

vantagious to the House of *Austria*, especially that *Pignerol* be taken out of the *French* Hands ; so that I hope your Electoral Highness will not condemn the Resolution I have taken, of not rejecting the aforesaid Offers, and not to put the Recovery of such an important place as *Pignerol*, to the uncertain Contingency of Time, or to the mutability of Princes Wills ; especially since this my Country is reduced to that Desolation, as makes it quite unable of longer bearing the Charges of the War : Your Electoral Highness is also to observe, That to secure the Neutrality of *Italy*, and before I can partake of these Advantages offered me, the most Christian King desires, That the Confederate Troops do withdraw, and that I reduce mine to seven thousand five hundred Foot, and five hundred Horse ; which, together with the loss of Subsidies and Taxes, that will be no longer continued to me, obliges me earnestly to entreat your Electoral Highness, to give such Orders to your Troops as are necessary, in order to withdraw them out of my Country, so soon as I shall have given them the pay that was agreed upon. And I do assure your Serenity, That the Obligations your Highness has laid upon me, shall be always fresh in my Mind, and the lively Sense I have of the same, shall for ever remain engraven on my Heart, with an extreme desire of finding the Opportunities of giving effectual Demonstrations to your Electoral Highness, of the steady Affection with which I shall continue till my last Breath,

Turin, July 7.
1696.

Yours, &c.

His