

# ILLNESS OF THE EMPEROR

George Stepney (1663–1707), British Envoy to Vienna (1702–1706)

to Robert Harley (1661–1724), British Secretary of State for the Northern Department (1704–1708)

Vienna, 2 May 1705

The Emperor's<sup>1</sup> distemper seems to be settled into a dropsy. He is very weak at present, having had little or no rest all night.

Yesterday the Prince of Salm<sup>2</sup> arrived here from his estate near Cologne, and is very active about the King of the Romans,<sup>3</sup> who frequently assists in council, and this evening held a conference which is supposed to relate to Hungary because General Heister was called to it.

We have no manner of news from thence, except that the malcontents have perfected their fort near Pax, and forced a party of Imperialists who were near Fedwar to retire towards Stuhl-Wissemberg.

I received this morning some packets from Turkey of the 19/20 March whereof the enclosed is an extract. You will find no mention made of the changes in that empire of which we have had of late various reports.

We hear nothing from Baron Szirmai, or the Hungarian deputies since 16 March, N.S.

Magyar Tudományok Akadémia, *Archivum Rákócziánium: Rákóczi Ferencz Levéltára* (Pest: Eggenberger, 1873):71–72.

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<sup>1</sup> Leopold I (1640–1705), Holy Roman Emperor (1658–1705)

<sup>2</sup> Charles Theodore (1645–1710), Prince of Salm

<sup>3</sup> Joseph (1678–1711), King of the Romans (1690–1711), son of Leopold I and heir to the Imperial Throne of the Holy Roman Empire