii

SARDINIA had some pretensions to PLACENTIA and the PLACENTINE, his cession was likewise necessary, which he gave in the amplest manner; on this condition, however, that the territory should again revert to him, if PHILIP should die without male issue, or his brother Don CARLOS succeed to the crown of SPAIN. At this day, therefore, the treaty is plainly violated by PHILIP, in regard to the King of SARDINIA, tho' not in regard to the Empress Queen; for though Don PHILIP has not succeeded to the throne of NAPLES, yet Don CARLOS has succeeded to the throne of SPAIN. Thus the foundation of a new war is already laid in ITALY, as it is not to be expected, that the King of SARDINIA will without expressing his resentment suffer himself to be robbed of his right; and perhaps the Empress Queen will also look upon herself as injured, as the clause of reversion of those duchies was the same, in the preliminary articles, in regard to AUSTRIA as SARDINIA. By other articles of the definitive treaty, the King of SARDINIA, the Republic of GENOA, and the Duke of MODENA were reinstated in their former possessions; and the assiento, or contract for negroes with the English merchants, was granted for four years, as an equivalent for the same number of years which had been interrupted by the war.

BUT not the least mention was made in the treaty of the right claimed by the Spanish guarda-costas, of searching foreign ships that approach their American colonies, nor of their privilege of fishing on the banks of NEWFOUNDLAND, nor of their exclusive right to the Bay of CAMPEACHY, where the English had formed settlements before the year 1670. These disputed points, which had too precipitately hurried the Spanish and British nations into a war, were now referred, with some others of less consequence, to be settled amicably by commissaries. If the national interest on both sides had been equitably consulted, the differences might easily have been adjusted in that manner before the war; but each nation, from narrow views, had wanted solely to engross certain advantages, which it claimed as peculiar to itself, tho' a mutual communication of them would have been no detriment to either.