

Ch RLES

1627.

the other night he took thirty musketeers, and some horses, sent out by the enemy to fetch water, which we have sent over to the main land. Thus you see in what case the army stands; it will not be amiss to let you know the state of the enemy, who hath two strong places, whereof the best fortified and chiefeft, is that which we now besiege; that won, I hope the other at La Prée will come in at an easier rate. This is a place of great strength, invincible, if once perfected, and in this imperfect state of fortification it now stands in, so strong, that the shortest way to take it, is by famine: The ground it stands upon is rocky, and of such a continued and hard kind of rock, as the pick-axe will hardly fasten in it, which takes off all possibility of making of mines, had we better engineers than we have in the army. They are strong in number, both of horse and foot, their horse consisting most of gentlemen, and their foot, of the regiment of Champagne, which in this kingdom is called the Invincible. Ordnance they have great store, and those very good, and excellent gunners to use them. Corn, salt-fish, and wine, they have in abundance, and for a long siege; and of all manner of ammunition and arms, more than they can use or spend. And, to conclude, a governor, that had made this the scale of his honour and fortune, out of which, having the Queen-mother and Cardinal for enemies, he will find no safety; so that before he will yield up the place, he will make it his death-bed; and if he cannot live, surely he will die in it. To this may be added, the means that are made to send him succour, and the shipping that are preparing at Bourdeaux, Brouage, Blavett, St. Maloes, and other places, which, once joined, would make such a strength, as if they did not endanger us by sea, yet would they so divert our forces, now scattered round about the island, as we must of necessity gather our fleet into one body, and so leave the other places naked for the enemy to come in with succour, which he would not fail to have in a readiness to put over upon such an occasion; so that considering the means they have