

A. D.
1759.

How they
attempted
to clear
themselves.

him to enter upon measures to facilitate his operations. He began with an attempt to block up a small garrison, which the allies had at Vechte; intentionally to proceed, and prevent Prince Ferdinand's collecting his detachments, and to cut off his retreat after a general battle, which was likewise determined. Prince Ferdinand detached M. de Schlieffer, his aid de camp, with 40 hussars and 200 dragoons, to the relief of Vechte; which was effected: and these, being reinforced by the garrison of Bremen, proceeded to Osnabruck, garrisoned by the volunteers of Clermont, and made themselves masters of it by a coup de main. M. Contades had also occupied the pass of Lubeke. Against which the Hereditary Prince was detached with 6000 men, and dislodged the enemy on the 28th, the same day that Osnabruck was surprized.

Prince Ferdinand's
masterly
motions.

From this time Prince Ferdinand laid a snare for his French antagonist; and to draw him into the toil. For this purpose he, on the 29th, made a short march, of the grand army on his right, towards Hille; left General Wangenheim with a body of troops in his camp at Thörnhausen, and the troops entrenched near the river, to observe the army under M. Duke de Broglie; he also sent orders to the Hereditary Prince, in conjunction with the troops that could be spared from Osnabruck, to take the rout of Hervorden, and so to post themselves at Kirchlinninger, as to intercept or prevent the coming of the enemy's convoys from Paderborn, on which their immediate subsistence

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