

self, whose Fortifications are to be demolished, the Importance of which Place your Holiness is well acquainted with. A Marriage is also proposed between the Princess, my Daughter, and the Duke of *Burgundy*, to be consummated when they are of Age, and in the mean time she is to be received and conducted into *France*, where the King assigns her a Dowry, and gives her a Portion without putting me to the least Charges, besides many other Advantages, (which I need not here mention) on Condition that I shall concur to settle a Neutrality in *Italy*. But if the House of *Austria* should delay giving their Consent to it, after being thereunto exhorted by your Holiness and the Republick of *Venice*; in such case, I am to joyn my Forces to those of *France*, in order to make them comply. Having made serious Reflections on this Matter, and thinking that the House of *Austria* can have no Intentions to force me to reject these advantageous Offers made me by *France*, I have taken a Resolution to let the Principals of the Confederacy know that I cannot possibly let slip this present favourable Opportunity of recovering *Pignerol*; neither can I think it proper to commit a Matter of so great Importance to the House of *Austria*, to all *Italy*, and to my self, to the uncertain Event of War and Futurity. It is to this purpose that I intend to write to the Allies, especially to the Emperor and to his Catholick Majesty, earnestly intreating them not to be against a Proposal that is of such Advantage to them as well as to me. The Assurance I have that your Holiness does extremely wish for such a Neutrality, has not a little contributed to determine me so much in its Favour. It is also that which makes me most humbly and earnestly to beg of